

REGION 10

MEDC IN YOUR REGION

Across Michigan's diverse regions, businesses of all sizes are thriving thanks to direct support from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Small business owners, entrepreneurs, and innovators are leveraging MEDC programs and assistance, including Michigan's State Trade Expansion Program (MI-STEP), Collateral Support, the Small Business Support Hub (SBSH) network, and more, alongside other MEDC-supported partners such as the Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to grow, create jobs, and strengthen their local economies. These investments are driving meaningful outcomes: helping rural and urban communities alike support their homegrown businesses, pursue international trade, enhance public spaces, and fuel long-term economic resilience across Michigan.



Barron Industries

Barron Industries utilized **Michigan Business Development Program** and **MI-STEP support** to expand advanced manufacturing operations, strengthening the regional industrial base in Oxford and its global presence.

"Through our participation in overseas defense and aerospace trade events, we have gained valuable insight into global market dynamics. Many international customers strongly favor their domestic supply base, which means U.S. suppliers must clearly differentiate themselves to compete effectively," said CEO Bruce Barron. "Barron's competitive advantage lies in our vertical integration — our ability to deliver fully engineered, end-to-end subsystem solutions rather than simply supplying individual castings. If we were only offering a standalone casting, we would not be nearly as successful in these international markets."



AGI Design Build Green Hub

Supported by a **Build MI Community grant**, AGI Construction's Design Build Green Hub project advanced sustainable development in Detroit, creating jobs and community impact.

Owner Tanya Saldivar-Ali said, "It was like a God-ordained thing to learn about the MEDC and its resources. We were at a standstill trying to figure out how to finish the project and we were encouraged to apply for a grant, which we did. The MEDC was the gap closer that allowed us to get to the finish line for the last few months."



GLOBAL Automation Technologies

Through **international trade support**, GLOBAL Automation Technologies expanded globally, boosting exports and regional economic growth.

“The MEDC’s support has been instrumental in our transformation from a Michigan-based startup to a global automation leader,” said Rimmell. “Their assistance in workforce expansion, international business development and strategic connections has directly contributed to our ability to secure major projects, including our latest venture in Saudi Arabia. We’re proud to call Michigan our home as we continue to innovate and expand worldwide.”



CircNova

CircNova received an **Inclusive Entrepreneurship Support Grant (IESG)**, enabling biotech innovation and expanding opportunities in underrepresented communities.

“The IESG program was essential to open my wet lab. I’d raised money from amazing investors and supporters here in Michigan, but biotech is expensive. I needed a bit of help for us to establish a wet lab, get in the expensive machinery, and hire more people. The grant allowed me to make the wet lab a reality. I was able to hire two scientists and a lead because of that grant. It meant job creation, and moving our wet lab and our tech forward in a way I would not have been able to without that support,” said founder and CEO Crystal Brown.



Cristina Zamora of Xochi's Gift Shop

Cristina Zamora leveraged **Michigan Main Street support** to grow her business, contributing to Detroit’s small business ecosystem and cultural vibrancy.

“Mexicantown is the perfect place for Xochi’s. I love the people here. I know that may be kind of cliché, but it’s true. I love the people who have been here for a long time and the people who want to come become part of our community, who are building businesses or want to be involved in other ways. I love the food. I love the places to go and eat. I love the vibrancy that comes alive during festivals like Cinco de Mayo. People love coming to the parade, and whoever wants to be a part of it is welcome. I love this community” said Christina Zamora.

