



MINNESOTA RESOURCES FOR STARTUPS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Program Name	Description	Contact
Small Business Assistance	First point of contact for questions about the start-up, operation, or expansion of a business in Minnesota. Offers numerous publications and informational videos.	Phone: 651-556-8425 or 800-310-8323 Email: deed.mnsbao@state.mn.us
Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)	Provides no cost, one-on-one business consulting, group training, and assistance securing capital. Serves all types and stages of businesses. Over 30 offices across the state.	Phone: 651-259-7423 or 1-877-653-8333 Email: deed.mnsbdc@state.mn.us
Community Partnerships Program	DEED partners with organizations to provide free or low cost business development and technical assistance services. Many of these organizations also provide additional services such as loan capital.	Email: mnsbp.deed@state.mn.us
Launch Minnesota	A collaborative effort to accelerate the growth of startups and amplify Minnesota as a national leader in innovation. The statewide network , with 80+ partners, works to create strong regional networks to help entrepreneurs start and scale. Calendar of trainings , webinars and events, Friday Forum to connect with startup community.	Email: launchminnesota@state.mn.us
Entrepreneur and Small Business Support Organizations Directory	Explore resources and services that Minnesota offers to entrepreneur and small businesses and use the filters to find support organizations to match your needs.	Website: mn.gov/deed/joinusmn/doing-business-here/grow-your-business/support/

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Program Name	Description	Funding	Typical Customer	Contact
Launch MN Innovation Grants	Provides grants to innovative and scalable technology startup businesses in Minnesota.	Business Operations Grants up to \$35,000 and Matching SBIR/STTR Phase 1 and 2 Grants up to \$50,000.	Startup companies focused on high technology, new proprietary technology, or a new proprietary product, process, or service in specified fields.	Email: LaunchMinnesota@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/launchmnggrant
Emerging Entrepreneur Loan	Provides loans to businesses that are owned and operated by minorities, low-income persons, women, veterans and/or persons with disabilities.	DEED provides funding to certified non-profit lenders who make loans from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Most loans require 1:1 match from private sources.	Small businesses majority owned and operated by one or more women, veterans, or BIPOC, low-income or disabled individuals.	Email: Jason.Burak@state.mn.us Certified lender directory and contact form: mn.gov/deed/elp
Angel Tax Credit	Provides a 25-percent tax credit to investors or investment funds that make equity investments in startup companies focused on high technology, new proprietary technology, or a new proprietary product, process or service in specified fields.	Businesses eligible for up to \$4M in investment. Investors may receive up to \$125,000 (filing single) or \$250,000 (filing jointly) in tax credits per year for investments.	Businesses, Investors and funds. Startup companies focused on high technology, new proprietary technology, or a new proprietary product, process, or service in specified fields.	Email: angel.credit@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/angelcredit
Native American Business Loan Program	Supports the development of Indian-owned and operated businesses in Minnesota and promotes economic opportunities for Indian people throughout Minnesota.	Covers 75% of project up to funds in Minnesota tribe account. Average loan over the past five years \$57,000.	Member of a federally recognized Minnesota based band or tribe	Email: Lori.Hanson@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/nativeamerican
Border Cities Enterprise Zone	Property tax credits, sales tax credit on construction equipment and materials, and new or existing employee credits to qualifying businesses that are the source of investment, job creation or retention in certain border cities. Amount is determined by the respective city pursuant to program guidelines.	Financial assistance amount is determined by the respective city pursuant to published program guidelines	Businesses located in the border cities of Breckenridge, Dilworth, East Grand Forks, Moorhead, Ortonville, and the Development Zone of Taylors Falls	Email: Stephen.Wolff@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/tax-credits/border-cities
STEP Grant	Provides financial and technical assistance to qualifying small businesses with an interest in exporting products or services to foreign markets.	Up to \$7,500 for approved export-development activities	Companies looking to export their products and services to foreign markets	Email: Jackie.Geiger@state.mn.us

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES *(continued)*

Program Name	Description	Funding	Typical Customer	Contact
<u>Automation Loan Participation Program</u>	Companion loans intended to fill gap financing needs for businesses purchasing machinery, equipment, or software to increase productivity and automation.	Loans of up to \$500,000, 5 to 7 year term, 1% interest rate, private financing match required	Minnesota-based manufacturing, distribution, technology and warehousing businesses with fewer than 500 employees	Email: SSBCI.DEED@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/ssbci
<u>Direct Investment Venture Capital</u>	Direct investments in Minnesota-based startups.	Equity investments in seed and early-stage Minnesota-based startups	Minnesota-based seed-stage and early-stage startups	Email: mnsbcivc@umn.edu
<u>Growth Loan Fund</u>	Provides direct loans to early-stage businesses that qualify for Angel Tax Credits or are working with accredited investors or a VC firm. Loans range from \$100,000 to \$400,000 based on 20% of the total investment in a defined funding round, not to exceed 12 months.	Loans range from \$100,000 to \$400,000 based on 20% of the total investment in a defined funding round, not to exceed 12 months	Minnesota-based early-stage businesses that have raised less than \$250,000 or slightly later-stage businesses that are not yet ready for a Series A round	Email: SSBCI.DEED@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/ssbci
<u>Minnesota Loan Guarantee Program</u>	DEED will provide 80% loan guarantees for qualified loans made by enrolled lenders; lenders are responsible for setting loan terms.	Guarantees up to \$800,000 with a .25% guarantee fee on loans enrolled by banks, credit unions, CDFIs and other nonprofit lenders; businesses apply directly with enrolled lenders	New or existing Minnesota-based small businesses that are eligible under SSBCI guidelines and using funds for eligible business purposes, including working capital and start-up costs	Email: SSBCI.DEED@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/ssbci
<u>Small Business Loan Participation Program</u>	DEED will purchase 25% to 30% participations in loans made by approved CDFI and nonprofit lenders; lenders are responsible for setting loan terms.	Participations will range from \$10,000 to \$250,000; businesses apply directly with approved lenders	New or existing small businesses eligible under SSBCI guidelines and using funds for eligible business purposes, including working capital and start-up costs	Email: SSBCI.DEED@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/ssbci
<u>Promise Grant</u>	Grants to businesses that have been adversely affected by structural racial discrimination, civil unrest, lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or lack of regional economic diversification	\$86.5 million <i>Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000</i>	Existing Minnesota businesses who have gross annual revenue of \$750,000 or less based on 2021 taxes.	<i>Program expected to release applications in early 2024. Businesses will apply through NDC and the Minnesota Initiative Foundations.</i> Email: PromiseGrants.DEED@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/promise-grant
<u>Promise Loan</u>	Loans to businesses, nonprofits, and developers that have been adversely affected by structural racial discrimination, civil unrest, lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or lack of regional economic diversification	\$30 million	Businesses who have primary operations located in the State of Minnesota and have gross annual revenue of less than \$1 million based on 2021 taxes.	<i>Program expected to release applications in early 2024. Eligible recipients will apply through partner organizations (the Minnesota Initiative Foundations and MEDA).</i> Email: shaval.crooms@state.mn.us
<u>Expanding Opportunity Fund</u>	Long-term loans to nonprofit lenders, who will in turn make loans to small businesses. Applicants must be certified lenders that are enrolled in one or more federally-funded state programs.	\$23 million	Minnesota businesses who have fewer than 100 full-time equivalent positions; Meet the statutory definition of a community development financial institution as defined in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, U.S. Code Title 12, Sec. 4702; Be currently enrolled and actively participating in one or more eligible federally funded state programs.	<i>Program expected to release applications in early 2024.</i> Email: Linda.Asilo@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/expanding-opportunity
<u>Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund (ERAF)</u>	Small to mid-sized Minnesota employers can request reimbursement for expenses related to providing reasonable accommodations for job applicants and employees with disabilities.	Maximum total reimbursement per eligible employer in a state fiscal year (July 1-June 30) is \$30,000 between onetime and ongoing reasonable accommodations expenses.	Businesses who have less than 500 employees and make less than \$5,000,000 gross annual revenue.	Email: eraf.deed@state.mn.us Phone: 651-539-2390 Website: mn.gov/deed/eraf

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Program Name	Description	For more information
SciTech	Connects college students in STEM disciplines with paid internships in small to mid-sized Minnesota businesses. Companies receive assistance finding qualified candidates and a \$1:\$1 matching stipend to cover 50% of the intern's wages (capped at \$2,500).	Website: scitechmn.org
Job Training Incentive Program	Grants to new or expanding businesses located in Greater Minnesota for the purposes of training workers as quickly and efficiently as possible.	Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/partnership
Automation Training Incentive Program	Provides grants of up to \$35,000 to existing businesses for training incumbent workers as quickly and effectively as possible on automation technology. Available to existing businesses located in Greater Minnesota that are investing in new automation technology at the project location.	Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/atipp
MN Job Skills Partnership Program	Providing training for both new and existing employees of participating businesses throughout the state.	Website: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/partnership/index.jsp