ALLEGANY COUNTY MICRO-ENTERPRISE GRANT

an Allegany County grant administered in partnership with the ACIDA and The Harrison Studios

Providing $10,000 to $35,000 to help small businesses and startups in Allegany County locate, expand, and flourish.

Grant Details & Funding

- **Grant Awards:** Minimum of **$10,000** up to a maximum of **$35,000**.
- **Equity Match:** Requires a minimum **10% owner cash equity contribution** towards the total project cost. The grant funds may not exceed 90% of the project's total cost.
- **Purpose:** Fills a critical funding gap to help your business acquire essential equipment, stabilize daily operations, and accelerate growth without heavy debt.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the CDBG Micro-Enterprise Grant, applicants must meet all of the following organizational and income-based criteria:

- **Business Size:** Must have 5 or fewer employees (including the owner or owners) at the time of application.
- **Location:** The business must be located and operating within Allegany County.
- **Business Structure:** Must be a private, for-profit entity (e.g., sole proprietorship, LLC, partnership, or corporation). Non-profits are strictly ineligible.
- **Start-Ups Encouraged:** Both existing and start-up businesses are eligible, and start-up ventures are highly encouraged to apply.
- **Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Mandate:** To satisfy federal objectives, the project must benefit LMI persons by meeting ONE of the following criteria:
  - **LMI Owner:** The business owner qualifies as low-to-moderate income (if multiple owners, at least 51% ownership must be LMI).
  - **Job Creation:** The grant will create at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) job that is taken by or made available to a low-to-moderate income person.

2026 Low to Moderate Income Requirement Based on # of Household Members

	Household Size					
	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
Income Cap	$50,350	$57,550	$64,750	$71,900	$77,700	$83,450

Use of Funds

Grant funds must be utilized for specific, approved business expenditures that facilitate growth and operations.

✓ Eligible Costs

- Machinery & Equipment
- Furnishings & Fixtures
- Inventory Acquisition
- Operating Costs
- Working Capital

✗ Ineligible Costs

- Construction and Renovation
- Leashold Improvements
- Demolition
- Paying off existing debt

Mandatory Entrepreneurship Training & Comprehensive Business Plan

Before any grant funds can be drawn down, applicants **MUST** complete an entrepreneurship training course and develop a comprehensive business plan. These requirements ensure a strong foundation for business success and are proudly provided by our local partners: IncubatorWorks and ACCORD.

Next Steps to Apply

- **Step 1:** Review grant guidelines and eligibility
- **Step 2:** Enroll in and complete the required entrepreneurship training and business plan with IncubatorWorks or ACCORD *(can be completed post award but prior to funding).*
- **Step 3:** Submit your formal application. Visit **ACIDA.org/MicroEnterprise** and fill out the MicroEnterprise application form.

Contact & Support

For more information, visit ACIDA.org or contact us directly:

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