



Charleston County News Release

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Charleston County Recognizes National Small Business Week

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 22, [Charleston County Council](#) approved a resolution declaring May 20-26, 2012, as Small Business Week in Charleston County. Council's recognition coincides with the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)'s 2012 initiative in recognition of the contribution small businesses make to the economic health and recovery of the nation.

"Charleston County Government is proud of the relationships we have with local, small and minority/women-owned businesses," said Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr. "Because the single most significant impact of small businesses is the creation of jobs, we want to recognize them for the key role they play in keeping our economy strong."

Since early 2008, [Charleston County Government](#) has ensured that small businesses are represented in County contracts through its award-winning [Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\) Program](#). The SBE Program functions to provide free business development training, a certification program and mandatory contract opportunities for certified SBEs.

The County's SBE Program has certified close to 900 small businesses. Last year alone, almost 34% of the County's discretionary spending was done with certified Charleston County SBEs.

"That represents a significant amount of money," said SBE Program Manager Susan Hogan.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the SBE Program is its business development component. So far this year, the County has conducted four, free well-attended business development workshops with top-tier business instructors from throughout the state. Four more are scheduled in the next few months.

"This is the way that we are best able to meet our program goal of technical support for small businesses as they work to achieve the capability and readiness to participate in the competitive bid process," Hogan said.

Small business owners are encouraged to visit <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/SBE/index.htm> to learn more about the SBE Program and see if their business might be qualified for certification as a Small Business Enterprise. Business owners may register online for upcoming seminars and workshops.

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