



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 243: Small Business Development Center Network Fund - Minimum Appropriation

Budget and Taxation

February 5, 2019

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our over 400 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Senate Bill 243 increases the minimum general fund appropriation to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network Fund that the Governor must include in the annual budget bill beginning in fiscal 2021. Specifically, the minimum appropriation – currently \$950,000 – increases to \$1.5 million in fiscal 2021 and then increases by \$0.5 million annually, up to \$3.0 million in fiscal 2024 and future years.

SBDC offers free business consulting services to new and existing small business. The counseling provided ranges from best practices to financing to bringing all appropriate or applicable resources to the table. The network is organized across five regions, with more than 20 offices located throughout the State. Each SBDC must partner with at least one institution of higher education, and in the aggregate, the State must provide at least a one-to-one match to receive the federal funds.

Additional funding for SBDC enables it to enhance its services for small businesses and continue the incredible impact it has on our small business community.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 243**.