



# News Release

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## Looking to start up a new relationship... in business? Charleston County is Hosting its Annual "Contacts for Contracts" Event February 20

Register in advance for the FREE event at [www.charlestoncounty.org/sbe](http://www.charlestoncounty.org/sbe)

Small business owners will once again have the opportunity to showcase their goods and services to six large local and federal government agencies during the annual "Contacts for Contracts" free matchmaker event Thursday, February 20.

[Charleston County Government's Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\) Program](#), the [S.C. Small Business Development Center \(SCSBDC\)](#) and the [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission \(CCPRC\)](#) will host the event, which will be held on **Thursday February 20, from 1-4 p.m. at the James Island County Park** located at 871 Riverland Drive on James Island. The park entrance fee will be waived for those attending the event.

"Of all the business development events that the SBE Program sponsors, this annual matchmaker opportunity is the most often requested," said Susan Hogan, who manages [Charleston County Government's SBE Program](#). "An opportunity like this for small businesses to pass along their marketing materials and to share information about their businesses face-to-face is significant. This is the first time that we have been able to include federal agencies, and we welcome SPAWAR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Also for the first time, there will be a number of specialized small business resource agencies available. For owners of small businesses, this is truly the one place to be on this one day!"

CCPRC Executive Director Tom O'Rourke will open the event, and [Charleston County Councilmember Anna B. Johnson](#) will be in attendance to discuss upcoming opportunities with Charleston County government. Other government agencies in attendance include:

- Charleston County School District
- Charleston Water Systems
- SPAWAR
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SCSBDC Business Consultant Steve Taylor, whose agency is a co-sponsor for the event, will be available to discuss the services that the center provides to help bring small businesses up to the level of government contract capability. Other small business resource agencies in attendance will be:

- Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Council of Governments
- Charleston Local Development Corporation
- SC Women's Business Center
- Trident Technical College
- US Small Business Administration

**Those wishing to attend will need to sign up in advance no later than the day before the workshop as follows:**

- Online at [www.charlestoncounty.org/sbe](http://www.charlestoncounty.org/sbe)
- By phone at (843) 958-4753

For more information on [Charleston County Government's SBE Program](#), contact Susan Hogan by phone at (843) 958-4765 or by email at [shogan@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:shogan@charlestoncounty.org).

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- written by Shawn Smetana -