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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND RESEARCH CENTER
720 Gateway Center Drive, Suite B

THE VISION

The Black Economic Development Task Force, inc. has come a long way since its inception in 1987, and is today recognized county wide as a forceful advocacy group for economic empowerment for African Americans. Though the road has at times been torturous, the Task Force vision has not wavered along the way. The Community Economic Development and Research Center is a child of that vision, reflecting an expanded sense of community. The Center can now undertake the important task of probing and serving the needs of community economic development.

THE CENTER

Along with the vision came years of planning and preparation for the establishment of a concrete base of operations. As a result of intensive grant writing activities, funding was secured from the James Irvine Foundation. This allowed the Task Force to take the initial steps toward opening a Center.

A great deal of time and energy went into selecting the site for the Center. It was important for the location to be accessible to the communities served, and welcoming to all. The Center facility covers 1,500 square feet. The front office space and conference room offer a pleasant atmosphere for guests. Thanks to Nielsen Construction and a number of subcontractors, the rear two-thirds of the facility has been built out to accommodate additional office and classroom space.

Projects at the Center are varied and expanding. Thanks in part to our research, San Diego County will soon see two important directories - one for ethnic businesses and one for community organizations. This project is a collaboration with a small business in the community, Ethnic Resources Unlimited. There is also a massive African American Consumer Survey campaign underway that will provide invaluable information for use in both the public and private sectors. The Center has also established an academic connection through the business school at SDSU. We will soon see classes and seminars taught at the Center facility. Finally, hiring is currently underway to staff the Center with personnel to oversee other educational and training operations.

720 GATEWAY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE B. Watch for this address on surveys and communiques about the economic health of our communities. Memorize this location as a hub of information and resource sharing. Come to this address with your questions and ideas, and help us make our Center the "happening place" for COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT!

For more information, call 266-7272.