



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE OFFERS FREE SMALL BUSINESS CONSULTING BY APPOINTMENT

'Open to Business' Program Continues Success

Starting or growing a small business isn't easy, and hiring a trusted advisor to help get a business off the ground is usually very expensive. To encourage small business growth, Burnsville continues to offer free, one-on-one small business consulting to current and future small businesses and entrepreneurial residents.

Through "Open to Business" – a cost-saving partnership with the Dakota County Community Development Association (CDA), the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce, and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) – Burnsville provides a certified consultant who offers free service to Burnsville residents, small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Appointments can be made by calling Laurie Crow at 952-484-3107 or emailing lcrow@mccdmn.org.

This service is free, and the consultant can help plan and work through small business challenges such as:

- Accounting and record keeping
- Business acquisition
- Business start-up
- Business plan development
- Cash flow, financial and business analysis
- Loan packaging
- Networking
- Operations
- Strategic planning
- Commercial real estate analysis

In addition, advisors can assist entrepreneurs in identifying their borrowing needs and financing options. Direct financing and loans are also available through the program.

In 2014, 40 Burnsville residents/aspiring businesses took advantage of this free consulting. Of those 40, one business received a \$1,000 grant, another achieved start-up, and many more received assistance on marketing, strategic planning and financial planning.

For more information on the services offered in the "Open to Business" program or to schedule an appointment contact Laurie Crow, Business Advisor at 952-484-3107 or lcrow@mccdmn.org.

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