



Small Business Support Group Lands State Grant to Assist Veterans & Other Small Businesses

(Jacksonville, Fl.) - The Florida 8(a) Alliance received a \$100,000 grant from the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) for proposing a new strategic approach to grow Defense Industry federal contracting dollars in the State of Florida.

In late January 2013, Florida 8(a) Alliance founder, Andy Harold, presented a strategic plan to the FDSTF to meet the needs of Florida Defense Initiatives. With a focus on Defense industry business growth and job creation, the plan is titled the Florida Small Business Defense and Veteran Initiative (FSBDVI), and it could become the state's federal contracting "gateway," by building partnerships between military installations and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB) and other small businesses.

Florida 8(a) Alliance Executive Director, Stephanie Marquardt said, "The FSBDVI will be a great opportunity to reach out across the state to military installations and their agency small business representatives."

Through training and mentoring the FSBDVI will increase Florida's pool of quality suppliers. This program will connect business owners with large business prime contractors in the defense industry through networking and partnering for success. The initiative will bring technology based opportunities to Florida through the use of the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program and its associated Governmental Agencies.

"This initiative will bring businesses together to increase contract opportunities, and create new jobs throughout Florida," said founder Andy Harold.

Founded in November 2011, The Florida 8(a) Alliance's mission is to strengthen, train, educate and promote 8(a) and other small businesses. The Florida 8(a) Alliance is 501(c) (3) charity organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Fl. For more information and our 2013 conference, please visit our website at www.florida8a.org.

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