



Amoroso's Bakery and PNC Bank are two of Southwest Philadelphia's largest employers.

Southwest Business & Employment Expansion

Three major activities are key to expanding the economy of Southwest Philadelphia: encouraging and supporting business development opportunities; providing a forum for communication between area businesses and the Southwest community; and addressing local business employment needs and opportunities. The Southwest Economic Conference will undertake three priority efforts to facilitate Southwest business expansion:

- 1. Create the Southwest Business Partnership.** The creation of the Southwest Business Partnership will encourage networking and communication between area non-retail businesses and establish a forum for voicing and addressing businesses' concerns and issues regarding Southwest Philadelphia.
- 2. Establish the Southwest Employment Resource Center.** The Southwest Employment Resource Center will address the employment needs of Southwest businesses and simultaneously increase the number of Southwest residents working in Southwest Philadelphia. The Southwest Employment Resource Center will actively work with area employers to identify employment needs and match pre-screened employee candidates to specific job opportunities.
- 3. Establish procurement opportunities for Southwest businesses.** The Southwest Economic Conference will encourage local entrepreneurship by working with major area institutions and anchors, including the Philadelphia International Airport and nearby universities, to identify and establish procurement opportunities for Southwest businesses.

- Southwest has more than 330 private companies and 564 airport-related businesses and agencies
- More than 29,000 full-time private jobs
- Only 12% of these jobs are filled by Southwest residents
- Southwest businesses want to hire more from the community



Southwest Business & Employment Expansion

Southwest Philadelphia hosts more than 330 private industrial, commercial, auto-related, and contracting businesses. In addition, there are 564 Philadelphia International Airport related business and airport-based government divisions. While non-Airport businesses are scattered throughout Southwest Philadelphia, more than 50% are located below Lindbergh Boulevard where the Eastwick Industrial Park and the Airport Auto Mall are defining features.

As of December 2001, only 12% of the 29,000 full-time private sector employees in Southwest Philadelphia were area residents. At the Philadelphia International Airport, Southwest's largest employer, the percentage was lower, 8.6%. While Southwest area businesses are interested in recruiting employees locally, there is no convenient means of identifying applicants from the local labor pool. There is demand from area businesses for a local employment service.

The implementation of the business expansion initiatives will require the efforts of a full-time Southwest Business Liaison staff person, hired in conjunction with Southwest CDC. The Southwest Employment Resource Center will expand Southwest CDCs current employment counseling efforts. The Southwest Economic Conference will coordinate small business expansion efforts with an array of services and resources already available through area small business support centers, Philadelphia's Commerce Department, Philadelphia Development Partnership, Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation, and Women's Opportunities Resource Center.



Bartash Printing employees operate the company's printing press equipment. Twenty percent of Bartash Printing employees are Southwest Philadelphia residents.