

Dee Kaplan, Deputy Secretary, Business Assistance

Kaplan has been Deputy Secretary for Business Assistance since June 2007 and is responsible for continuing to advance Governor Rendell's comprehensive economic stimulus package and administers the department's comprehensive business assistance programs. She also serves on several community and service organization boards in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The office works to enhance the entrepreneurial vitality of the commonwealth by encouraging the creation, expansion, and retention of successful businesses, including minority-owned and small businesses. It meets one-on-one with municipalities, economic development corporations, and businesses to identify their growth potential through the department's various bond financing, grant, loan, guarantee, tax credit and workforce development programs.

Kaplan has over 25 years experience in such business assistance sectors, having been senior vice president for the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation, where she planned and directed comprehensive strategies to regional employers. She also managed a \$12 million budget and a staff of more than 70 while working closely with local and regional economic development agencies to deliver workforce resources and funding to create and retain jobs in the area.

While with the City of Philadelphia, Kaplan also established and served as director of the Mayor's Business Action Team. In that role, she developed a marketing strategy to bring businesses and investment into the city and worked on structuring incentive packages for companies looking to expand or relocate in the city. She also played a vital role in establishing the Philadelphia Business Attraction Council with economic development, business and civic leaders.