

SHOP
SMALL



MAY 2023

FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS



Economic &
Community
Development

For All Entrepreneurs



U.S. Small Business Administration

LOANS

7(a) loans

A group of SBA loans which guarantee portions of the total amount, cap interest rates, and limit fees. Find more information at [7\(a\) loans](#).

504 loans

Long-term, fixed-rate financing to purchase or repair real estate, equipment, machinery, or other assets. Find more information at [504 loans](#).

Microloans

SBA's smallest loan program, providing \$50,000 or less to help businesses start up and expand. Find more information at [microloans](#).

Lender Match

Lender Match connects entrepreneurs to SBA-backed potential lenders. Find more information at [Lender Match](#).

INVESTMENT CAPITAL

Find an investor for your business through a Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) licensed by SBA. Find more information at [Investment Capital](#).

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Physical damage loans

Loans to cover repairs and replacement of physical assets damaged in a declared disaster. Find more information at [physical damage loans](#).

Mitigation assistance

Funding to cover small business operating expenses after a declared disaster. Find more information at [mitigation assistance](#).

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)

This loan provides economic relief to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that have suffered damage to their home or personal property. Find more information at [EIDL](#).

SURETY BONDS

The Small Business Administration (SBA) guarantees bid, performance, and payment surety bonds issued by certain surety companies. Find more information at [surety bonds](#).

GRANTS

SBA does not provide grants for starting and expanding a business. SBA provides grants to nonprofit, Resource Partners, and educational organizations that support entrepreneurship through counseling and training programs.

Exporting grants for state entities

The SBA's [State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#) provides financial awards to state and territory governments to help small businesses with export development.

Small business grant programs

Research and development

If your small business is engaged in scientific research and development, you may qualify for federal grants under the [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and the Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) programs](#). These programs encourage small firms to undertake scientific research that helps meet federal research and development objectives and have high potential for commercialization if successful.

Management and technical assistance

SBA's [7\(j\) Management and Technical Assistance Program](#) is for capable small businesses in Regions I - X interested in providing management and technical assistance and guidance to eligible small businesses.

CONTRACTING

Interested in breaking into federal contracting? The government offers many tools to help businesses build their potential to successfully compete in the federal sector. SBA can help with preparation for opportunities in federal procurement, cultivating connections within commercial supply chains, and disaster relief assistance. Learn more about which small business designation is right for you.

[Women-Owned Small Businesses](#)

[8\(a\) Businesses](#)

[HubZone Businesses](#)

[Small Disadvantaged Businesses](#)

Private Grants

500 Global Flagship Accelerator Program

<https://500.co/accelerators/500-global-flagship-accelerator-program>

Carhartt For the Love of Labor Grant

<https://www.carhartt.com/every-day-is-labor-day>

Etsy Emergency Relief Fund

<https://advocacy.etsy.com/etsy-emergency-relief-fund-at-cerf/>

Incfyle's Entrepreneur Grant

<https://www.incfyle.com/entrepreneur-grant#entrepreneur-grant>

National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) Growth Grants

<https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/grants-and-scholarships>

Small Business Readiness for Resiliency Program by U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and FedEx

<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/small-business-readiness-resiliency-program>

Walmart Local Community Grants

<https://walmart.org/how-we-give/local-community-grants>

For Veterans and Military



U.S. Small Business Administration

Military reservist loan

SBA provides loans to help eligible small businesses with operating expenses to make up for employees on active duty leave. Find more information at [military reservist loan](#).

Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD)

Devoted exclusively to promoting veteran entrepreneurship, the OVBD facilitates the use of all U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs by veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, active-duty service members, transitioning service members, and their dependents or survivors. SBA programs provide access to capital and preparation for small business opportunities. They can also connect veteran small business owners with federal procurement and commercial supply chains. The Veterans Business Outreach Center Program is an OVBD initiative that oversees [Veterans Business Outreach Centers \(VBOC\)](#) across the country. This small business program features a number of [success stories](#) and offers business plan workshops, concept assessments, mentorship, and training for eligible veterans.

[Find your nearest center.](#)

Funding for veteran-owned small businesses

You can use SBA tools like [Lender Match](#) to connect with lenders. In addition, SBA makes special consideration for veterans through several programs.

The Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (MREIDL): Provides loans of up to \$2 million to cover operating costs that cannot be met due to the loss of an essential employee called to active duty in the Reserves or National Guard.

Veteran entrepreneurship training programs

SBA programs feature customized curriculums, in-person classes, and online courses to give veterans the training to succeed. These programs teach the fundamentals of business ownership and provide access to SBA resources and small business experts.

Boots to Business: An entrepreneurial program offered on military installations around the world and a training track of the U.S. Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program (TAP). **Boots to Business Reboot** extends the entrepreneurship training offered in TAP to veterans of all eras in their communities. **Boots to Business Revenue Readiness** is available after completion of Boots to Business or Boots to Business Reboot and provides a six-week virtual program that prepares participants to take their business idea from concept to an executable business model.

Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program (WVETP): Provides entrepreneurial training to women veterans, women service members, and women spouses of service members and veterans as they start or grow a business. SBA funds these entrepreneurship training programs available exclusively for women veterans through grantees:

IVMF - Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)

Lift Fund – San Antonio

ONABEN

Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program (SDVETP): Provides entrepreneurship training program(s) to service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs who aspire to be small business owners or currently own a small business. SBA funds entrepreneurship training programs for service-disabled veterans through grantees:

IVMF - Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)

Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP) – Riata Center for Entrepreneurship, Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans - St. Joseph's University – St. Joseph's University
Dog Tag Inc.

Veteran Federal Procurement Entrepreneurship Training Program (VFPETP): Delivers entrepreneurship training to veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses nationwide interested in pursuing, or already engaged in federal procurement.

Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP)

Government contracting programs for veterans

Every year, the federal government awards a portion of contracting dollars specifically to businesses owned by military veterans. Also, small businesses owned by veterans may be eligible to purchase surplus property from the federal government.

Check out the rules of eligibility for these [government contracting programs for veterans](#).

Military spouse resources

Military spouses make great entrepreneurs, and small business ownership can be a transportable, flexible vocation that supports a military career. As part of their mission, SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) empowers military spouse entrepreneurs and business owners by providing the same counseling and training, access to capital, and disaster assistance that are provided to service members and veterans. We also build capacity for those who want to compete in the federal contracting landscape.

Training

Did you know that the military spouse community is eligible to take the same SBA led entrepreneurial training programs that are offered to service members and veterans? These programs are free of charge and are happening on over 180 installations and in local communities around the nation. Take the first step and sign up for one of our training programs today.

Boots to Business

Boots to Business Reboot

Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)

Lift Fund (San Antonio)

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans' Families

Veterans Institute for Procurement (VIP)

Counseling

Are you a military spouse who is interested in starting a business and in search of coaching? The SBA provides one-on-one counseling in local communities around the nation through our SBA district offices and resource partners (consisting of Veterans Business Outreach Centers, Women's Business Centers, Small Business Development Centers and SCORE). Find an SBA resource in your local community and get started today.

SBA District Offices

Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Program

Women's Business Centers

Small Business Development Centers

SCORE

You can also connect with qualified and experienced business mentors, other military spouse business owners, and DoD-certified career counselors through the **Military Spouses and Entrepreneurship group on LinkedIn**. Join this group to share and find information, offer and receive advice, and ask and answer questions about business ownership from the military spouse community.

Private Grants

Venture Capital for Veterans / Hivers and Strivers Investment Program

<https://hiversandstrivers.com>

For Minorities



U.S. Small Business Administration

Counseling and training

The U.S. Small Business Administration leverages its **field offices**, resource partners, and additional partnerships to help minority business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

SBA Resource partners

SBA works with independent organizations to provide **high-quality counseling and training** to meet the specific needs of new and existing small businesses. This resource partner network includes SCORE business mentors, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), Women's Business Centers (WBCs), and Veterans Business Opportunity Centers (VBOCs). **Several resource partner service centers are located at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across America.** SBA resource partners provide counseling and training to business owners at all stages.

SBA Emerging Leaders Initiative

The **Emerging Leaders Initiative** is an intensive executive-level series intended to accelerate the growth of high-potential small businesses in America's underserved cities. The program provides customized training for C-level executives with demonstrated business sustainability. Participants create a three-year strategic growth action plan with benchmarks and performance targets to help them emerge as self-sustaining businesses creating jobs and building communities.

Federal partners

The U.S. Department of Commerce operates the **Minority Business Development Agency**, which is dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of business enterprises owned and operated by African Americans, Asian Americans, Hasidic Jews, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

Funding programs

The federal government does not provide grants to start a business. However, there are several funding programs to help entrepreneurs start, expand, or recover from disasters. You can learn more about **funding options for small business**, including those targeted at minority and underserved communities, and **get connected with SBA-approved lenders**. SBA also offers several special **COVID-19 relief options**.

SBA contracting certifications and business development programs

8(a) Business Development program

The **8(a) Business Development program** helps socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses grow by limiting competition for certain contracts to participating businesses, allowing them to become solid competitors in the federal marketplace.

Disadvantaged businesses in the 8(a) program can:

- Compete for **set-aside and sole-source contracts** in the program
- Get a Business Opportunity Specialist to help navigate federal contracting
- Form joint ventures with established businesses through the SBA's Mentor-Protégé Program
- Receive management and technical assistance, including business training, counseling, marketing assistance, and high-level executive development
- Compete for contract awards under multiple socio-economic programs, as they apply

Before you can participate in the 8(a) Business Development program, you must meet certain **criteria** and be certified.

HUBZone program

The government limits competition for certain contracts to businesses in **historically underutilized business zones**. The program aims to award at least three percent of federal contract dollars each year to **HUBZone-certified companies**.

SBA Mentor-Protégé Program

The **SBA Mentor-Protégé Program** enables eligible small businesses (protégés) to get valuable business development help and win government contracts through partnerships with more experienced companies (mentors).

Additional government contracting programs

SBA offers several additional **government contracting certifications and programs**.

SBA's Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. You may contact SBA's **Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights** for additional information.

Private Grants

Amazon's Black Business Accelerator Program

<https://sell.amazon.com/programs/black-business-accelerator>

BIPOC Small Business Grant by Annuity Payment Freedom

<https://www.annuityfreedom.net/financial-literacy/black-grants/>

Black Founder Startup Grant

<https://www.iamsogal.com/black-founder-startup-grant/>

EnrichHER Grant (for women and people of color)

<https://enrichher.com/grant/>

Galaxy Grant (for women and people of color)

<https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/>

Go. Be. Elevate Fund

<https://gobe.org/programs/>

Rebuild The Block Bridge Gap Fund

<https://rebuildtheblock.org/apply>

For Women



U.S. Small Business Administration

Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO)

The **Office of Women's Business Ownership** (OWBO) helps women entrepreneurs through programs coordinated by **SBA district offices**. Programs include business training, counseling, federal contracts, and access to credit and capital.

The OWBO oversees **Women's Business Centers (WBCs)**. These centers seek to level the playing field for all women entrepreneurs, who still face unique obstacles in the business world.

Businesses receiving assistance from WBCs see a significantly better success rate than those without similar support. [Find your nearest center.](#)

Funding for women-owned small businesses

The **8(a) Business Development program** helps small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the marketplace. Check with WBCs and [local assistance resources](#) for guidance, and our [Lender Match tool](#) for finding capital.

Women-owned small businesses can also take advantage of [SBA loan programs](#). Our partners offer advice and counseling to help choose the right path for your company.

Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB) Federal Contracting program

This program helps women-owned small businesses compete for federal contracts. Understand the [eligibility requirements](#) before applying.

SBA also works with federal agencies to increase contracting opportunities and achieve the government's five percent contracting goal for women-owned small businesses. Keep an eye out for matchmaking [events](#) targeting both the federal and private procurement.

Private Grants

Amber Grants

<https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/>

Cartier Women's Initiative

<https://www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/>

EnrichHER Grant (for women and people of color)

<https://enrichher.com/grant/>

IFundWomen Universal Grant Application Database

<https://ifundwomen.com/>

IFundWomen Johnnie Walker First Strides Grant Program

<https://ifundwomen.com/johnniewalker>

Galaxy Grant (for women and people of color)

<https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/>

Tory Burch Foundation Fellows Program

<https://www.toryburchfoundation.org/fellows/>

Visa's She's Next program

<https://ifundwomen.com/visa>

To search and apply for federal grants, loans, and other assistance, please visit **Grants.gov**.

For more information or research assistance, please contact:

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