



Matt B. Murell
Chairman

Kelly S. Baccaro
Clerk

Columbia County Board of Supervisors

401 State Street
Hudson, New York 12534

Telephone: 518-828-1527

Fax: 518-822-0684

www.ColumbiaCountyNY.com

James J. Guzzi
Deputy Chairman

Robert M. Lagonia
Deputy Chairman

Columbia County Boosts Small Businesses with Microenterprise Grant Program

Hudson, NY – Columbia County has been awarded \$300,000 in NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, intended to help provide entrepreneurial training and grants up to \$25,000 to microenterprises with five or fewer employees.

The program will cultivate new small businesses while also support existing ones looking to expand. Made possible through a grant from the New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the CDBG program focuses on entrepreneurship and job creation for low-to-moderate income individuals.

The Columbia County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) and the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce (CCCC), is boosting small business in Columbia County with the Columbia Forward Microenterprise Development Program as part of the County's Columbia Forward Initiative.

The Columbia Forward Initiative provides small businesses with support programs, including business loans and grants, technical assistance and training, in addition to assisting town government with economic development support.

There are more than 1,900 businesses in Columbia County, the majority of which are small businesses. They are vital to our community. The Columbia Forward Microenterprise Development Program is meant to support those businesses, create jobs, and spur economic growth at all levels of our economy.

“By providing them with a CDBG grant that can be used toward equipment, inventory or working capital, the Columbia Forward Microenterprise Development Program is another way that we are working to help small businesses in Columbia County. Small businesses are the fastest growing sector of our economy and access to capital is key to helping them create jobs and thrive in our community,” said Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell.

F. Michael Tucker, President and CEO of CEDC, said, “Small business is the backbone of our economy, powering communities countywide and providing jobs to thousands of residents. The County, CEDC, and the Chamber are teaming up to provide assistance where possible. We all succeed when small business succeeds and this program is available to microenterprises seeking ways to grow in Columbia County.”

The Columbia Forward Microenterprise Development Program will be administered by CEDC and will provide grants to start up and expanding businesses that have successfully completed the CEDC Entrepreneurial Training class. The class schedule is:

Session 1 April 9

Laying the Groundwork -Consideration of business legal structures including DBAs, partnerships, LLCs and corporations. Risk assessment and asset protection. General regulatory compliance matters. Introduction to common contracts and agreements. Legal issues in employment/human resources.

Session 2 April 16

Staying Within the Lines Small business bookkeeping. Software for business planning, bookkeeping and inventory. Understanding the income statement and balance sheet. Sales tax, payroll taxes and self-employment taxes

Session 3 April 23

Writing a Business Plan Tell the world about you and your business. Why a business plan is important. Learn how to write one that reflects your goals and sets deadlines for reaching them

Session 4 April 30

Marketing 101 Learn the fundamentals of marketing your business including developing an effective digital marketing plan. Learn how to assess customer needs and utilize social media, search engine marketing, display advertising, content marketing, email marketing and more.

All classes held in the Board Room of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, One North Front Street, Hudson, NY 12534 Tuesday evenings 6:00PM – 8:30PM. Applications are available by calling 518-828-4718.

For more information on the Columbia Forward Microenterprise Development Program, visit: <https://columbiaedc.com/grow-here/microenterprise/>.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the leading economic development organization in Columbia County, is committed to strengthening the county's tax base through economic development and job creation while maintaining the quality of life so desired by the people who live and work here. For more information about CEDC's programs and services, visit www.columbiaedc.com or call 518 828.4718.