



For Immediate Release:

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HUB Zones Creating Opportunities

Decide DeKalb partners with local resources to further small business

STONECREST, GA, May 8, 2019 – This evening the Decide DeKalb Development Authority is partnering with the Small Business Association (SBA) and the University of Georgia’s Small Business Development Center in DeKalb (SBDC) to provide valuable insight into an underutilized federal program through which small businesses located in distressed areas gain preferential access to procurement opportunities. The event will be hosted by AEI Startup Factory in Stonecrest from 6-8PM.

Known as the “HUBZone” certification it was created in 1998 to spur economic development in those communities where the need for additional resources for job creation had been recognized. The program operates in both rural and urban areas and is open to any business who meets the qualifications.

“As an economic development professional, it is important that we bring awareness to all resources and tools that can sustain small businesses. When I think of the HUBZone Program, the first word that comes to mind is empowerment. This program fosters small businesses’ ability to act in ways they may have deemed unimaginable – it creates possibilities”, said Toyasha Vaughn, Project Manager and Small Business Liaison with Decide DeKalb.

The combined resources of the SBA and the SBDC along with those of the Development Authority can be a tremendous asset to any business who wishes to connect. “HUBZone certification can be an important tool not only for the growth of individual small businesses, but the economic betterment of economically distressed communities overall”, said Terri Denison, Georgia District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information, visit, sba.gov/hub zone



About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

About UGA SBDC – DeKalb office

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides tools, training and resources to help small businesses grow and succeed. Designated as one of Georgia’s top providers of small business assistance, the SBDC has 17 offices ranging from Rome to Valdosta to serve the needs of Georgia’s business community. Since 1977, our network of partners has helped construct a statewide ecosystem to foster the spirit, support, and success of hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs and innovators. To learn more, visit georgiasbdc.org/dekalb-office/

About AEI StartUP Factory

A project of the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute (AEI), the StartUp Factory serves as a clearinghouse for resources, training and vetting for AEI's network of start-up and established entrepreneurs. SUF provides common working space, meeting / event space, business incubation, evaluation and training for entrepreneurs and their businesses. Guides them through the transition from start-ups, to micro-enterprises, and on to small and medium-sized businesses that create jobs, lead innovation, and increase economic development in their local communities. To learn more visit aeistartupfactory.com.

About the Decide DeKalb Development Authority

Decide DeKalb serves as the primary economic development driving force to attract, expand and retain businesses in DeKalb County, Georgia. Established in 1974 as the Development Authority of DeKalb County, Decide DeKalb works with partners, stakeholders and the business community to spur capital investments, encourage job growth and business sustainability. For more information, visit decidedekalb.com.

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