



Strengthening Minority Business

Bridging the Gap is an initiative of the Greater Baltimore Committee, designed to advance the business culture of greater Baltimore by fostering an atmosphere in which majority and minority and women-owned businesses can form mutually beneficial strategic partnerships. The Bridging the Gap initiative strives to provide businesses with the necessary tools and support to develop such collaborations.

The goals of the initiative are to:

- **Nurture the creation of legacy wealth among minority and women-owned businesses (MWBEs) by broadening business prospects that are available to them.**
- **Communicate the business case for minority inclusion and development to the region's larger business community.**
- **Provide training opportunities that enhance capabilities within the minority and women-owned business community to enable successful participation in part-**

nership opportunities.

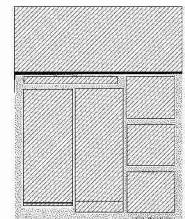
Bridging the Gap is one of the GBC's top priorities. The Bridging the Gap initiative relates directly to the GBC's mission of improving the business climate of the Greater Baltimore region by organizing its corporate and civic leadership to develop solutions to the problems that affect the region's competitiveness and viability. The region's competitiveness would receive a significant boost if full participation of MWBEs in the regional economy were achieved. A study conducted by the Sage Policy Group found that fully engaging MWBEs in the region's economy would generate as much as \$5 billion of additional sales revenue and 32,000 new jobs.

Who are partners in the "Bridging the Gap" initiative?

Partners include Congressman Elijah Cummings, The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, the Mayor's Office of Minority Business Development, and the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs.

For more information

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