



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**April Youngblut | (703) 408-5403**

**America's SBDC awarded over \$500,000 in Grants from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs for the Small Business Network of Americas (SBNA) Partnership Program**

Burke, VA – America's SBDC is leading an international initiative to strengthen and connect over 4,000 small business service providers in countries throughout the Americas which together serve more than 2 million businesses. For the [SBNA Partnership Program](#) America's SBDC has partnered with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Institute for Economic Development's International Trade Center, the International Business Innovation Association (InBIA), and the Central American Regional Center for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises. (CENPROMYPE).

This second round of the SBNA grant supports efforts in the Americas, promoting the viability and sustainability of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and local and regional economic development. Ten organizations from 9 different countries received an award of \$50,227 to develop their projects over a period of 10 months. The grants were awarded to:

**1. MIPYMES UNHPHU & UNPHU CEM**

**Countries:** Dominican Republic & El Salvador

**Objectives:** Train and advise women microentrepreneurs on business and financial management issues, so that they can regularize their financial situation and improve their access to formal banking financing. Accompany microentrepreneurs in the evolution of their business models, the optimal use of financial resources, growth in sales and the generation of employment.

**2. Universidad del Pacifico - Emprende UP & Duquesne University SBDC - Pittsburgh**

**Countries:** Peru & USA

**Objectives:** To increase the number of businesses served and assist them in improving their performance through adding jobs, obtaining additional financing where needed, increasing sales and increasing participation in international trade.

**3. EAN University & Illinois SBD**

**Countries:** Colombia & USA

**Objectives:** Of the five key purposes for grant funds under the SBNA Partnership Program, this proposal directly supports the first four: expand the SBDC model; increase small business counseling skills; strengthen center to center SBNA partnerships; and increase international trade.

**4. El Salvador UFG- CDMPE & Honduras CDE MIPYME Valles de Comayagua Region 2**

**Countries:** El Salvador & Honduras

**Objectives:** 1) Integral development of entrepreneurs and the strengthening of the centers of attention for SBDC participants. 2) Formation of technological and innovative entrepreneurship. 3) Generation of direct employments. 4) Promotion of the entrepreneurial culture of the regions and empowerment of entrepreneurial ecosystem of each region.

5. **Fundacion Mexico Estados Unidos para la Ciencia (FUMEC) & Business Initiative Corporation - Milwaukee WWBIC**  
**Countries:** Mexico and USA  
**Objectives:** Increased job creation or better employment through small business owners, women-owned businesses receiving technical assistance, Make Your Money Talk graduates, and women who completed a business plan.
6. **PROMIPYME - San Marcos Region and Alta Verapaz Region & Columbia University SBDC**  
**Countries:** Guatemala and USA  
**Objectives:** Strengthen the capacities of the Promipyme centers of San Marcos and Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, through the exchange of methodologies and experiences developed by the University of Columbia, New York. Strengthen opportunities for development and acceleration of potential MSMEs through the pairing of the Centers involved and the marketing opportunities that are identified.
7. **MiPYMES Center - ISA University & CDE MIPYME Golfo de Fonseca**  
**Countries:** Dominican Republic and Honduras  
**Objectives:** Strengthen the skills and capabilities of the ISA MiPYMEs Center in the use of value chain study methodologies and the franchising process, to improve the offer and provision of these services for its clients, so that they can improve their competitiveness and result in the creation of jobs, especially for young people and women.
8. **Brazilian Institute for Quality & Productivity IBQP and VelocityTX**  
**Countries:** Brazil and USA  
**Objectives:** Provide local entrepreneurial capacity development, business expansion into the USA and global markets, provide global entrepreneurial network connection, and provide access to investor networks in the USA.
9. **FUDESOL & Missouri SBTDC**  
**Countries:** Guatemala and USA  
**Objectives:** The general purpose is to achieve a certificate of training program for entrepreneurs developed in the locations in Guatemala City and Jalapa with the help of our partners, the Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers (SBTDC).
10. **CDE MIPYME Golfo de Fonseca & University of Missouri**  
**Countries:** Honduras and USA  
**Objectives:** Strengthen the professional competences of the business advisors of the Red CDE MIPYME of Honduras involved in these initiatives; improving their knowledge in innovative methodologies for the creation of new entrepreneurs and the strengthening of high-impact enterprises led by members of two vulnerable groups in our country, such as women and youth.

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**About America's SBDC:** America's SBDC represents the Nation's 63 Small Business Development Centers, a national network of partnerships uniting higher education, state and local nonprofit economic development organizations, private enterprise and government. It is the Small Business Administration's largest partnership program, providing management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run and grow their own businesses. Learn more at [www.AmericasSBDC.org](http://www.AmericasSBDC.org).

