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City of Irving

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Women's Business Council - Southwest Joins the City of Irving and Grow America to Support Irving Small Businesses**

*WBCS is administering Technical Assistance to recipients of the City of Irving  
Small Business Recovery & Resiliency Program*

Irving, TX – The City of Irving, TX and Grow America are proud to announce a partnership with Women's Business Council - Southwest (WBCS) to act as the Small Business Recovery & Resiliency Program lead service provider. As lead service provider, WBCS' role is to work with selected applicants and conduct intake sessions to recommend business services tailored to their needs. These services include (but are not limited to) business training, website development, marketing, and accounting support.

*"We look forward to partnering with the City of Irving as the Lead Service Provider for the new Irving Recovery and Resiliency Program. This program has the potential to not only serve the Irving community, but drive growth across DFW." says **Bliss Coulter, President & CEO of the Women's Business Council - Southwest.** "This partnership showcases the capabilities and entrepreneurial strength of our Council's regional network of over 1,300 certified women-owned businesses as subject matter experts across a variety of industries. By working together, Irving-based businesses, can tap into a wealth of resources that can help them overcome challenges, identify opportunities, and ultimately grow and achieve their goals."*

The Small Business Recovery & Resiliency Program launched in May of 2023 and is actively receiving applications until funding is exhausted. There are two potential grant opportunities. The **Recovery Grant** is direct financial assistance in the form of a one-time grant up to \$15,000. The total grant amount is based on 2022 gross income. The **Resiliency Grant** provides professional business support in the form of training and technical assistance from WBCS recommended service providers. Applicants can apply for both grants, if eligible, within one application. Small businesses that receive a Recovery Grant must agree to receive and participate in the training and technical assistance.

*"The Irving Small Business Recovery & Resiliency Program furthers the city's commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs and supporting businesses in our city," said **Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer.** "Now with the Women's Business Council - Southwest as the lead service provider,*

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business owners who are selected for the program will have access to resources and subject matter experts who can provide professional business assistance and help set these businesses up for success.”

Eligible businesses must be located in the City of Irving and have fewer than 100 employees, and for the Recovery Grant must have been in operation before January 1, 2020 (there is no minimum business age requirement for the Resiliency Grant). More information about eligibility requirements and application process can be found at [CityofIrving.org/SmallBizGrant](http://CityofIrving.org/SmallBizGrant).

Grow America will serve as grant administrator for the program. Grow America will review all applications to confirm a business is eligible and in compliance with the program requirements.

### **About The City of Irving**

The City of Irving is home to 9 Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, over 8,500 businesses, four 18-hole championship golf courses and the DFW International Airport. Centrally located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Irving has a population of 256,000+ residents and is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the state and nation.

### **About WBCS**

Since 1995, the Women’s Business Council – Southwest has been dedicated to increasing the value of women-owned businesses with a focus on certification, education, advocacy, and mutually beneficial opportunities for their members and affiliates. As one of the 14 Regional Partner Organizations (RPOs) of the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), WBCS is responsible for administering and upholding the national standards for women-owned certification throughout their four-state region: Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and north and central Texas.

In addition to WBENC certification, WBCS also processes the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) certification, Small Business Association (SBA) Women Owned Small Business (WOSB) and Dallas County Small Business Enterprise (SBE) certification. Learn more at [www.wbcsouthwest.org](http://www.wbcsouthwest.org)

### **About Grow America**

Grow America (Formerly NDC) is a national nonprofit that directs capital and financial expertise to local communities, governments, and agencies. Spanning all aspects of economic development, Grow America invests in affordable housing; creates jobs through small business lending; and advances livable communities through social infrastructure and mixed-use development. Grow America also builds capacity in both the public and private sectors through hands-on technical assistance and advisory services, as well as professional development training and certification. Founded in 1969, Grow America continues to evolve and innovate to meet the needs of today's challenges with an emphasis on low- and moderate-income communities, including COVID-19 recovery programs and services. Find us at [growamerica.org](http://growamerica.org)