



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK AWARDED \$750K GRANT TO ESTABLISH WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER**

**Bozeman, Montana, September 10, 2009** – Prospera Business Network and the Montana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that the organization has been awarded a \$750,000 grant to establish the *Montana Women's Business Center*. The SBA funding is provided to economic development organizations that directly assist women in business.

"This new business assistance program will be a great resource for Montana's women in business," said SBA Montana District Director, Michelle Johnston. "The training and counseling provided by the Women's Business Center fills a gap in the existing business assistance resources available in Montana. We are delighted to see a Women's Business Center established in Montana," continued Johnston.

"We are grateful to our friends at the SBA for their support with this grant which will allow Prospera to expand the reach of its business consulting program," said Prospera's Board President, Jeff Burgard. "This new program will be a great addition to the existing entrepreneurial assistance resources offered by Prospera. It's being established at the right time to help women entrepreneurs get through this tough economy," added Burgard.

The Montana Women's Business Center will be part of a network of more than 75 centers nationwide providing management and technical assistance, comprehensive training and counseling on a vast array of topics to women entrepreneurs. Prospera Business Network was the only Montana-based organization awarded funding to establish a Women's Business Center. The new center will be located at the Prospera offices in downtown Bozeman.

For additional information about Prospera Business Network's new Women's Business Center, contact: Peter Bertelsen at 406-587-3113 or [pbertelsen@ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org](mailto:pbertelsen@ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org).

#### **ABOUT PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK**

Prospera Business Network is a private, non-profit, economic development organization in southwestern Montana. Originally established in 1985 as the Gallatin Development Corporation, Prospera plays a leading role in economic development serving a region that is one of the fastest growing economies in the northern Rocky Mountains. Prospera is dedicated to encouraging and supporting business expansion, retention and relocation by providing business consulting, financing, professional development and economic research. To learn more about Prospera Business Network, visit: [www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org](http://www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org)

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