

To: Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico

From: National Association of Development Companies (NADCO)

Date: October 14, 2016

Re: Recommendations to Improve 504/CDC Loan Program Delivery in Puerto Rico

The National Association of Development Companies (NADCO) appreciates the opportunity to share ideas to aid the economic growth of Puerto Rico. The 504/CDC SBA loan program is well represented in Puerto Rico through several CDCs there. However, there is assistance the Task Force could provide which would strengthen their ability to serve local entrepreneurs.

NADCO believes that providing technical assistance funding for two tasks to CDCs in Puerto Rico would be valuable. First, the money could be spent on training. While some training is offered online by various industry groups, most of it, particularly technical subjects, is in-person. Providing funding for CDC staff to attend these trainings (registration for the trainings as well as transportation and board) will help the Puerto Rico CDCs keep up with changes in the loan program and refresh their skills. Second, funding could be used to hire a more hands-on consultant for a time. The consultant could be shared by all the CDCs and spend time with each CDC every month. The consultant's goal would do a careful analysis of where the CDC could improve and then provide support to implement any changes she finds.

Technical assistance funding for both these technical and managerial level tasks could result in better loans made by the CDCs and stronger, long-term businesses available to Puerto Ricans.



Small business loans



NADCO is happy to support the Task Force in any way possible. If you have any questions on these recommendations, please contact Claire O'Rourke, Vice President, Government Relations at corourke@nadco.org or (202) 349-0070.