



Maria Hughes

(maria.hughes@sba.gov)

Maria is the Lead Lender Relations Specialist and Veteran Affairs Officer for the US Small Business Administration (SBA) San Diego district office. She is responsible for marketing SBA's financial and management assistance programs in San Diego and Imperial Counties. She serves as a financial resource for the San Diego District Office and provides training to banks and borrowers as needed. As a Veterans Affairs Officer, she works with the Boots2Business Program for transitioning military and veterans. She assists small businesses in obtaining financing and referring to resources. Her other responsibilities include working with the SBA Surety Bond Guaranty program which helps a business to obtain bonding for their projects. Maria has been with SBA working as a Loan Officer and Portfolio Management Officer, Business Development and Government Contracting for the last thirty one years. Maria has been the CFC Chairman for the last 27 years. Prior to SBA, Maria worked for the Navy at Naval Oceans Systems Center (currently SPAWAR) as a contract negotiator. She is a frequently requested speaker and panelist at many government and military functions, UCSD, USD, CIBU as well as other finance and business events.

Additionally, Maria has experience as an ICU RN and a medical reviewer in the insurance industry. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Finance and a MBA/JD. She is certified as a legal nurse consultant through UCSD. She has served in the US Army and is a Vietnam Era Veteran.