

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
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Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
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Member of Congress
1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We write in support of the Idaho Hispanic Foundation's (IHF) grant application for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Community Navigator Pilot Program. This grant will enable the IHF to collaborate with statewide "spoke" organizations to support entrepreneurial endeavors in underserved populations and areas in Idaho by coordinating and sharing resources. This need has become more vital as our state continues to recover from the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are told that the IHF, in concert with the Idaho Women's Business Center, will conduct navigator activities with Idaho businesses via regular meetings, joint planning, and collaborative strategy development. In addition, the Small Business Development Centers throughout the state can offer crucial technical assistance to participating organizations. The spoke organizations named in this application include the Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce, Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance, South Central Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Black Community Alliance, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, North Idaho Native Fund and the Nez Perce Tribe. Receiving this grant will allow the IHF to coordinate communications strategies with the SBA that includes outreach events, webinars, and other activities dedicated to support and educate these spoke organizations serving a diverse group of entrepreneurs around Idaho.

In order to prepare the spoke organizations, the IHF will develop training curricula for each spoke organization to counsel businesses one-on-one and will serve as a clearinghouse for best practices on outreach and education. Additionally, the IHF will translate documents and materials into languages required by communities served by the spoke organizations, ensuring data and performance metrics are translated into English for submission to the SBA.

Thank you for your work to advance the resiliency of U.S. small businesses and entrepreneurs. We urge the U.S. Small Business Administration to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,


MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator


JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress


RUSS FULCHER
Member of Congress