

**FOR RELEASE**  
November 21, 2005

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### **Where's Your Money?**

Business Plan Competition links African-American, Hispanic, and Women business owners, capital, and investors

**Virginia Beach, Virginia** – African-American, Hispanic, and Women business owners seeking capital to start, grow or expand their small business should polish-up their business plan and submit it to the 2006 MBE Business Plan Competition, sponsored by Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation (VHDC). The Competition seeks to identify five (5) MBEs (nationwide) to present their business plan for funding to an audience of private investors, venture capital firms, and lenders, and distribute five (5) awards, ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 in cash, products, and services, to Virginia-based, disadvantaged minority- and women-owned businesses. Awards and presentations will be made during the 2006 MBE Capital Call Conference, Exhibition, and Venture Forum in June 2006.

The MBE Capital Call seeks to introduce African-American and Hispanic investors to business opportunities with African-American, Hispanic, and Women business owners seeking capital to start, grow, or expand. It's a call to angel investors (accredited and non-accredited), venture capitalists, asset managers, banks, insurance companies, investment bankers, and private equity firms to elevate their investment in African-American, Hispanic, and Women business owners. It's a call to African-American, Hispanic, and Women business owners to elevate their understanding and use of traditional and non-traditional business capital and credit resources to achieve wealth through business creation and expansion.

"The MBE Business Plan Competition is an effort to assist minority business owners to build the kind of business they imagined. We want to facilitate investment in minority business enterprises, particularly those on the forefront of next-generation products and services", said VHDC Director, James R Taylor. "To do so, we must identify those business opportunities and present them to investors for consideration. The Competition enables

VHCDC to identify African-American, Hispanic, and Women-owned business opportunities across the U.S. to present to investors for funding, strategic partnership opportunities, and management assistance. This is an excellent vehicle for African-American investors to identify investment opportunities and meet face-to-face with successful African-American, Hispanic, and Women-owned businesses”, Taylor said.

The MBE Business Plan Competition is open to African-American, Hispanic, and Women-owned businesses nationwide. To be considered, registrations must be received before January 15, 2006. To enter, visit: [www.mbecapitalcall.com](http://www.mbecapitalcall.com) and download the 2006 MBE Capital Call Business Plan Competition Registration Package. The Registration Package contains details of the Competition, including important dates, eligibility, rules, terms and conditions, and registration form.

For more information, including how to participate as an investor, email your questions to [info@vhcdc.org](mailto:info@vhcdc.org) or visit the Web site at [www.vhcdc.org](http://www.vhcdc.org)

#### **About VHCDC:**

Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation (VHCDC) is a private, non-profit community development. VHCDC is a 501(c)3, charitable Corporation, focused on innovative, community-based initiatives that advance the success and growth of disadvantaged micro and small business enterprises, stimulate job creation, and rebuild and revitalize distressed communities. VHCDC depends on monetary grants and donations, in-kind contributions, and its corporate partners to design, implement, market, and operate programs and services that assist small disadvantaged businesses and residents of low-income, distressed communities. Your investment/donation can make a difference in alleviating barriers to starting or expanding a small business and creating jobs, empowering disadvantaged individuals and families to improve their quality of life, and transforming low-income, distressed communities into vibrant places to live, do business, and work. Visit VHCDC online at: [www.vhcdc.org/support](http://www.vhcdc.org/support)

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