



SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT HUBS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Small Business Support Hubs (SBSH) program aims to establish and strengthen inclusive, accessible and effective regional ecosystems for entrepreneurs through the deployment of \$75 million in American Rescue Plan funding. The SBSH program will support small businesses disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 through investment into entrepreneurial hubs across the state.

The SBSH program will build upon the 20 years of MEDC SmartZone success by creating a statewide network of entrepreneurial hubs equipped to serve the needs of small businesses through direct support and network referral relationships.

OBJECTIVES

- Support small businesses disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- Strengthen and establish locally relevant, regionally based ecosystems to cultivate a more inclusive, accessible and effective entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Position small business support hubs to increase the number of businesses served through new and scaled programming, technical assistance and other support services
- Increase access to regional, statewide and national small business support resources
- Expand geographic reach of network partners into underserved and rural areas
- Raise the national profile of Michigan's small business ecosystem

ENTREPRENEURIAL HUBS

Eligible entrepreneurial hubs are entities that have a **physical space** that provides **training and resources** to entrepreneurs through a combination of direct services, remote services, and referral relationships.

- **Direct services** include on-site support through staff, contractors, or strategic partnerships
- **Remote services** include off-site support through field staff, contractors, or strategic partnerships
- **Referral relationships** meaning partnerships with organizations, entities or individuals with distinct or complementary technical or culturally competent expertise

The types of training and resources provided to entrepreneurs through hubs might include one-on-one coaching, consultations, workshops, seminars, cohort-based learning, incubation activities, accelerator activities, networking and mentorship opportunities and events.

ELIGIBILITY

An eligible applicant must be a non-profit organization that self-identifies as an entrepreneurial hub, is headquartered in Michigan and is in good standing with the state. Upon selection, awardees must also be registered or able to register for a federal Unique Entity ID and be eligible to do business with the federal government.

Eligible applicants can include organizations such as:

- Existing MEDC SmartZones
- Business service organizations
- Entrepreneurial hubs and business accelerators and incubators
- Tribal entities
- Entities serving small business owners in underrepresented communities
- Applicants contracting third-parties to plan, execute and manage small business support services

TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted from July 10, 2023, to Sept. 8, 2023. Detailed information will be provided to all interested parties via a webinar on July 11, 2023, and the recording will be made available following the event.

- Application window: July 10, 2023 – Sept. 8, 2023
- Application review: September – October 2023
- Awardees announced: November – December 2023

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Visit www.michiganbusiness.org/support-hub for additional information.

QUESTIONS?

Individuals are encouraged to submit written questions to sbshprogram@michigan.org. Questions will be monitored and addressed by program staff.