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Hispanic group expands program

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The **Hispanic Business Initiative Fund** has expanded its business scholarship program to Tampa.

The Orlando-based program provides Hispanic-owned small businesses a 25 to 100 percent break on marketing, business planning, legal, accounting and other services, according to a news release.

“With the challenges of today’s economy, this is a perfect time to offer additional assistance to those individuals interested in expanding an existing small business or in starting a new business,” said Fund Vice President Yanina Rosario, in a prepared statement.

The scholarship program was established in 2006 and has provided more than \$200,000 worth of support to nearly 400 Hispanic small business owners, the release said. For more information on the program, visit www.hbiftampa.org.

The nonprofit organization specializes in providing bilingual technical assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand businesses in Central Florida.