

Lynn Announces New Small Business Loan Fund with Technical Assistance Services

\$1 million loan fund is the result of government, non-profit, and for-profit entities working together to provide capital, technical assistance to Lynn businesses during COVID pandemic and beyond.

The City of Lynn and EDIC Lynn are pleased to share a new opportunity above and beyond current support provided by EDIC Lynn. The Lynn Small Business Loan Fund, a new and additional funding opportunity will offer loans to Lynn's existing and start-up businesses that cannot currently access financing from a traditional bank or credit union lender. Loans will range from between \$5,000 to \$100,000 with a one percent closing fee, feature a fixed interest rate, and have a term of up to five years.

To qualify, businesses must demonstrate the following:

- The business owner(s) is 18 years of age
- The business is located, or will be located, in Lynn
- The community would benefit from the business project
- A minimum of 20% to invest in the project
- A willingness and capability to repay the loan

In addition to the loan opportunity, the program offers technical assistance to businesses seeking funding. Qualified community partners can assist business owners with the loan application, and, if a business is not ready to take on a loan, they can help with financial planning and forecasting. The technical assistance providers are able to connect businesses to networks that can offer guidance and help the business advance to a point where accessing funding in the Lynn Small Business Loan Fund makes sense.

"The Lynn business community is resilient and has been navigating the economic upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is another way the City, its partners, and local and regional financial institutions can support Lynn businesses during the pandemic and beyond," said Lynn Mayor Tom McGee. "The technical assistance piece is an integral part of the program, a unique offering that is not often associated with a loan program. Not only will businesses be able to seek the financial resources they need, but they will receive invaluable advice and support as they navigate the program and position their business for success."

This program is the result of a joint effort between the City of Lynn, EDIC Lynn, Essex County Community Foundation, Mill Cities Community Investments, Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce, North Shore Latino Business Association, Eastern Bank, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation in collaboration with technical assistance providers and local financial

institutions. A direct link for those interested in applying and connecting with MCCI can be found here, <https://mccinvest.org/lynn/>

“I am very proud of the over 9 million dollars in Covid relief assistance provided during the pandemic with the help of EDIC Lynn and Mayor McGee”, said James Cowdell Executive Director of EDIC Lynn, “over our 40 year history we have helped countless small business get their start here in Lynn. I am excited for yet another tool, especially for our growing minority and women owned business in our City to turn to for help.”

Glynn Lloyd, Mill Cities Community Investments CEO stated, "Lynn has a robust and diverse small business community with a rich history. Mill Cities Community Investments is honored to be welcomed into that community and we are excited to bring our experience underwriting and administering similarly structured loan funds in the Merrimack Valley to support the strong work already happening in Lynn."

“Small businesses in our community play a critical role in building an economically strong and vibrant community for all,” said Stratton Lloyd, Executive Vice President and COO of Essex County Community Foundation. “This loan fund is part of a larger small business ecosystem vision, providing technical assistance, training, capital and networks that entrepreneurs need to grow and thrive. ECCF is so proud to be a part of this incredible collaborative effort.”

Frances Martinez President CEO of the North Shore Latino Business Association/Center shared her thoughts, “This is the true definition of a team effort when it is needed the most. It’s almost 2 years since the pandemic hit our lives; it hasn’t been easy confronting all the challenges that day to day small businesses are experiencing. The Lynn Small Business Loan Fund (*Fondo de préstamos para pequeñas empresas de Lynn*) is a great new opportunity providing additional resources to help business and our community. We are very excited to be part of this team and this great opportunity; we stand ready and will continue providing support to all.”

The technical assistance providers include the North Shore Latino Business Association, Creative Collective, the Greater Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce, Salem Enterprise Center, Lynn Business Partnership, Latino Support Network, ECCO, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center, NS CDC, Beyond Walls, Lynn Main Streets and E for All Lynn.

“Massachusetts Growth Capital Corp. is excited to be a continued partner with Lynn’s diverse small businesses providing capital to the fund and resources to small business technical resource providers’, said Lawrence D. Andrews, CEO/President. “We will continue to support the new vibrancy of Lynn’s small business eco-system encouraging inclusive entrepreneurship.”

Colin Codner, Executive Director of the Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce stated, “This is a remarkable opportunity for the entrepreneurs in Lynn. This fund, in

partnership with the support systems in place, will enable small businesses to flourish in our community, as well as to attract entrepreneurs from around the region to explore Lynn as a location to launch their business.”

The Lynn Small Business Loan Fund is made possible through financial commitments from lead bank Eastern Bank, East Boston Savings Bank, Berkshire Bank, St. Jean’s Credit Union, NorthShore Bank and Mass Growth Capital Corporation. In addition, the Essex County Community Foundation will provide a 10% loan loss reserve to the fund and will fund the operational costs of the local community development financial institution, Mill Cities Community Investments, who will oversee the program. The Lynn Small Business Loan Fund represents what is possible through collaboration, a shared vision and a shared investment.

“This is a very important initiative for Lynn and our small business community, and we’re thrilled to be a part of it,” said Bob Rivers, CEO and Chair of the Board of Eastern Bank, the Fund’s lead bank. “Hundreds of Eastern employees work in Lynn and consider Lynn their hometown, and we are especially proud to launch this Fund with our many community partners uniting to support Lynn’s entrepreneurs. The Lynn Small Business Loan Fund will provide small businesses with the growth capital and support they need to grow and contribute to a thriving local economy, and we thank the City of Lynn and Mayor McGee for their leadership in creating it.”