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FMU's Kelly Center to host small business training in government procurement

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FLORENCE, S.C. – The first session of a program designed to help small and minority-owned businesses access government procurement processes will be held on Jan. 21 at the North Dargan Innovation Center.

Francis Marion University's Kelley Center for Enterprise and Innovation, the city and county of Florence and Florence-Darlington Technical College are hosts for the new program, which is aimed at helping the owners of small businesses understand the public bidding process.

Funding for the program comes from a USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG), with matching, in-kind support from the FMU Education Foundation, FMU, NESAs and the City of Florence. There is no cost to participate in the program.

The program offers nine, one-hour sessions of roundtable discussions, four evening training workshops and one specialized panel discussion. The program ends in September. The sessions will focus on the procurement process at local government entities.

In addition to receiving technical assistance, participating businesses will also be featured in a small and minority business directory.

The program will be most applicable to businesses located only in Florence, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marion and Marlboro counties with an interest in public procurement opportunities from the city and county of Florence, FMU and FDTC.

Interested businesses in the six counties listed can contact Zhang at the North Dargan Innovation Center at 150 N. Dargan Street in Florence or by calling 843-661-1205.