

# Caguas, PR

## Mayor William Miranda Marin

---

### ***Business Development Program***

The Business Development Program is one of the services offered by the Economic Development Department of the Autonomous Municipality of Caguas. This Program is designed to promote economic growth by encouraging new business ventures and maintaining existing businesses open in the city of Caguas. They make sure that those in business, those planning to enter business and students know of the different alternatives available from the municipal government to aid them in new ventures and in strengthening those already in existence.

The program is divided into five service areas:

- Business Nights
- Managerial Assistance Center
- Tax Incentives
- Small Business Training Program
- Inventories of Commercial Sites

**Business Nights** consists of a series of workshops, lectures and seminars on topics of current interest in business. Meetings are held at night on the third Thursday of each month. Besides providing the participants with practical tools to establish or strengthen their businesses, this provides a convenient setting for them to compare experiences and share concerns.

To date, they have held five Business Nights, with more than 700 persons in total attendance. Accounts have appeared in the newspapers "El Nuevo Dia" and "La Semana", as well as on several pages of the Internet.

The **Managerial Assistance Center** has entered into agreements with Sacred Heart University in San Juan and Columbia College in Caguas to develop joint programs of assistance to medium and small business. The Sacred Heart agreement targets businesswomen and self-management. The Columbia College agreement seeks to develop entrepreneurship.

The Autonomous Municipality of Caguas has enacted a series of **tax incentives** designed to promote economic growth in the downtown area, the suburbs and the outlying rural communities. The Autonomous Municipality of Caguas offers partial or total exemption from payment of local business taxes over given periods of time, as well as

other incentives, depending on where business will be established and the number of jobs to be created.

The **Small Business Training Program** is directed, at its onset, to establishments on Luis Munoz Rivera Street, an area which they seek to revitalize economically. Specifically, they offer merchants all of the necessary advice to allow them to compete successfully with larger business establishments.

Another service available to the business community is an **inventory of commercial sites** or establishments available for rent. Working jointly with the private sector of the economy, they offer businessmen and women different rental alternatives, depending on their needs.

As an integral part of their philosophy of government, Caguas actively promotes the establishment of businesses owned by their own employees, based upon the cooperative model and Caguas' own efforts to encourage self-reliance. As part of this endeavor, they also provide business loans through the Community Development Bank.

Constructora Rio Canas, a small construction company, is an example of the type of worker-owned business they are helping to create. At present it has 10 worker-owners and performs some work for the municipal government.

All of these efforts are directed to promoting a solid and prosperous economy, with the greatest possible range of business options for the people of Caguas.



Mayor William Miranda Marin

***"Small businesses are the backbone of our city's economy."***

---

Program has been running four years

**CONTACT:**

Sandra San Antonio  
Economic Development  
Department  
P.O. Box 907  
Caguas, Puerto Rico 00726  
(787) 744-8833 Ext. 2900  
FAX: (787) 258-1797  
E-MAIL:  
nicolasrosario@hotmail.com