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**Washington State Small Business Advocates & Economic Development Leaders
Launch Resource Promoting PPP Availability & Other Resources**

Seattle, Wash. – January 22, 2021 – The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA), the National Development Council (NDC) and leaders of the Washington State Small Business Recovery Working Group today announced the launch of ***SmallBizHelpWA.com***, a digital resource hub designed to help small businesses and nonprofits, particularly those from underserved communities, navigate the recently re-opened Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and upcoming funding opportunities.

The Washington Small Business Recovery Working Group is working to amplify funding resources and employer assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and economic development organizations across the state to reach more small businesses and non-profit organizations in need.

The website features information about local, regional, and statewide resources for one-on-one support, FAQs about funding resources and a calendar of free virtual trainings that guide business owners through the application process. Resources include free technical assistance in multiple languages. With a limited pool of PPP funds available through the end of March, this online tool can help those with fewer resources more quickly secure financial support and make the most of this opportunity.

The Washington State Small Business Recovery Working Group recognizes the immense challenges small businesses faced during the first round of PPP in 2020 and is working to help employers understand that “*PPP is Back & Better.*” Conflicting guidance and misinformation spread, and many underserved communities, including those in rural areas, lost out on crucial financial relief. By prioritizing its reach to these communities through a centralized digital hub of information, and helping employers understand the improvements in the new PPP program, this collective, statewide effort is focused on ensuring the maximum amount of funds go toward inclusive job recovery, retention and growth in Washington. As additional resources are made available, the group will work to make them known and to support technical assistance, particularly for small businesses and non-profits from underserved communities.

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About the Washington Small Business Recovery Working Group

The Washington Small Business Recovery Working Group is an informal coalition started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which has fostered close connections between the US Small Business Administration and key public and private small business service providers and advocates, particularly economic developers and lenders. The focus of the Working Group is sharing of resources for small businesses, advocating for more and improved resources, and mobilizing to increase the availability of resources for underserved communities.

About the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA)

As Washington State's *only* trade association laser-focused on economic development, WEDA is committed to recovering, retaining, recruiting and expanding jobs and re-investment in Washington State. WEDA members include economic development organizations, cities, counties, ports, tribes, businesses, education and community-based organizations that prioritize economic development.

About the National Development Council (NDC)

NDC's work focuses on HOMES, JOBS and COMMUNITY. Founded as a national nonprofit in 1969, NDC has worked for over 50 years fulfilling its mission to increase the flow of capital for investment in low-income communities. NDC directs capital to support the development and preservation of affordable housing, the creation of jobs through training and small business lending and the advancement of livable communities through investment in social infrastructure.