

Small & Minority Business Enterprise
999 Broad Street - Bridgeport, CT 06604



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

“ The Monthly ”
January



CITY OF BRIDGEPORT LAUNCHES SMALL BUSINESS LOAN FUND WITH THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND AND BRINGS EMERGE CT TO BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT— Today, Mayor Ganim announced two allocations of American Rescue Plan dollars that will go to build the capacity of our small businesses and local workforce. One-time awards of \$250,000 were announced for the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) for the creation of a small businesses revolving loan program and Emerge CT for the expansion of their social enterprise focused on re-entry and workforce development to the City of Bridgeport. These awards are intended to create programs that would support our residents and be self-sustaining in the years to come.

The Community Economic Development Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit, a U.S. Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institution, and Connecticut's number one SBA microlender for 11 consecutive years. CEDF will put \$200,000 into a revolving fund which will be lent to small, Bridgeport-based businesses with owners who are low to moderate income. Eligible businesses may be provided loans or lines of credit of between \$5,000 and \$100,000. Money that is repaid at interest to the fund by these businesses will be used to provide loans and lines of credit to other eligible Bridgeport businesses going forward. The remaining \$50,000 of the award will be used to provide pre and post-loan counseling to these small businesses, as well as a targeted business plan. Services will be provided in both English and Spanish.

EMERGE CT is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides both paid work and soft skills training to second-chance and at-risk individuals in the community. EMERGE is a "social enterprise" that generates a significant amount of its total revenue through bidding on and getting paid for jobs that its crewmembers perform. This revenue is used to pay crew members, pay for business-related expenses, and fund support services for its participants. Emerge CT provides participants with experience and paid work in areas like construction, demolition, landscaping, green infrastructure, urban forestry, and property management. Emerge pairs that paid work with trauma-informed support, including soft skills needed in the workforce, educational opportunities, and emotional and mental health support.

"I am proud to announce the partnerships that the City of Bridgeport is creating with CEDF and EMERGE CT," stated Mayor Ganim. "These ARPA allocations will be deployed in a way that builds the capacity of our small businesses and our local workforce. And most importantly, these programs will have a sustained impact in Bridgeport over the years to come. I am confident that many in Bridgeport will benefit from these partnerships."

"The Small & Minority Business Enterprise Office is grateful to CEDF for agreeing to partner with us in an effort to build the capacity of our local, Bridgeport-based businesses," stated Fred Gee, Director of the SMBE Office. "This is a unique opportunity for our small businesses to both access capital and get small business counseling at the same time. I look forward to the great work that my office and CEDF will do over the coming years to help our local small businesses thrive."

"As we wind down in available ARPA dollars, I think it's important to spend these funds in ways that we will see lasting impact beyond this one-time allocation," stated Aidee Nieves, City Council President. "I am glad to see that we are investing these dollars in building the capacity of our residents and businesses. It is my hope that both the CEDF revolving fund and the establishment of the Emerge social enterprise in Bridgeport will continue to serve Bridgeport residents for many years to come."

Small Business Lending

Flexible and creative loans to meet the needs of your business

Product	Maximum Loan Amount	Use of Funds
Term Loans	up to \$250,000 with terms up to 10 years	Inventory, equipment, working capital, refinance debt
Commercial Real Estate Loans	up to \$500,000 with terms up to 20 years	> 51% Owner-occupied commercial real estate property
Lines of Credit	up to \$250,000 with terms up to 2 years	Cash flow needs
We're Connecticut's leading SBA Microlender		
SBA Microloan (Term)	up to \$50,000	Inventory, equipment, working capital, refinance debt



CEDF is an independent, nonprofit, mission-driven Connecticut small business lender. We provide loans primarily in low-to-moderate income communities and predominantly to low-to-moderate business owners who are not able to obtain traditional bank financing.

Who can be a CEDF client?

Either location eligible: Any business that cannot obtain a loan from a bank located in one of the state-defined targeted Connecticut communities.

See the list: cedf.com/eligibility

Or income eligible: Any Connecticut business located elsewhere in the state if the owner has a total household income at or below 80% of the state median. See our website for current limits.

What does flexibility mean?

We work especially with business owners who:

- Have low credit scores
- Have limited collateral
- Have been turned down by a bank
- Are otherwise not qualified for a bank loan



Your next step: CEDF.com/inquiry

Completing the online form at the above address is the fastest way to get you staged for contact by a lender to discuss your needs

Hope and Opportunity
for Small Business



Community Economic
Development Fund

965 East Main Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.235.2311
888.879.2311
Fax: 203.235.2912
www.cedf.com

Small Business Lending

Our lending team will design the best possible solution to meet your specific business needs

Zamrah Hagejneh used CEDF loan to start financing to complete renovation on her family's full service Mediterranean restaurant in West Hartford.



Mary Ortiz, owner of Burnham Bakery in New Britain, purchased a building, bought new equipment and greatly expanded her bakery in 2017 with the help of CEDF. Mary was honored with the 2018 SBA Minority-Owned Business award.



Jay McLaurin and Henry Smith, partners in F&D Mechanical, LLC, received assistance to refinance existing debt and obtained a new SBA Microloan for working capital for their plumbing contracting business.



Fred Gallone and Lynn Felice-Gallone, owners of Paul's Custom Pet Food in New Britain. CEDF provided a term loan for equipment and working capital.



Your next step: CEDF.com/inquiry

Completing the online form at the above address is the fastest way to get you staged for contact by a lender to discuss your needs

Hope and Opportunity
for Small Business



Community Economic
Development Fund

965 East Main Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.235.2311
888.879.2311
Fax: 203.235.2912
www.cedf.com

MONTHLY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



Andre Whaley

Today, Andre's relentless pursuit of excellence has driven the expansion of his office, making it even more spacious and customer-friendly. The newly renovated office serves as a symbol of the business's evolution and Andre's unswerving dedication to his business and to his community.

Business

Mobile Registration Services of CT LLC is a DMV registration service that provides fast courteous and safe interactions for all of our customers. We can register anything from Vehicles (Passenger and commercial), boats, RV's, motorcycles and etc.

People

Our goal is to make life easier for you. As informed professionals we aim to provide peace of mind and convenient service all at your fingertips. Whether for commercial or personal use, we bring exceptional service to your doorstep for all of your DMV needs.

Clients

As our clients, your needs are our first priority. From new drivers to those who have experience for miles. We register commercial fleets for new and established businesses. Providing the same level of care to all.



Providing Connecticut with fast, easy and efficient DMV registration services. Eliminating the wait while accommodating your motor vehicle needs at your convenience.

Contact Us
(833) - REG - 4 - YOU
(833) - 734 - 4968

40 Fairfield Avenue Bridgeport, Ct. 06604
info@mobileregservices.com
Facebook.com/MobileRegLLC

#GetABalancedLifeMonth

#WealthMentalityMonth

#NationalOatmealMonth

#NationalGetOrganizedMonth

#NationalHobbyMonth

#BigAndTallMonth

#NationalMentoringMonth

#ArtichokeAndAsparagusMonth

#AppleAndApricotMonth

#CelebrationOfLifeMonth

#BreadMachineBakingMonth

#NationalMeatMonth

#NationalCBDMonth

#NationalBirthDefectsPreventionMonth

#MusicTherapyAdvocacyMonth

#ThyroidDiseaseAwarenessMonth

#NationalHotTeaMonth

#NationalFiberFocusMonth

#NationalSoupMonth

#NationalDragMonth

JANUARY IS...

#QualityOfLifeMonth

#InternationalCreativityMonth

#AlzheimerAwarenessMonth

#WorldHealthEsteemMonth

#CervicalHealthAwarenessMonth

#BeKindToFoodServersMonth

#NationalBloodDonorMonth

#LEARNUARY

#NationalStalkingAwarenessMonth

#NationalWheatBreadMonth

#NationalPruneBreakfastMonth

#NationalSlaveryAndHumanTraffickingPreventionMonth

#NationalRadonActionMonth

#TeenDrivingAwarenessMonth

#NationalSundaySupperMonth

#NationalThankYouMonth

#NationalBrailleLiteracyMonth

#AdoptARescuedBirdMonth

#WomensEmpowermentMonth

Finance & Funding

As a business owner, it is critical to stay up-to-date with changes to tax laws. Recent updates to tax legislation may have an impact on your company's tax obligations. It is important to understand how these changes may affect your business operations and take the necessary steps to comply with new regulations. Work with a knowledgeable tax professional to ensure your business stays in compliance and maximizes any available tax benefits. By staying informed and proactive, your business can navigate changes to tax laws with confidence and avoid any potential penalties or legal issues.

Personal Income Tax

Joint Filer Inclusive of the Property Tax Credit

AGI	Income Year 2023 Tax Due	Income Year 2024 Tax Due	Add'l Tax Due/ (Savings) 2023 to 2024	Percent Increase
\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 5,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 10,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 15,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 20,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 25,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 30,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 35,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 40,500	\$ 46.50	\$ -	\$ (46.50)	-100.0%
\$ 45,500	\$ 273.75	\$ 97.38	\$ (176.38)	-64.4%
\$ 50,500	\$ 624.50	\$ 411.65	\$ (212.85)	-34.1%
\$ 55,500	\$ 1,117.50	\$ 849.75	\$ (267.75)	-24.0%
\$ 60,500	\$ 1,567.50	\$ 1,254.75	\$ (312.75)	-20.0%
\$ 65,500	\$ 2,017.50	\$ 1,659.75	\$ (357.75)	-17.7%
\$ 70,500	\$ 2,467.50	\$ 2,064.75	\$ (402.75)	-16.3%
\$ 75,500	\$ 2,782.50	\$ 2,352.75	\$ (429.75)	-15.4%
\$ 80,500	\$ 3,007.50	\$ 2,555.25	\$ (452.25)	-15.0%
\$ 85,500	\$ 3,277.50	\$ 2,802.75	\$ (474.75)	-14.5%
\$ 90,500	\$ 3,502.50	\$ 3,005.25	\$ (497.25)	-14.2%
\$ 95,500	\$ 3,772.50	\$ 3,252.75	\$ (519.75)	-13.8%
\$ 100,500	\$ 4,416.23	\$ 3,822.23	\$ (594.00)	-13.5%
\$ 105,500	\$ 4,822.50	\$ 4,232.50	\$ (590.00)	-12.2%
\$ 110,500	\$ 5,137.50	\$ 4,557.50	\$ (580.00)	-11.3%
\$ 115,500	\$ 5,497.50	\$ 4,927.50	\$ (570.00)	-10.4%
\$ 120,500	\$ 5,812.50	\$ 5,252.50	\$ (560.00)	-9.6%
\$ 125,500	\$ 6,172.50	\$ 5,622.50	\$ (550.00)	-8.9%
\$ 175,000	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 8,625.00	\$ (500.00)	-5.5%
\$ 225,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ (500.00)	-4.2%
\$ 275,000	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ (500.00)	-3.3%
\$ 525,000	\$ 33,065.00	\$ 33,065.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 575,000	\$ 37,415.00	\$ 37,415.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 725,000	\$ 49,925.00	\$ 49,925.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 775,000	\$ 53,375.00	\$ 53,375.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 1,500,000	\$ 104,750.00	\$ 104,750.00	\$ -	0.0%

Personal Income Tax

Single Filer Inclusive of the Property Tax Credit

AGI	Income Year 2023 Tax Due	Income Year 2024 Tax Due	Add'l Tax Due/ (Savings) 2023 to 2024	Percent Increase
\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 5,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 10,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 15,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 20,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 25,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
\$ 30,500	\$ 231.25	\$ 118.63	\$ (112.63)	-48.7%
\$ 35,500	\$ 712.50	\$ 548.25	\$ (164.25)	-23.1%
\$ 40,500	\$ 1,162.50	\$ 953.25	\$ (209.25)	-18.0%
\$ 45,500	\$ 1,567.50	\$ 1,317.75	\$ (249.75)	-15.9%
\$ 50,500	\$ 1,839.75	\$ 1,569.75	\$ (270.00)	-14.7%
\$ 55,500	\$ 2,087.25	\$ 1,817.25	\$ (270.00)	-12.9%
\$ 60,500	\$ 2,428.53	\$ 2,160.53	\$ (268.00)	-11.0%
\$ 65,500	\$ 2,982.50	\$ 2,692.50	\$ (290.00)	-9.7%
\$ 70,500	\$ 3,322.50	\$ 3,037.50	\$ (285.00)	-8.6%
\$ 75,500	\$ 3,617.50	\$ 3,337.50	\$ (280.00)	-7.7%
\$ 80,500	\$ 3,957.50	\$ 3,682.50	\$ (275.00)	-6.9%
\$ 85,500	\$ 4,252.50	\$ 3,982.50	\$ (270.00)	-6.3%
\$ 90,500	\$ 4,592.50	\$ 4,327.50	\$ (265.00)	-5.8%
\$ 95,500	\$ 4,887.50	\$ 4,627.50	\$ (260.00)	-5.3%
\$ 100,500	\$ 5,230.00	\$ 4,975.00	\$ (255.00)	-4.9%
\$ 105,500	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ (250.00)	-4.5%
\$ 110,500	\$ 5,880.00	\$ 5,630.00	\$ (250.00)	-4.3%
\$ 115,500	\$ 6,180.00	\$ 5,930.00	\$ (250.00)	-4.0%
\$ 120,500	\$ 6,480.00	\$ 6,230.00	\$ (250.00)	-3.9%
\$ 125,500	\$ 6,780.00	\$ 6,530.00	\$ (250.00)	-3.7%
\$ 175,000	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 9,750.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 225,000	\$ 13,325.00	\$ 13,325.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 275,000	\$ 17,575.00	\$ 17,575.00	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 525,000	\$ 36,447.50	\$ 36,447.50	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 575,000	\$ 40,142.50	\$ 40,142.50	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 725,000	\$ 50,627.50	\$ 50,627.50	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 775,000	\$ 54,122.50	\$ 54,122.50	\$ -	0.0%
\$ 1,500,000	\$ 104,800.00	\$ 104,800.00	\$ -	0.0%

Beginning on January 1, 2024, a reduction in Connecticut's income tax rates will take effect, making this the first time that rates have been reduced in the state since the mid-1990s. It is also the largest income tax cut enacted in state history.

Connecticut has a progressive income tax rate structure, meaning that the tax rate increases with income at varying rates as income grows in each bracket. The changes enacted in 2024 will see a decrease in the two lowest rates:

The 3% rate on the first \$10,000 earned by single filers and the first \$20,000 by joint filers will drop to 2%.

The 5% rate on the next \$40,000 earned by single filers and the next \$80,000 by joint filers will drop to 4.5%.

The relief is targeted toward middle-class tax filers and is capped at \$150,000 for single filers and \$300,000 for joint filers.

The reduction is estimated to benefit more than one million tax filers.

Finance & Funding

Small businesses are the backbone of any economy. They create jobs, drive innovation, and improve the quality of life in communities. However, starting and running a small business requires funding. For many entrepreneurs, traditional bank loans may not be an option. Fortunately, there are alternatives such as grants and micro-loans. Grants are non-repayable funds given by government agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations to support specific business activities. Micro-loans, on the other hand, are small loans typically ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, designed to help entrepreneurs who may not qualify for traditional bank loans. Both grants and micro-loans can provide the necessary funding for small businesses to get off the ground and grow.

Here are a few small business funding options that transportation companies can consider:

- 1. SBA 7(a) Loan: This loan is backed by the Small Business Administration and offers up to \$5 million for working capital, equipment purchase, and real estate investment.**
- 2. Kiva: Kiva is a non-profit organization that offers microloans to small businesses, including transportation companies. The loans range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 with a repayment period of up to 3 years.**
- 3. Accion: Accion is a global non-profit organization that provides microloans to small businesses. They offer loans for transportation companies that range from \$300 to \$250,000, with repayment terms of up to 5 years..**
- 4. Opportunity Fund: Opportunity Fund is a non-profit lender that offers microloans to small businesses. They provide loans to transportation companies that range from \$2,600 to \$250,000, with repayment terms of up to 5 years.**
- 5. StreetShares: StreetShares is an online lender that provides microloans to small businesses, including transportation companies. They offer loans ranging from \$2,000 to \$250,000, with repayment terms of up to 3 years.**

Here are a few small business funding options that food companies can consider:

- 1. Restaurant Revitalization Fund: This grant program was established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and provides funding to restaurants and other eligible businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program offers grants of up to \$10 million per business and can be used for a variety of expenses, including payroll, rent, utilities, and supplies.**
- 2. James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Investment Fund for Black and Indigenous Americans: This grant program is designed to support food and beverage businesses owned by Black and Indigenous Americans. The fund provides grants of up to \$40,000 to help these businesses grow and thrive.**
- 3. Small Business Innovation Research Program: This program provides funding to small businesses, including restaurants, to conduct research and development on innovative technologies and products. The program offers grants of up to \$250,000 for Phase I projects and up to \$1.5 million for Phase II projects.**
- 4. National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation: This foundation offers a variety of grant programs and scholarships to support the restaurant industry. These include grants for workforce development, culinary arts education, and more.**

Here are a few small business funding options that start-ups can consider:

- 1. The Halcyon Incubator Fellowship: This grant program is offered by the Halcyon Incubator and is designed to help social entrepreneurs with innovative ideas. The program includes a five-month residency in Washington D.C., a stipend of \$10,000, and access to mentors and resources.**
- 2. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants: These grants are offered by the U.S. government and are designed to help small businesses with innovative ideas. The funding can be used for research and development activities and can amount up to \$150,000.**
- 3. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Grants: The MBDA offers grants to minority-owned businesses to help with start-up costs, expansion, and other needs.**
- 4. National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) Growth Grants: These grants are offered by the NASE and are designed to help businesses with growth and development. The funding can be used for advertising, marketing, and other business-related expenses. The maximum grant amount is \$4,000.**
- 5. FedEx Small Business Grant Contest: This grant contest is held annually by FedEx and is designed to help small businesses with growth and development. The grand prize winner receives \$50,000, while the other winners receive smaller amounts.**

The IRS has unveiled a “voluntary disclosure program” for businesses that claimed a pandemic-era tax credit in error and want to pay the money back.

The new voluntary disclosure program offers the chance to repay credits received at a 20% discount to cover third-party promoter fees.

The deadline to apply to the voluntary disclosure program is March 22, 2024.

COMPLETE FORM 15435 and submit it through IRS’s document upload tool.

www.irs.gov

The Department of the Treasury estimates that Biden’s investments in community lenders will lead to a \$50 billion increase in lending to Latino communities and a \$80 billion rise for Black communities. A White House official noted before Wednesday’s event that Black small business ownership is growing faster than it has in 30 years and the creation rate of Latino small businesses is at a decade high

Small businesses will need to register with an agency called the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in 2024, as part of an act passed in 2021 called the Corporate Transparency Act.

The act was intended to get a look inside shell companies and crack down on attempts by “criminals, organized crime rings, and other illicit actors to hide their identities and launder their money through the financial system,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in 2022.

Businesses with more than 20 employees and more than \$5 million in sales can qualify for exemptions. But that leaves an estimated 32 million small businesses that aren’t exempt. The owners and part-owners of those businesses must register personal information with FinCEN, such as a photo ID and home address.

Despite legal challenges, the regulation is set to take effect in 2024. Deadlines have been extended, however. The deadline for existing businesses has been changed to Jan. 1, 2025, from Jan. 1, 2024.

Businesses that are created after Jan. 1 will have only 90 days to comply, extended from 30. The cost of not complying could be steep: Penalties can run as high as \$10,000.

A reprieve from reporting digital transactions over \$600 to IRS



SBE Council’s Small Business AI Adoption Survey (October 31, 2023)

Summary: No surprise that small businesses are first movers when it comes to AI because AI tools free up time for founders and their teams.

- 75% of small businesses utilize AI in their operations, with financial management tools used the most (40%), email marketing automation ranking 2nd (32%).
- THE TOP 5 AI PROVIDERS USED BY SMALL BUSINESSES ARE GOOGLE (51%), MICROSOFT (39%), CHATGPT (37%), ADOBE (30%), AND QUICKBOOKS/INTUIT (29%).
- Small businesses average \$1,800 annual investment in AI-powered tools.
- 83% of small business owners expect to invest in AI for their business operations over the next year, with 31% expecting significant investment.
- 82% of small business owners find AI tools effective in running and growing their businesses.
- 93% of small business owners believe that AI tools are cost-effective and improve profitability.
- 76% of small business owners describe the use of AI tools as time-savers, freeing up an average of 13 hours a week.
- 85% of small business owners believe government must balance regulation and innovation when it comes to trying to address risks posed by AI.

Stay Connected

Take advantage of our social media pages. By following us on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, you will be able to stay informed about the latest news and events related to small and minority-owned businesses. Additionally, we would like to remind you to register your business with us. By doing so, you will gain access to a wealth of resources and support that can help your business thrive. Certification lasts two years. If you are currently registered, please make sure you check your current expiration date. We are committed to helping small and minority-owned businesses succeed, and we look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

The SMBE Team



Small & Minority Business Enterprise



@smbeofbpt



SMBEOFBPT