



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCES FOR DIVERSE BUSINESSES

Helping Businesses Grow and Thrive



*Moises Abreu, owner of New
Heightz Grocery Store, Reading, PA.
Photo Credit: PA SBDC*

In Pennsylvania, our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. As a business owner, no matter your background, where you live, or how you look, you belong in Pennsylvania. To support the rich diversity of our business environment, DCED helps businesses of all sizes grow and prosper. From funding assistance to skills training and technical assistance, DCED has you covered.

BUSINESS SERVICES

The **PA BUSINESS ONE-STOP SHOP** can guide businesses through all stages of development — from planning and startup to operating and expanding. The One-Stop Shop offers dedicated resources and assistance for diverse businesses (including minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses), and training and best practices on important business topics including eCommerce.

The One-Stop Shop can also help connect you with specific opportunities and partner networks for one-on-one counseling, training, and business assistance including those listed below.
business.pa.gov

COMMONGOODS

To help raise the visibility of small retail businesses that sell online, the PA Business One-Stop Shop created CommonGoods, an online directory of Pennsylvania brick-and-mortar retailers that sell online. CommonGoods makes it easy for customers to shop local while shopping online – whether through your own site or third parties like Amazon, eBay, or Etsy. Eligible businesses can create a free listing on the CommonGoods website in a matter of minutes.
commongoods.pa.gov

STATE CONTRACTING & PROCUREMENT

The PA Department of General Services offers many contracting and procurement opportunities throughout the year. If you're interested in competing for these contracts, there are benefits to registering as a small diverse business contractor.
dgs.pa.gov/diversity

EXPORT ASSISTANCE

The PA Office of International Business Development offers export counseling and technical support to help businesses grow their international sales. The office also helps businesses learn what it takes to be export-ready – with an international trade guide, a guide to exporting, an export business planner, and a trade assistance video library. **dced.pa.gov/export**

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (SBDCS)

The SBDCs provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with the knowledge needed to make smart decisions. Funded in part by DCED, the SBDC network covers all 67 Pennsylvania counties. It offers resources like strategic planning, marketing, capital acquisition, environmental management, financial management, targeted assistance, technology assistance, and industry-specific guidance. **pasbdc.org**

PARTNERS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (PREP)

PREP is Pennsylvania's network of business assistance partners designed to help companies start, grow, and thrive. PREP's one-on-one counseling, specialized workshops, online training and financial incentives make it one of the most respected networks in the nation. **dced.pa.gov/prep**

INDUSTRIAL RESOURCE CENTERS (IRCS)

The IRCS provide technical assistance to the manufacturing sector by assisting companies with improved bottom line strategies, enhancing their productivity, eliminating waste, and more. They help manufacturers with new and improved products, market differentiation, and workforce development strategies. **dced.pa.gov/irc**

BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS (BFTP)

The BFTPs provide both early-stage, technology-based firms and established manufacturers with funding, business and technical expertise, and access to a network of innovative, expert resources. **benfranklin.org**

LIFE SCIENCES GREENHOUSES (LSG)

The LSGs support new life sciences companies with critical early-stage funding and sector-specific business expertise. The Greenhouses support the formation of new companies, job creation, attracting additional capital to the commonwealth, and helping life-saving technologies reach patients. **palifesciencesgreenhouseinitiative.com**

GOVERNOR'S ACTION TEAM

The Governor's Action Team works with businesses on expansion or relocation projects. The team can help you find potential site locations and provide research on demographics and economic data, facilitate engagement with state government, stakeholders, and resources as necessary, and assemble an assistance package tailored for your project. **dced.pa.gov/gat**



GRANT AND LOAN OPPORTUNITIES

PA MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PMBDA)

PMBDA provides low-interest loans to businesses owned by ethnic minorities. Funds can be used for land and building acquisitions, building construction and renovations, machinery and equipment costs, and working capital costs. PMBDA can finance up to 90% of total project costs, or \$250,000, whichever is less. dced.pa.gov/pmbda

PA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PIDA)

PIDA provides low-interest loans and lines of credit for land and building acquisitions, construction and renovation costs, machinery and equipment purchases, multi-tenant facility projects, and industrial park projects. Businesses apply through local certified economic development organizations (CEDOs). dced.pa.gov/pida

PA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (CDFIS)

The PA CDFI Network is a coalition of 17 PA-based community development financial institutions that primarily provide financing options for small businesses. The network operates in all 67 counties in the commonwealth to provide the small business community with access to financing and technical assistance. This first-of-its kind statewide collaboration leverages shared resources and mobilizes its extensive local networks to ensure economic prosperity for all Pennsylvanians. pabusinessgrants.com/pick-a-cdfi

REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP)

RACP is a grant program administered by the PA Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of economic development, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. A project is eligible for RACP funding only if that project fits within one of the categories listed in the PA Capital Budget Project Itemization Act. racp.pa.gov

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (WEDNETPA)

WEDnetPA improves the skill level and productivity of Pennsylvania's workforce to strengthen our business environment. Eligible in-state businesses and out-of-state companies relocating to Pennsylvania can apply to WEDnetPA to receive worker training grant funds which can be used for a broad range of training. wednetpa.com

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeship Grant Program supports registered apprenticeship programs. Grant funds can be used by employers to cover expenses related to instruction that complements on-the-job learning. dced.pa.gov/apprenticeship

MANUFACTURING PA TRAINING-TO-CAREER PROGRAM

The Manufacturing PA Training-to-Career Grant program helps companies identify and train a skilled workforce for currently open or soon-to-be-open positions. It helps engage youth or those with barriers, so they are more aware of career opportunities in manufacturing. Grant funds can be used for professional services/consultants, internships, equipment purchase, shop modifications, program development, marketing, domestic travel, and salaries and fringes. dced.pa.gov/pamtcg

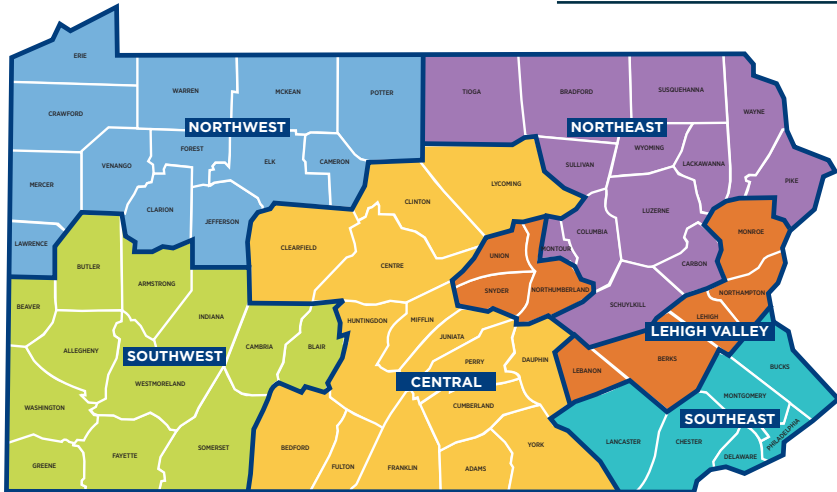
NEXT GENERATION FARMER LOANS

The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program uses federal tax-exempt financing to reduce a farmer's interest rate for capital purchases, such as the purchase of farmland or agricultural machinery and equipment. dced.pa.gov/ngf

PA DAIRY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The PA Dairy Investment Program provides grants for research and development, organic transition, value-added processing, and marketing in support of our dairy industry. These grants require a 15% cash match. dced.pa.gov/pdip

MEET THE TEAM



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The **Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)**'s regional offices are helpful points of contact for businesses seeking information about technical assistance and funding opportunities. Contact an office near you and speak with one of our expert staff to find out which DCED programs are right for you.

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