

Center on Self-Employment

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

MASSACHUSETTS STARTUP RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. Work without Limits

A private organization that seeks to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities by collaborating with employers and service providers.

<https://workwithoutlimits.org/>

2. Mass Match Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities

Organization that offers loans for assistive technology.

https://www.massmatch.org/for_employers.php

3. Employment First Massachusetts

Works toward inclusive employment in Massachusetts for people with disabilities with a focus on transition aged youth.

<https://employmentfirstma.org/>

4. The Arc of Massachusetts

Provides generalized support for people with disabilities including help on how to develop friendships and also how to educate new medical professionals on working with people with disabilities and also government lobbying to help people with disabilities get more help from their direct support workforce.

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

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5. Kiva Massachusetts

Provides loans of 5K to 25K with flexible terms and 1-10 years

Each applicant must qualify as meeting one of the following national objectives of the CDBG program:

- Benefiting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons
- Meeting an Urgent Need
- Prevention or Elimination of Slum or Blight

[Microloan Program | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)

6. RCAP Solutions

Provides general support for entrepreneurs and home modification loans to people with disabilities.

[Home Modification Loan Program | RCAP Solutions](#)

7. Southeastern Economic Development Corporation

SBA Microloan Program, funding of up to 50K the Small Loan Program, up to 250K
Interest rates: 5-6% Loan Term: up to 10 years, no prepayment penalty.

Prerequisites:

- Credit score: 600+
- Collateral: Residential/commercial real estate and/or business assets
- Cash flow: Global repayment ability

<https://seedcorp.com/small-loans>

8. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

Offers term loans of 5K to 50K with amortization of up to 6 years.

Requires a minimum personal credit score of 575.

<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/what-we-offer/sba-microloan-program>

9. BizMPower - Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

The Biz-M-Power crowdfunding matching grant program offers small businesses in Massachusetts financial assistance with their acquisition, expansion, improvement or lease of a facility, purchase, or lease of equipment, or with meeting other capital needs for the business.

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<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/what-we-offer/bizmpower>

<https://northandoverma.news/2023/03/06/biz-m-power-empowering-massachusetts-entrepreneurs-%F0%9F%92%B8/>

10. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

Provides loans of 5K to 1M to small businesses. Interest rate: Prime +5% (minimum of 10%). MGCC can provide a guarantee to enable banks to make an enhancement to their loans.

Loan amount: Up to \$1,000,000. Not to exceed 75% of the bank's facility. Term loan or line of credit guaranty available 3-point commitment fee 3 point annual renewal fee. No prepayment penalties.

Prerequisites - Secured position on all company assets. Personal guaranty required of owners with greater than 20% equity 3-point commitment fee. No prepayment penalty.

<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/what-we-offer/small-business-lending>

11. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

Provides contract financing of 25K to 500K to women, minority, and veteran-owned firms and enable them to compete for public contracts in MA.

MGCC will advance up to 75% of the contract value to the business.

Minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses are enabled to compete for public contracts in Massachusetts with this program. Contract financing mobilizes projects, bridging labor, materials and overhead costs before billing and being paid for work.

<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/what-we-offer/small-business-lending>

12. Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA

Provides small loans and technical assistance to support self-employment for Southeast Asian immigrants in MA in cooperation with the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. (They also provide information on education, employment, and English language learning for this population.)

<http://www.seacma.org/sbd>

13. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation Empower Digital Grant

Provides funding to disadvantaged individuals including people with disabilities and veterans who are small business owners to enable them to receive up to 5K worth of digital support services.

Prerequisites:

- Has been nominated by a Technical Assistance Provider through MGCC's Small Business Technical Assistance Program
- Has been in business for a minimum of one year at the time of application.

<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/what-we-offer/empowerdigital>

14. Common Capital of Massachusetts

Offers fixed rate loans from \$1,000 to \$300,000. Interest rates currently range from 8.25% to 10.0% (subject to change without notice). Loan terms up to 10 years.

Your business must be located in their Western Massachusetts service area (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties).

<https://www.commoncapitalma.org/get-a-loan/common-capital-loans/>

15. South Middlesex Opportunity Council

Provides up to 50K in loans at an interest rate of 8-10%. They charge a 3% closing fee. It takes about 2 weeks to get approved.

http://www.smocloans.org/assistance_faq

16. North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation

Provides microloans of up to 50K via the SBA lending.

Available for start-up or existing business, including restaurants, retail shops, service businesses, manufacturers, home-based businesses, and many more.

The NCMDC requires that the business being financed will create at least one new job for every \$20,000 obtained through our loan programs.

[Lending - North Central MA \(choosenorthcentral.com\)](http://www.choosenorthcentral.com)

17. Lowell Development & Financial Corporation Downtown Venture Fund

Provide loans of up to 100K for restaurant and retail firms in downtown Lowell; must provide 20% equity.

[Downtown Venture Fund — Lowell Development & Financial Corporation \(ldfc.org\)](http://www.ldfc.org)

18. Lowell Small Business Retention Program

Provides loans and grants and technical assistance to small businesses that have been in operation for at least two years.

<https://www.lowellma.gov/916/Small-Business-Retention-Program>

19. Property & Casualty Initiative

Provides microloans to low- and moderate-income business owners including women and minorities and promote economic development, healthy food choices, and affordable housing.

<https://www.pcifund.com/page/lending-approach>

20. Latino Business Resiliency Program

Provides support and capital readiness to Latino businesses with revenues of 100K to 750K.

<https://enterprisectr.org/latino-resilience-program/>

21. Small Business Technical Assistance Service and Peer Support Program

Provides support for small businesses with revenues over 40K and less than 15 employees.

[Merrimack Valley Small Business Technical Assistance Services \(SBTAS\) Program - The Enterprise Center \(enterprisectr.org\)](#)

22. Massachusetts State Small Business Credit Initiative

Provides funding to businesses run by people with disabilities and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

[SSBCI.pdf \(massdevelopment.com\)](#)

23. Mass Development Emerging Technology Fund

The ETF makes loans of up to \$2.5 million to technology companies for facility acquisition, expansion or improvements, working capital, and equipment purchases. The ETF also offers guarantees of up to \$1.5 million on real estate loans made by banks or other private lenders to technology companies.

At least two parties, other than the ETF, must provide financing. Financial investment must benefit the Massachusetts economy.

<https://www.massdevelopment.com/assets/what-we-offer/etf-download.pdf>

24. Mass Development Export Loans

Provides funding for companies engaged in export activities.

MassDevelopment offers the following programs to help companies that export or anticipate exporting products or services internationally:

- 100% Export Loan
- 100% financing for new equipment, leasehold improvements and working capital.

[MA Real Estate Loans - MA Business Loans | MassDevelopment](#)

25. Granite State Development Corporation

Provides microloans of up to 50K for companies that have been in business for at least one year or in exceptional circumstances are startups. The small business must demonstrate potential for job creation or retention.

<https://www.granitestatedev.com/local-economic-development-programs/gsd-micro-loan-fund/>

26. Bristol Community College Academic Center for Entrepreneurship

Provides guidance, support, strategic marketing, and business planning for emerging and existing business owners.

<https://bristolcc.edu/about/inthecommunity/academiccenterforentrepreneurship/index.html>