

**Press Contact Info:**

**Patricia Hanes**

**Director, MBDA Chicago Export Center**

**312-755-2553**

**phanes@chicagoMBDAexportcenter.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council opens new MBDA Chicago Export Center with \$1.25 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce**

**CHICAGO (MARCH 1, 2017)** - The Chicago Minority Supplier Diversity Council (ChicagoMSDC) invites the public to attend the official launch and welcome reception for the new MBDA Chicago Export Center on **Thursday, March 2 from 9 a.m.- Noon**. During the open house, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, will present \$1.25 million in federal funds to ChicagoMSDC, to operate the new MBDA Export Center

The new MBDA Chicago Export Center is designed to connect Minority Business Enterprises(MBEs) with commercial and government buyers, financing and bonding resources, and domestic and global teaming partners. Center staff will also provide technical assistance to clients in the areas of business consulting, identifying new global markets, export referral services, export capital and risk insurance.

“As the Director of the new MBDA Export Center in Chicago, I am excited to help minority-owned firms find new ways to grow their businesses and create jobs,” said Patricia Hanes, Director, MBDA Chicago Export Center. “I look forward to introducing our services to as many clients and resource partners as possible.”

The center is one of four specialized export centers funded by the Minority Business Development Agency that will focus on helping firms obtain the resources they need to become export ready. The MBDA Chicago Export Center will focus primarily on exporting opportunities in Africa and China.

“Exporting American-made products and American professional services creates jobs domestically. It is an excellent strategy for MBEs seeking to grow their businesses when you consider that more than 70 percent of the world’s purchasing power is located outside of the United States,” said Edith J. McCloud, Acting MBDA National Director. “MBDA is proud to partner with ChicagoMSDC to ensure that MBEs have the resources they need to access exporting opportunities and effectively compete in both local and global markets.”

ChicagoMSDC was selected to operate the new MBDA Chicago Export Center following a competitive grant solicitation last fall. The award period runs from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2021.

The open house is free and open to the public. Please join us on Thursday, March 2, 2017 from 9 a.m. to Noon at ChicagoMSDC, 105 W. Adams, Suite 2300, Chicago, IL 60603. To RSVP, contact Anita Hagan at 312-755-8880 or email [ahagan@ChicagoMSDC.org](mailto:ahagan@ChicagoMSDC.org).