

Small Business Partnership Grant Program

HF 504 | SF 1720

This program (formerly the Business Development Competitive Grant Program) allows Minnesota small businesses to receive targeted, culturally, and regionally specific technical assistance from an expert business advisor. The program has never had a base increase, yet demand for services has only grown.

The Impact



Lina & Arif Hamid opened Sainaa Cafe on Lake Street in Summer 2022 with the help of specialized technical assistance provided through this program.

The Ask

**\$25 MILLION
PER
BIENNIUM**

Recipients of these grants collectively serve BIPOC small business owners at far greater rates than the private market.



**7,000 BUSINESSES
SERVED ANNUALLY**

Impact of Technical Assistance

This unique program supports specialized technical assistance to entrepreneurs that are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women, veterans, and people with disabilities.



**81% IDENTIFY AS
BIPOC**

Statewide Network of Organizations

Growing and maintaining the network of non-profit economic development organizations and CDFIs is extremely important to local communities and the economy statewide. The Small Business Partnership Program helps with marketing, management, finance, business planning, HR, COVID-19 relief assistance and accounting.



The one-time funding increase in 2021 allowed 37 organizations to receive funding compared to 14 in previous grant cycles.

164% Increase



Current Grantees

Northern Minnesota

Entrepreneur Fund
Greater Bemidji
Leech Lake Financial Services
Northland Foundation Small Business Development Center
University of Minnesota Crookston Small Business Development Center*

Central Minnesota

Concordia College Small Business Development Center
Initiative Foundation, Little Falls
Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission*
North Central Small Business Development Central Lakes College
St. Cloud State University Small Business Development Center

Statewide

4-Directions Development
African Development Center
Beta Group*
Latino Economic Development Center
Metropolitan Economic Development Association
Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce*
Springboard for the Arts*
WomenVenture

Southern Minnesota

Austin Community Charitable Fund*
Red Wing Ignite
South Central Small Business Development Center Mankato State
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Southwest State University Small Business Development Center

Twin Cities Metro

African Career, Education & Resource (ACER)*
African Economic Development Solutions
Asian Economic Development Association*
Clues*
Hmong American Partnership
Lake Street Council*
Lunar Startups*
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
MNSBIR
New American Development Center
NextStage*
Northside Economic Opportunity Network
Scott County CDA-CFE*
Seward Redesign*

First-time grantees denoted by an asterisk ()*

Some Organizations may cover more than one region