

- The publication, *A Guide for Farmers, Growers and Crew Leaders* (SSA Publication No. 05-10025), provides information on Social Security's benefit package and how to report income to SSA. This guide is available on SSA's Web site at <http://www.ssa.gov/employer/pub.htm>.

Outreach

- SSA participates in a number of IRS-related events. Staff attend six tax seminars a year presented by IRS. SSA staffs a booth at these public seminars and also provides a 1½ hour workshop on employer reporting. A number of small businesses attend these workshops. SSA staff are also present at eight payroll reporting conferences each year in different parts of the country. These conferences are attended primarily by larger businesses, but they are open to any business.

- SSA holds The National Payroll Reporting Conference on an annual basis at its Baltimore headquarters. This conference was established in 1990 as a forum for Federal agencies and the business community to gather, identify, discuss and resolve common wage and tax reporting issues. This conference has had a significant positive impact on the accuracy of the wage data submitted to SSA. The conference also provides the business community an opportunity to have a voice in initiatives that will ultimately affect the way it does business. The conference is attended by many small companies from the surrounding states as well as by national payroll organizations and service bureaus. Due to budget limitations, the 2003 conference will not be held; however, the Agency expects to sponsor the conference again in 2004.

- SSA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization provides assistance to small businesses through scheduling one-on-one meetings and participating in various procurement trade shows and conferences.

Social Security Administration Single Point of Contact: Liz Davidson, SSA Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Woodlawn, MD 21235, Telephone: 410-965-0454, Fax: 410-965-6400, E-Mail: Liz.Davidson@ssa.gov.

Surface Transportation Board

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is an independent adjudicatory body administratively housed within the Department of Transportation. STB is responsible for the economic regulation of interstate surface transportation, primarily railroads, within the United States. STB's mission

is to ensure that competitive, efficient and safe transportation services are provided to meet the needs of shippers, receivers and consumers. In furtherance of its mission, STB provides a number of services that small businesses might find useful:

- General Information: 202-565-1764
- Procurement: 202-565-1701
- Public Services: 202-565-1592

(how to participate in agency proceedings)

- Library/publications: 202-565-1668

- Rail Consumer Assistance (toll free): 866-254-1792

- Home page: www.stb.dot.gov.

- Publications: Overview- Abandonments and Alternatives to Abandonments

Surface Transportation Board Single Point of Contact: Anne K. Quinlan, 1925 K Street, NW., Ste. 894, Washington, DC 20423-0001, Telephone: 202-565-1727, E-mail: quinlana@stb.dot.gov.

Tennessee Valley Authority

Business Incubation Program

Over the years, TVA has provided capital to help communities establish business incubators to support new and expanding enterprises. The TVA Business Incubation Network includes 24 operational sites across the Valley where tenants share services, equipment, and building space. TVA provides technical and financial assistance to members of the TVA-supported network and also maintains the Business Incubator Tenant Loan Fund, a revolving fund that helps tenants meet short-term needs for cash flow and operating capital.

Online Business Resource Center

TVA's Web-based center serves as an information gateway to valuable public and private resources on entrepreneurship, financial and technical assistance, industrial organizations, and business services. Topics range from setting up a business plan to finding capital, paying taxes, and marketing. The site provides access to the programs and services offered by TVA, other Tennessee Valley organizations, and nationwide resources. Visit the Online Business Resource Center at www.tva.com/econdev/obr.

Minority Business Development Program

TVA supports the growth and expansion of minority and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses with diverse packages of technical, capital, and managerial assistance. A

key feature of the program is the Minority Business Development Loan Fund (MBDLF), a revolving fund that provides for loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Through the MBDLF and the Valley Coalition, a partnership between TVA and regional banks, TVA promotes job creation and stimulates capital investment in the Valley.

Small and Minority Business Mentoring

Small and minority businesses that provide services to TVA receive support through TVA's mentoring program, which helps these firms grow and enhance their business operations. Assistance includes matching suppliers with business opportunities, identifying key business contacts, encouraging joint ventures and alliances, and linking TVA procurement needs with manufacturers and businesses in the Tennessee Valley.

Partners

TVA's economic development programs are delivered in partnership with public and private organizations. Some of our partners are:

- Distributors of TVA power
- Chambers of commerce and local economic development authorities
- TVA-supported business incubators
- State departments of economic and community development
- The U. S. Small Business Administration
- The U. S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency
- Small business development centers

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- The Valley Coalition, a public/private lending and business assistance partnership between TVA and participating Valley financial institutions.

Small Business Assistance Web site: <http://www.tva.com/econdev/smallbiz.htm>

Tennessee Valley Authority Single Point of Contact: Philip S. McMullan, Project Manager, Business Growth and Innovation, Telephone: 615-232-6227, Fax: 615-232-6189, E-mail: psmcmullan@tva.gov, Web site: www.tva.com/econdev/obr.

U.S. Access Board

The U.S. Access Board (Board) develops and maintains accessibility guidelines and standards for the built environment, transportation vehicles, electronic and information technology and telecommunications. These design requirements are used to enforce several different laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. A key part of the