Competing in a global economy is not easy for any American business these days. It's even tougher for Black owned businesses.

Last week, the Minority Business Development Agency opened up shop in Cleveland.

It is a welcome addition to a region that has taken the brunt of this vicious economic climate.

It is especially a much needed tool for Black business owners seeking to grow their enterprises.

The MBDA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and will assisted minority-owned businesses with access to contracts, capital and opportunities with major corporations.

The aim is to help businesses create 70 jobs and $20 million in new revenue during the center's first year.

With more than 40 centers national, Cleveland currently has the only minority business center in the state. It is located in shared spaces at 1240 Huron Road with the Greater Cleveland Partnership and will be operated by the Commission on Economic Inclusion.

At a time when the economy continues to sputter, it is refreshing to see a new initiative come to Cleveland that is designed to aid Black businesses and create some jobs.

We hope that minority owned businesses will take advantage of this new offering.

Competing in a global economy is not easy for any American business these days. It's even tougher for Black owned businesses.

That’s why we welcome the MBDA to our town.

It will now be up to minority owned businesses to “go for the gold.”