

# NEW MARKETS VENTURE CAPITAL (NMVC) PROGRAM



U.S. Small Business Administration  
(SBA)

Investment Division

Office of New Markets Venture Capital

# Typical NMVC Company



- ☒ 10-year limited partnership (“LP”)
- ☒ Funded with LP commitments
- ☒ Years 1-5: makes approximately 20 investments
- ☒ Years 6-10: creates value and liquidity
- ☒ Management shares in profits
- ☒ Capital requirements:
  - ☒ Minimum \$5 million of private capital from non-Federal sources
  - ☒ Minimum \$1.5 million of matching grant resources from non-SBA sources

# Unique Features of an NMVC Company



- ⌘ “Double bottom line” of both financial return to investors and improvement of LI areas
- ⌘ Provides intensive operational assistance to small business directly or through third parties, e.g. accountants
- ⌘ Fund manager controls investment funds and grant money. If done well, this benefits both small business and fund investors

# Advantages to Investors



- ⌘ Low cost 1:1 leverage on equity from SBA-guaranteed debentures
- ⌘ Fund manager directs no cost grant funds for 60% more resources to enhance investments (\$3.0 MM /\$5.0MM equity)
- ⌘ Potential New Markets Tax Credit up to 39% over 7 years
- ⌘ CRA credit for financial institutions

# Advantages to Portfolio Companies



- ⌘ Long term risk capital
- ⌘ Proactive investor
- ⌘ No cost operational assistance

# NMVC Program Funding



## ⌘ Fiscal Year 2001 funding by Congress:

- ☒ \$150 million for debenture guarantees (\$100 million discounted amount)
- ☒ \$30 million for operational assistance grants

## ⌘ Total public/private resources:

- ☒ \$200 million for investing
- ☒ \$60 million for operational assistance

# Terms of Operational Assistance Grants



- ☒ Dollar-for-dollar match required (up to 50% in-kind contribution permitted)
- ☒ Disbursed over 4.5 years
- ☒ Must not be used for general and administrative expenses, including overhead

# SBA Oversight



- ⌘ Annual compliance examinations
- ⌘ Grant funding subject to audit
- ⌘ Annual financial reports and additional reports are required
- ⌘ Cross default between grant award and debenture guaranty



# NMVC Investing




⌘ At least 80% of the businesses in which the NMVC

Company makes investments must:

- ☑ Be “smaller enterprises”
- ☑ Receive “equity capital investments”
- ☑ Have their “principal office” located in a LI area
- ☑ 80% of dollars invested must also meet criteria

# Smaller Enterprises



- ⌘ Businesses that, together with their affiliates:
  - ☑ Have \$6 million maximum net worth and average after-tax income not exceeding \$2 million for the preceding 2 years, or
  - ☑ Meet SBA's size standard based on revenue or employment criteria for industry

# Equity Capital Investments



- ⌘ Common or preferred stock
- ⌘ Limited partnership interests
- ⌘ Options, warrants, or similar equity instruments
- ⌘ Subordinated debt with equity features as long as debt is not amortized and provides for interest payments contingent upon and limited to the extent of earnings
- ⌘ Majority or 100% ownership permitted

# Low-Income (LI) Geographic Areas



- ⌘ Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zones
- ⌘ Rural and Urban Enterprise Zones and Empowerment Communities
- ⌘ Any census tract or equivalent county division:
  - ☑ That has a poverty rate of at least 20%, or
  - ☑ That qualifies for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, or
  - ☑ That is a non-metropolitan area and has a median household income of no more than 80% of the statewide median household income

# NMVC Program Timeline



- ⌘ 2001- First round: SBA conditionally approved seven out of 23 applicants which represents roughly half of \$180 million program funding
- ⌘ 2002- Seven conditionally approved must raise private matching resources and close by 12/31/02
- ⌘ Second round: SBA currently revising regulations and application and is planning to announce in fourth quarter, 2002.
- ⌘ Second round winners will have 18 months to raise private matching resources

# Proposed Investment Areas of Conditionally Approved NMVC Companies

- ⌘ **Adena Ventures:** 29 counties in Southeastern Ohio, 18 counties in Northeastern Kentucky, entire state of West Virginia, 3 counties in Western Maryland.
- ⌘ **CEI Community Ventures Fund:** Eligible census tracts throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, with the majority of tracts being in the Northern regions of those states
- ⌘ **Dingman New Markets Growth Fund:** The District of Columbia, 3 Maryland counties in the DC metro area; and Baltimore City, Maryland
- ⌘ **Murex Investments I:** 15 counties in Eastern Pennsylvania, 8 counties in Southern New Jersey, 2 counties in Northern Delaware
- ⌘ **Penn Venture Partners:** 34 counties in Central Pennsylvania
- ⌘ **Southern Appalachian Fund:** 111 of 122 counties in Kentucky, 88 of 95 counties in Tennessee, 34 counties in Northern Alabama, 21 counties in Northern Georgia, 19 counties in Northern Mississippi
- ⌘ **Southwest Development Fund:** The entire state of Arizona, with particular focus on the Phoenix and Tucson areas



# More Information



☒ SBA's web site:

<http://www.sba.gov/inv>

☒ e-mail:

[peter.gibbs@sba.gov](mailto:peter.gibbs@sba.gov)

☒ Austin J. Belton, Director, NMVC Program

202-205-7027



# NMTC ~ NMVCC Inconsistencies Under Current Regulations



- ⌘ LI Areas - NMTC definition does not include HUB or Rural Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities available to NMVCCs
- ⌘ Substantially All Safe Harbor test of NMTC - precludes use by venture funds including NMVCCs because of 15% limit on fund overhead and reserves
- ⌘ Holding Period- NMTC requirement of 7-year holding periods (with grace periods for reinvestment) versus no holding period requirement in NMVC program
- ⌘ Qualified Business- NMTC tests of gross income and property and services in LI area for 7- year holding period is more stringent than “principal office” test for NMVCCs
- ⌘ Control - NMTC test of no more than 33% ownership during the 7-year period degree of control contrasts with no restraints on ownership by NMVCCs