



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***SBA, IRS HELP SMALL BUSINESSES WITH TAX-RELATED ISSUES***

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have teamed up on several new initiatives designed to help small businesses handle tax issues, SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez and IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti announced today.

The new pilot includes the introduction of a new tax information CD-ROM designed specifically for small business owners, placing IRS tax experts at four SBA locations, and offering tax forms and publications at SBA Business Information Center and One Stop Capital Shop locations.

**“For many small business owners, understanding the tax implications of owning a small business is a challenge,”** Administrator Alvarez said. **“The goal of these new initiatives is to help start-up business owners understand small business tax requirements and their compliance responsibilities before a problem arises.”**

**“This partnership will make tax help quickly and easily accessible to more small businesses,”** Commissioner Rossotti said. **“The ultimate goal is making tax time easier for everyone, whether it’s a small business operator or an individual taxpayer.”**

The new initiatives include:

- **CD-ROM.** The two agencies produced an all-business CD-ROM, “Small Business Resource Guide: What You Need To Know About Taxes and Other Products.” The CD-ROM is available at the BICs and features information on the stages of the business life cycle. The CD-ROM has fill-in-the-blank forms, searchable publications and links to important web sites.
- **Tax experts.** This new initiative places an IRS technical specialist at SBA Business Information Centers in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles for one day each week. The IRS experts will provide an array of services including small business workshops, classes, one-on-one assistance and distribution of small business tax forms and publications. The sites will not handle any tax compliance or preparation activities.
- **Tax information.** The IRS will offer a wide range of key small business tax forms and publications at all 73 of SBA’s Business Information Centers (BIC) and One-Stop Capital Shops. This expands on a pilot initiative tested at five BIC locations for a year.

The initiatives reflect a growing partnership between the two agencies aimed at providing timely, convenient tax information for small business owners. The joint effort between the SBA and the IRS will allow small businesses access to time-saving assistance from both agencies at one location and help start-up business owners understand their tax requirements.

For more information and the locations of the SBA's Business Information Centers, visit the SBA Web site at **[www.sba.gov/bi](http://www.sba.gov/bi)** or call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA. Tax information can be obtained from the IRS Web site via the Small Business Corner at **[www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/bus\\_info/sm\\_bus/Index.html](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/bus_info/sm_bus/Index.html)**.

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*The U.S. Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, the SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses. America's 24 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy.*

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