



PUBLIC STATEMENT

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NALCAB Issues Statement on Federal Ruling Against MBDA

(WASHINGTON DC) - NALCAB's President & CEO Marla Bilonick released the following statement in response to US District Judge Mark Pittman's ruling against the Minority Business Development Agency's (MBDA) mandate to promote the growth and competitiveness of minority-owned businesses:

"Accessing our financial system and safe financial products and services is fundamental to full participation in the US economy. At NALCAB, we believe in helping everyone build wealth; we focus specifically on communities of color and those historically marginalized, underserved, underinvested, overlooked, and impoverished.

We know that MBDA Business Centers cannot deny access to Business Center services based on race or ethnicity. However, by design, the Business Centers are intended to serve low-wealth and traditionally underserved entrepreneurs. Since 1969, the MBDA has worked to strengthen opportunities for minority and women business owners facing disproportionate economic barriers. We applaud the MBDA's continued commitment to serving socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

However, the fact remains that minority borrowers do not have the same access to financial services and, therefore, their ability to succeed is outpaced by their White counterparts. Black (47%) and Hispanic (44%) business owners were more likely to be [denied loans](#) compared to white (34%) and Asian (32%) business owners.

It is NALCAB's mission to bridge the access to capital gaps faced by the traditionally underserved, including Latinos, because of the failure of financial institutions to meet the needs of our communities. Policies that do not meaningfully and intentionally tap into the strength of the US Latino population are a missed opportunity for economic growth - we [are the fastest-growing](#) contributors to the United States economy, are quick to join the labor market, and are responsible for \$3.2 trillion of the nation's gross domestic product.

NALCAB is more committed than ever to working with the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress to ensure that under-invested and underserved Latino communities have the tools to succeed."

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About [NALCAB](#)

The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) is the hub of a national network of 200+ member nonprofits that are anchor institutions in geographically and ethnically diverse Latino communities in 46 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico. NALCAB supports its member institutions through funding, training, research and advocacy, enabling them to invest in their communities by building affordable housing, ensuring equitable neighborhood development, supporting small business growth, and providing financial counseling on issues including credit building and homeownership. As a grantmaker and US Treasury-certified CDFI lender with offices in San Antonio and Washington DC, NALCAB serves hundreds of thousands of low- and moderate-income people, advancing economic equity and inclusivity.