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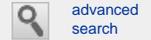
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Meeting to address lending options for small businesses

Alex Holloway

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The United States Small Business Association Mississippi District Office will host an event in March aimed at allowing Golden Triangle small business owners an opportunity to meet with lenders.

The event, called Mississippi Meet the Lenders in the Golden Triangle: A Small Business Borrower/Lender Match-Making Event, will be held on from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 20 in the Lyceum Auditorium at East Mississippi Community College's Mayhew campus. The event is free.

According to a SBA press release, the event will offer small business owners and entrepreneurs the chance to meet one-on-one with banks, certified development companies, microlenders, alternative lenders and the SBA to discuss the availability of SBA loans and other loan products in the marketplace.

The forum will also allow business owners to pitch financing needs to lenders in one-on-one meetings, understand the loan application process and learn what lenders look for in winning loan proposals.

Business owners and entrepreneurs are encouraged to come with multiple copies of their business plan for distribution. SBA has a "Build a Business Plan" tool available online at <https://www.sba.gov/tools/business-plan/1> that can help small business owners create a basic downloadable business plan.

SBA says assistance in preparing a business plan is available through the following resources: the [Mississippi Small Business Development Center Network, 1-800-725-7232](#); SOCRE, 769-208-3593; the Women's Business Center, 601-376-9895; or the Veterans Business Outreach Center, 662-325-4990.

The SBA Learning Center hosts a variety of online training course to learn about business ownership at <https://www.sba.gov/learning-center>.

For more information, contact SBA reps Rosetta Harris at rosetta.harris@sba.gov, or Debora Dean at deborah.dean@sba.gov.

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