

# MISSISSIPPI SBDC

## WEEKLY STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

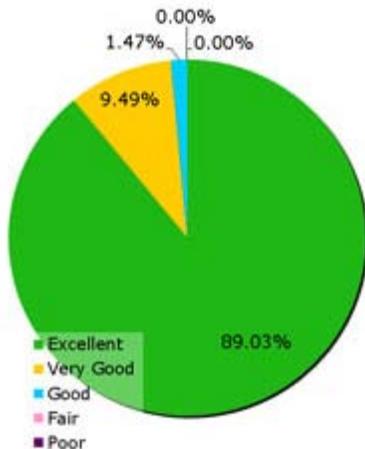
*"Transforming Mississippi One Small Business at a Time"*

**September 12, 2012**

As part of our commitment to provide you with information that may enhance the effectiveness of your important leadership efforts, we are pleased to deliver this report about our activities on behalf of Mississippi Small Business.

<b>MSBDC Economic Impact Involvement</b>	
Since October 1, 2011	
Counseled Clients	1956
- Businesses Started	169
--- Jobs Created	523
--- Jobs Retained	760
--- Loans Submitted	89
--- Loans Obtained	96
<b>Total Capital Formation</b>	
<b>\$43,612,395</b>	

### Initial Client Satisfaction



Data compiled since October 1, 2011 Initial

### Small Business Spotlight

A Gullah Girl Consignment Boutique & More



Pictured: Anita Hymes (owner).

#### A Gullah Girl Consignment Boutique & More

**Owner: Anita Hymes**

**4061 Suzanne Dr., D'Iberville, MS**

**228-392-0787**

Working as a program Director and Trainer for the Department of Defense for the last 20 years, Anita Hymes has traveled the world and has acquired unique merchandise along the way. Coming back to the coast as a DOD employee and wanting to start her own business, Anita sought the assistance of the Gulf Coast MSBDC. Connie Whitt, counselor for the GC MSBDC discussed with Anita the license process, sales tax, and how to prepare a business plan. On March 3, 2012 she opened "A Gullah Girl" Consignment Boutique in D'Iberville, Mississippi. After being open four months, she now has two employees in addition to herself working in the business.

In the following comments, Anita Hymes shares a few words about her experience with the MSBDC and the services she received.

**Rating for the Year:  
Since October 1, 2011**

89.03% Excellent  
9.49% Very Good  
1.47% Good  
0.00% Fair  
0.00% Poor

This week's client Evaluation of Services report includes data from **28 MSBDC Counseling Evaluation Forms with 12 comments by First Time Clients** after their initial counseling session.

**Mississippi Client  
Evaluation of  
Services**

To help the MSBDC improve our services and to better meet the needs of our clients, we ask them to complete the following questionnaire. These are the results of the questionnaires received between the dates of August 22-28.

**Questionnaire Summary**

Were you in business when you came to the MSBDC?

03 Yes  
24 No

If yes, how long?

01 0 - 11.9 months  
00 1 - 3 years  
02 4 - 7 years  
00 8 - 15 years  
00 15+ years

Was your request for an appointment given prompt attention?

27 Yes  
00 No

How long did you have to wait?

15 0 days  
05 1 day  
02 2 days  
03 3 days  
01 4 - 7 days  
01 8+ days

"I had a very pleasant and successful experience with SBDC office located in Biloxi MS. I worked directly Ms. Connie and Mr. McDowell they were very helpful in getting me started with setting up my small business. They assisted me with writing my business plan by giving me examples to go by, with their guidance and written information I was able to complete my business plan on my own with no fees involved. Ms. Whitt researched information for me on other consignment stores which was very helpful. She gave me valuable information on how to obtain my license and sales tax information. Mr. McDowell helped me with my budget information portion. I was given information on different ways to obtain loans for minorities which was very helpful. Ms. Connie Whitt and Mr. McDowell helped me reach my goals and making my lifelong passion become reality."

--- Anita Hymes

MSBDC wishes Anita Hymes best of luck with her new business venture. The MSBDC will continue to be a resource for her and her business as needed. We look forward to seeing A Gullah Girl Consignment Boutique & More grow and succeed!

**Has your business been affected by Hurricane Isaac? Click [here](#) to view the disaster assistance page on the MSBDC website.**



Visit the MSBDC Facebook [Page](#)!



See MSBDC [training videos](#) on YouTube!

Did your counselor give you specific recommendations?

27 Yes

00 No

Did your counselor have the skills needed to advise you or did the counselor make an appropriate referral?

27 Yes

00 No

Did the counselor give you enough time to express your business concerns?

27 Yes

00 No

Would you use the SBDC program again?

27 Yes

00 No

Would you recommend the SBDC services to others?

27 Yes

00 No

Who recommended our services?

03 Bank

04 SBDC Client

00 Legislator

00 Chamber

22 Other

Please rate the business assistance services you received:

25 Excellent

01 Very Good

01 Good

00 Fair

00 Poor

[Find Training Events in your Area!](#)

[Find your local MSBDC counselor!](#)  
[International Trade Questions?](#)  
[Inventor Assistance Help](#)

**We would like to recognize our host institutions!**

[Copiah-Lincoln Community College](#)

## Our Clients want our Stakeholders to know...

*\*All comments are direct quotes from first time clients.*

### HCC MSBDC

Excellent service! Mr. Harper Did a great job.

--- **Ulysses B. Simpson Co.**

### JCJC MSBDC

Counselor was very knowledgeable, and showed interest in my concerns.

---**Marshea M. Wayne Co.**

Mr. Suddith was very professional, informative, down to earth, and had all the necessary tools to assist me.

--- **Vanessa R. Wayne Co.**

My personal experience with Mr. Suddith was educational and helpful in every way. I would definitely recommend him to others.

---**James H. Jones Co.**

Great information provided! I was very pleased with the amount of information and expertise provided. This experience has given me the information needed to continue my pursuit of starting my own business.

--- **Laketter C. Forrest Co.**

Mr. Suddith is very knowledgeable in business counseling he seems to be eager in helping me to succeed in my business. I am more excited than I was before speaking with Mr. Suddith.

--- **Barbara G. Laman Co.**

This visit was very helpful, and answered many questions I had concerning how to start a business plan and what info to include.

--- **Amber S. Lamar Co.**

### JSU MSBDC

Mr. Holmes was very informative with knowledge about starting a business. I look forward with meeting with him in the near future.

--- **Tesha H. Hinds Co.**

Mr. Brown gave me a lot of directions, recommendations and advice that will help me in starting my own business.

--- **Ida D. Hinds Co.**

[East Central Community College](#)  
[Hinds Community College](#)  
[Jackson State University](#)  
[Jones County Junior College](#)  
[Mississippi State University](#)  
[The University of Mississippi](#)

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The Mississippi Small Business Development Center Program (MSBDC) provides free one-on-one, confidential counseling and training to Existing, Start-Up, and Pre-Venture small businesses. Extensive reports, comprehensive training resources, and valuable videos designed to help individuals pursue their entrepreneurial dreams are available to all Mississippians through the [MSBDC website](#).

Contact a local counselor or register for a workshop via the MSBDC website [www.mssbdc.org](http://www.mssbdc.org) or call our toll free number (MS only. Area codes 662 601 and 228)  
1-800-725-7232 .

#### **UM MSBDC**

I feel more confident not so overwhelmed.

--- **Dawn C. Lowndes Co.**

I particularly enjoyed the discussion on identifying your target market establishing credibility demonstrating integrity and then providing service. The explanation of profits and revenues was also very helpful. Great Experience!

--- **Kimberly S. Lafayette Co..**

Mr. Carden pointed me in the right direction to find the means that I need to get my business off the ground.

--- **Lee R. Lee Co.**

Both Gentlemen that I spoke with, Curt and James were very knowledgeable and helpful I would certainly recommend them to others.

--- **Ginny S. Jefferson Co.**

I am glad that these courses are offered to assist public the public and equip people with resources necessary to be successful. A refresher is nice to have for existing business owners as it forces us to think about all aspects.

--- **Christy G. Desoto Co.**

Mr. Carden is extremely helpful! He has a great understanding of a broader vision! He recommended exact steps for changing my business format, and exactly the books I need (Steve Woessner Adams Bookkeeping) I feel much more confident with his assistance Thank You!

--- **Chandra W. Lafayette Co.**

Beginning with and end in mind was particularly helpful - so often I do tasks first (like coming up with the logo) that should not be first.

--- **Lauren W., Lafayette Co.**

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Mississippi Small Business Development Center's Weekly Stakeholder Update

Our mailing address is:  
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