Small Business Administration Announces a $420,000 Grant to the Tampa Bay Women's Business Centre at the Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women

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TAMPA - The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced a $420,000 grant award to the Tampa Bay Women's Business Centre at the Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women. The grant will fund the Centre's CARES Project which is designed to help female entrepreneurs and women business owners with training, education, and counseling as they navigate the impact of the COVID-19 virus.

Ann W. Madsen, Executive Director of the Centre for Women and Vice Chair of the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC), said the grant will make it possible to expand staff and technology at our current site and open a satellite office in St. Petersburg to more conveniently serve clients in Pinellas County.

The Tampa Bay Women's Business Centre is the only SBA-designated WBC on the west coast of Florida. It opened in 2013 and with the help of Congresswoman Kathy Castor secured a grant from the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership in 2014 to become part of the network of 117 Women's Business Centers nationwide. Congresswoman Castor said: "The Centre for Women provides crucial assistance to small business owners. Its services are especially vital during the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout. The Women’s Business Centre will assist women-owned, small businesses who need it to apply for emergency loans, achieve greater economic security for their families, and mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a time of uncertainty, I’m grateful that our Tampa area community can rely on The Centre for Women to support the local businesses that make Tampa so special."

Bradley Stevenson, Finance Manager at The Centre for Women, has been promoted to Project Manager. He will lead a team of experts who can help guide clients on how to take advantage of funding opportunities.

Since the Tampa Bay Women's Business Centre first opened thousands of women have been provided with counseling, educational programs and help with access to capital.

The Women's Business Centre is one of six programs at The Centre for Women which are designed to help women achieve their goals for economic prosperity and lead a happier, more fulfilling life.