

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **VETERAN'S DAY WEEK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE OPEN HOUSES FOR "VETREPRENEURS"**

Veteran's Day week activities in Maine include a statewide series of drop-in open houses for entrepreneurial Maine veterans who own or want to own a business. Sponsored by the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC) with support from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the open houses on November 8 and 9 create an opportunity for "vetrepreneurs" to meet with a Maine SBDC business counselor to learn about small business assistance and related SBA programs available to them.

"Maine SBDC and the SBA support economic empowerment for veteran entrepreneurs," said Maine SBDC State Director John Massaua, "This series of open houses help ensure Maine veterans have specific opportunities to access services that support their business success."

At the open houses, veterans will be able to get valuable information and materials on operating a small business as a vet, as well as schedule future business assistance sessions with Maine SBDC business counselors. The drop-in open houses will take place either Wednesday, November 8, or Thursday, November 9, depending on location, at 12 Maine SBDC service center locations throughout Maine. Pre-registration is not required. Refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, November 8, open houses will be held from 4-7 p.m. at Maine SBDC service centers in Bangor (at Eastern Maine Development Corporation), Caribou (at Northern Maine Development Commission), Fairfield (at Kennebec Valley Council of Governments), Machias (at Sunrise County Economic Council), Bath at Mid-Coast Council for Business Development & Planning), Lewiston/Auburn (at the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments AVCOG), Portland (at the University of Southern Maine Downtown Annex), Springvale (at Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission), and Wells (at York County Community College).

On Thursday, November 9, open houses will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Maine SBDC service centers in Augusta (at Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Weston Building), Ellsworth (at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Annex Building), and Wiscasset (at Coastal Enterprises, Inc.).

The open houses precede Maine's observance of Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10. According to the SBA Office of Advocacy, just over 14% of U.S. businesses with employees are owned by veterans. In 2000, the Association of Small Business Development Centers, the SBA, and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs entered into a formal agreement to provide management and technical assistance to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, including disabled veterans, who are current or prospective business owners.

Additional detail regarding each open house can be found at [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org) .

**Drop-in Date: Wednesday, November 8, 4 to 7PM**

Maine SBDC Service Center: Bangor  
Eastern Maine Development Corporation  
40 Harlow Street  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Phone: 800-339-6389

Maine SBDC Service Center: Caribou  
Northern Maine Development Commission  
11 W. Presque Isle Rd.  
Caribou, ME 04736  
Phone: 207-498-8736

Maine SBDC Service Center: Fairfield  
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments  
17 Main Street  
Fairfield, ME 04937-1119  
Phone: 207-453-4258, ext. 1

Maine SBDC Service Center: Lewiston/Auburn  
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments  
125 Manley Road  
Auburn, ME 04210  
Phone: 207-783-9186

Maine SBDC Service Center: Machias  
Sunrise County Economic Council  
1 Stackpole Road  
Machias, ME 04654-9759  
Phone: 207-255-8811

Maine SBDC Service Center: Mid-Coast West  
Mid-Coast Council for Business Development & Planning  
7 Park Street  
Bath, ME 04530-2828  
Phone: 207-443-5790

Maine SBDC Service Center: Portland  
University of Southern Maine Downtown  
68 High Street  
Portland, ME 04104  
Phone: 207-780-4949

Maine SBDC Service Center: Springvale  
So. Maine Regional Planning Commission  
21 Bradeen Street, Suite 304  
Springvale, ME 04083  
Phone: 207-324-0316

Maine SBDC Service Center: Wells  
York County Community College

112 College Avenue  
Wells, ME 03909-1644  
Phone: 207-646-9282

**Drop-in Date: Thursday, November 9, 4 to 7PM**

Maine SBDC Service Center: Augusta  
Coastal Enterprises Inc. at the Weston Building  
7 North Chestnut Street  
Augusta, ME 04330-5012  
Phone: 207-621-0245

Maine SBDC Service Center: Ellsworth  
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Annex Building  
125 High Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605-1850  
Phone: 207-664-2990

Maine SBDC Service Center: Mid-Coast East  
Coastal Enterprises Inc.  
36 Water Street  
Wiscasset, ME 04578-0268  
Phone: 207-882-4340

**About Maine SBDC/SBTDC:** *Maine SBDC/SBTDC is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in association with the SBA/OSBDC, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Southern Maine, and leading economic and/or community development hosting organizations, including the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Eastern Maine Development Corporation, and the Northern Maine Development Commission and with support from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) and other contractors, allies and stakeholders. Accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) and administered by USM's School of Business, Maine SBDC/SBTDC operates a network of service centers and outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state. For more information, visit [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org).*