

Center on Self-Employment

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

WEST VIRGINIA STARTUP RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. First Microloan of West Virginia

SBA program that provides micro loans of 5K to 50K to small businesses.

Business must be located in Barbour, Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood Counties.

<https://washingtoncountypa.org/west-virginia-sba-microloan/>

2. Charleston Main Streets

Provides microloans to companies in Charleston, WV. Charleston Main Streets (CMS) has established CWventure, a small business microloan program that provides microloans of \$500 to 5K.

<https://www.cwvmainstreets.org/cwventure-microloan-program.html>

3. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program in WV

Provides microloans to rural businesses in WV.

Loans are up to \$50,000. Fixed interest rate. Limited to 75 percent of project cost.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program/wv>

4. The Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation Microloan Program

The Greenbrier Valley Microloan Program provides loans from \$5,000 to \$30,000 with interest rates at prime plus 1% and terms up to 15 years. The funds can be used for any

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business need including renovation, working capital, new construction, equipment, down payments and more.

<https://yesgreenbriervalley.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GVEDC-Greenbrier-Valley-Microloan-Program.pdf>

5. Woodlands Development and Lending

Provides loans of 2,500 to 150,000 to small businesses; also provides technical assistance; fixed rate of 5-75 percent.

<https://woodlandswv.org/small-business-loans/>

6. Wyoming County Economic Development Authority (WCEDA) Microloan Program

Program

Provides microloans of 1K to 35K for new and existing small businesses.

https://wyomingcounty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4_July2019Updated_Micro-Loan-Brochure.pdf

7. Wyoming County Economic Development Authority

Provides a revolving loan fund for select counties in Southern West Virginia. Loans are available from \$25,000–\$215,000 with a term of less than 20 years.

https://wyomingcounty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2_July2019Edited_Revolving-Loan-Brochure-Final.pdf

8. The Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA)

A faith-based organization that offers training in entrepreneurship to veterans, military families, and disadvantaged people.

<https://www.kisra.org/2501>

9. Tech Connect West Virginia

Helps technology companies access federal funds through the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants. Provides training for emerging tech companies in West Virginia.

<https://techconnectwv.org/west-virginia-grant-program-successful-in-growing-states-tech-economy/>

10. AIM Consortium

Provides technical assistance to small and medium sized defense manufacturing firms and seeks to help them create and retain jobs in the defense manufacturing industry.

<https://aimhigherconsortium.org/>

11. West Virginia Center for Excellence for People with Disabilities

Provides general information on self-employment for people with disabilities.

<https://wipa.cedwvu.org/wipa-video-player/?id=lavPQxCKWBI&title=Self%20Employment>

12. West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust

A public venture capital fund that provides substantial investment to early stage, mid-stage, and mature small companies that wish to expand and create jobs. The firm does NOT make grants or low-interest loans.

<https://wvjit.wv.gov/about-us/>

13. Natural Capital Investment Fund

Launched a revolving loan fund called ARC POWER to finance and provide technical assistance to tourism related businesses around the Hatfield McCoy Trail Authority.

<https://www.arc.gov/investment/the-natural-capital-investment-fund-a-path-to-success/>

14. Appalachia Regional Commission

Provides a range of economic development programs for the region including West Virginia.

<https://www.arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/>

15. The New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA)

Provides support for emerging businesses.

[Business and Entrepreneurship Support | New River Gorge Regional Development Authority \(nrgrda.org\)](https://www.nrgrda.org/business-and-entrepreneurship-support)

16. West Virginia Hive

Offers training and general support for emerging companies.

<https://wwhive.com/business-advising/>

17. Lowell Development & Financial Corporation Downtown Venture Fund

A group of angel funders that provide early-stage capital (usually under 250K or 500K) to emerging high growth companies.

<https://wvcran.com/investment/>

18. Progress Fund

Provides loans of 20K to 1M for emerging companies, especially those in the tourism sector.

<https://www.progressfund.org/small-business-loans/>

19. Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (MOVRC)

Provides loans to small businesses.

<https://www.movrc.org/loan-program>

20. Boone County WV Microloan Program

The Boone County Community and Economic Development Office has assisted new and expanding small businesses with working capital through a Regional Micro-Loan Program with loans ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

<http://boonecountywv.org/programs.php>

21. Bridging Innovation Week April 17-21, 2023

Provides networking opportunities for emerging small businesses and 200K in technical assistance and funding to entrepreneurs and small business owners. Will also be held in 2024 and future years.

<https://wvbusinesslink.com/bridging-innovation-week-april-17-21-2023/>

22. West Virginia University Demo Day

Demo Day offers the opportunity for all WVU students, faculty, staff and community members to showcase their innovative ideas, products or ventures and compete in a cash award pitch competition for up to a \$1,000 in grant funding.

<https://wvforward.wvu.edu/wv-forward-work/investing-in-innovation-and-business-growth/100-ways-to-get-startup-capital/grant-opportunities-for-wv-companies>

23. Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center

Provides early-stage funding of 1K to 10K to companies in the advanced manufacturing sector and related industries.

<https://www.rcbi.org/about-rcbi/>

24. Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council

Provides loans of up to 3M for all businesses in West Virginia.

<https://wyomingcounty.com/business-resources/>

25. West Virginia Economic Development Authority

Provides loans of 50K to 1M to small businesses. The borrower must create or retain one job for each 75K loan from WVEDA.

<https://eda.wv.gov/Documents/Direct%20Loans/Direct%20Lending%20Programs.pdf>

26. Mini Grants for Women and Minority-Owned Businesses

Provides mini grants of 2K to 5K to women and minority owned small businesses in Charleston, WV. There will be one round of grants distributed in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Also provides training and resources.

<https://charlestonareaalliance.org/community-development/charleston-women-minority-biz-grant/>

27. High Technology Foundation

The INNOVA Commercialization Group (INNOVA), an initiative of the High Technology Foundation, is a business support service and seed and early-stage investment capital program dedicated to creating successful entrepreneurs and new ventures.

<https://wvhtf.org/innova-commercialization-group/>

28. Wheeling Heritage Show of Hands

Provides crowd-funded source of grants of 1K to 25K to companies in Wheeling, WV.

<https://wvforward.wvu.edu/wv-forward-work/investing-in-innovation-and-business-growth/100-ways-to-get-startup-capital/grant-opportunities-for-wv-companies>

29. Micro Loan Program by Fairmont Community Development Partnership

Provides loans of up to 10K at 4% interest. Provides funding to existing or start-up manufacturing, retail, wholesale, and service businesses located in Marion County. Businesses must demonstrate the potential for job creation.

<https://fcdpartnership.org/microloan-program/>

30. 3Steps 2 Startup

Provides resources and information to emerging companies in West Virginia.

<https://3steps2startup.com/partners/>

31. Our FASTER WV (acronym stands for Fostering Advantages for Start Ups & Entrepreneurial Resurgence in WV) Initiative

Provides training and education to emerging small business owners in WV.

<https://advantagevalley.com/entrepreneurship/>

32. West Virginia University Entrepreneurship Resources

<https://business.wvu.edu/research-outreach>

33. Vantage Ventures

Provides information and support to high tech companies in WV.

<https://vantageventures.io/about/>

34. Bluefield Commercialization Station

Provides commercialization for manufacturing companies.

<https://www.mybluefield.org/commercialization-station>

35. The Food Truck Incubator Program

The Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority (BEDA).

Provides training and support for entrepreneurs in the food truck industry.

This is a region-wide program and collaborative effort with the following West Virginia counties: Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, Webster, and Wyoming.

<https://www.mybluefield.org/ftiprogram>

36. Chemical Alliance Zone

CAZ works to boost and maintain investments and jobs in the chemical industry and related industries across WV, including natural gas, manufacturing, and technology in general.

<https://cazww.com/about-caz/what-we-do/>

37. Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO)

Seeks to attract new employers and retain existing employers to the Cabell and Wayne Counties, West Virginia, and facilitate job creation.

<https://www.hadco.org/what-we-do/>

38. Brad D. Smith Business Incubator

Provides support and training to emerging companies and takes advantage of the resources available at Marshall University.

<https://www.marshall.edu/news/2019/04/16/university-announces-brad-d-smith-business-incubator-to-be-located-in-downtown-huntington/>

39. Mountain State Capital

A venture capital firm which invests in software, hardware, service, and life sciences companies with viable business models. They generally invest 200K to 500K per company in an initial seed round in which the company raises 1M to 5M.

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