

# Center on Self-Employment

National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting

## ILLINOIS SELF-EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Note: Illinois has more self-employment microloan programs available through local and state government agencies than many other states.

### 1. Women's Business Development Center

Provides loans and general support for emerging businesses.

Details:

- Loans up to \$50,000 for established businesses
- Loans up to \$25,000 for startup businesses
- Loans can be used for equipment purchases, inventory, leasehold improvements, machinery, supplies, or working capital.
- Interest rates from 7% – 12%, Repayment terms from 1- 5 years, Closing costs of 2% – 4%

<https://wbdc.org/established-programs/access-to-capital/micro-finance-program/>

### 2. Springfield Area Microloan Program

Provides microloans, training, and technical assistance to small businesses with the help of Justine Petersen, an SBA approved lender which specializes in helping small businesses, along with local government.

<https://springfield.il.us/Businesses/Microloan.aspx>

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### 3. Rockford Local Development Corporation

Provides funding for small businesses in Boone and Winnebago Counties with loans of 10K to 100K that can be used for working capital, equipment purchases and the purchase and/or renovation of real estate.

They work closely with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DCEO") in DCEO's Loan Participation Program.

<http://rldc.us/page.asp?PageID=10>

### 4. Illinois Advantage Program

A state program that works with banks to increase lending to small businesses. They were founded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and have a special program that provides assistance to businesses owned by people with disabilities, women, minorities, and veterans.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/AdvantageIllinois/Pages/default.aspx>

### 5. Madison County Microloan Program

Provides funding for small businesses in cooperation with national micro lender Justine Petersen, a social justice advocacy group.

[https://www.co.madison.il.us/news\\_detail\\_T3\\_R61.php](https://www.co.madison.il.us/news_detail_T3_R61.php)

### 6. Duman Center for Entrepreneurship

A Jewish federation agency that provides 15K microloans for small business owners and also provides job hunting services for people with disabilities.

<https://www.jcfs.org/jvs/about>

## 7. Berwyn Development Corporation

Provides loans of up to 10K to small businesses in cooperation with banks

<https://www.berwyn.net/small-business-lending>

## 8. Peoria County Government Assistance Program

Provides loans to small businesses that don't qualify for bank loans; also provides microloans.

<https://www.peoriacounty.gov/356/Government-Assistance-Program>

## 9. Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund

A state government program that provides loans to small businesses negatively affected by the pandemic.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/IllinoisSmallBusinessEmergencyLoanFund.aspx>

## 10. Allies for Community Business

A non-profit microlender that provides lending, coaching, and mentoring to small business owners from disadvantaged backgrounds; they also provide loans of \$500 to \$100,000 to small businesses.

<https://a4cb.org/services/loans/>

## 11. Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning Commission

Provides microloans to small businesses that have been rejected by banks.

<https://www.sirpdc.org/micro-loan-fund/>

## 12. Springfield City Council Microloan Program

A city government that provides microloans to small businesses that have been denied loans by banks in cooperation with microlender Justine Petersen.

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2021/07/21/springfield-business-owners-can-apply-covid-19-loan-relief/8029338002/>

### 13. EnterpriseWorks Business Technology Incubator

Provides support, mentoring, and training to small businesses in all areas of the tech industry in cooperation with the University of Illinois.

<https://researchpark.illinois.edu/locate-here/enterpriseworks-incubator>

### 14. Catapult Chicago

A technology business incubator

<https://www.foley.com/en/general/catapult-chicago>

### 15. Illinois University Incubator Network

A statewide network of business incubators located at universities in Illinois that also provided resources related to the Covid 19 pandemic.

<http://www.illinoisincubators.org/incubators/>

<http://www.illinoisincubators.org/resources/covid19techaccel/>

### 16. Tech Nexus

They provide funding and support for emerging technology companies and also help them to connect with leading corporate partners.

<https://technexus.com/ventures/>

### 17. 1871

A business incubator that provides support for emerging technology companies.

<https://1871.com/membership/>

## 18. 2112

A business incubator that provides support to entrepreneurs in the music, film, and creative technology sectors.

<https://2112inc.com/page/about>

## 19. MHub Chicago

A technology business incubator which provides funding and support and an accelerator for technology startups in the medical, internet of things, and green technology sectors.

<https://mhubchicago.com/page/mhub-accelerated-incubation>

## 20. Blue 1647

To support entrepreneurship in the technology sector in Chicago; they have programs for young people and adults.

<https://www.blue1647.com/>

## 21. Workbox

A Chicago based technology incubator.

<https://www.workboxcompany.com/locations/>

## 22. Bunker Labs Chicago

To provide support to military veterans and spouses who are pursuing entrepreneurship.

<https://bunkerlabs.org/chicago/>

## 23. Elmspring Accelerator

A business incubator to support companies that want to use technology to disrupt the real estate and housing markets.

<https://www.nar-reach.com/>

## 24. Techstars Chicago

To provide support and mentoring and guidance to emerging tech startups in Chicago.

<https://excecelatelabs.com/details/>

## 25. Matter

A health care incubator which aims to disrupt the health care industry with the cooperation of large corporations.

<https://matter.health/join/partners>

## 26. Access Living

Provides general support and community advocacy and peer support opportunities for people with disabilities.

<https://www.accessliving.org/get-involved/join-a-peer-support-group/>

<https://www.accessliving.org/get-involved/join-a-community-organizing-group/>

## 27. Insight Innovation Center

University of Illinois Springfield incubator that helps small businesses.

<https://www.innovatespringfield.org/resources>

## 28. Southern Illinois University Incubator

To promote entrepreneurship in Southern Illinois with the help of a university business incubator.

<https://incubator.siu.edu/#why>

## 29. Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at University of Chicago

To promote entrepreneurship and resources for small businesses

<https://polsky.uchicago.edu/polsky-exchange/>