

**PROGRAM:** SBA Women's Network for Entrepreneurial Training (WNET) **Website Is Gone, Information Not Current**

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO)

**DESCRIPTION:** WNET is a volunteer mentor program sponsored by the OWBO. The program links successful women business owners with women entrepreneurs who are ready for expansion. Through an ongoing mentoring relationship, WNET offers protégés the expertise of established women business owners who have volunteered their skills, ideas and inspiration.

**ELIGIBLE USES:**

- WNET matches successful entrepreneurial women (mentors) with women business owners whose companies are ready to grow (protégés). Meeting regularly over a period of one year, mentors guide protégés through the challenges of growing a business.
- Mentors provide entrepreneurial women with start-up businesses with knowledge about when to take risks, experiment, diversify, expand and conserve.

**QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/COMMENTS:**

- Women may participate as mentors if
  - Founded her company or has been its CEO for at least three years,
  - Has a successful business, demonstrated by steady growth,
  - Can devote an average of four hours per month to her protégé for at least one year, and
  - Can offer her protégé valuable business information and advice in a supportive, one-on-one relationship.
- Women may participate as protégés if:
  - Have been in business for at least one year and are ready to grow,
  - Demonstrates strong entrepreneurial skills and shows potential for continued success,
  - Can spend an average of four hours per month with her mentor for at least one year, receiving guidance, training and counseling, and
  - Shows a willingness to apply the advice she receives from her mentor.