



SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM

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SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM TOTALS (AS OF 06/30/14)

- Number of Businesses Funded: 1,128
- Assistance Awarded: \$154,466,160
- Jobs Created: 4,061
- Jobs Retained: 11,650

ISSUE

This report is an overview of and provides data on the Small Business Express (SBE) program.

SUMMARY

The legislature created SBE within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in 2011 ([Public Act 11-1, October Special Session](#)).

According to DECD, SBE assists small businesses by providing access to capital, supporting job creation, increasing skill development, and encouraging private investment.

To be eligible for SBE financial assistance, a business must: (1) employ no more than 100 employees on at least half the working days in the previous 12 months, (2) operate in Connecticut, (3) have been registered to conduct business in Connecticut for at least 12 months, and (4) be in good standing with the payment of all state and local taxes (CGS § [32-7g](#)). DECD must give priority to businesses that are creating new jobs and may give priority to those (1) in Connecticut's economic base industries (e.g., precision manufacturing, business services, bioscience, green and sustainable technology, and information technology) and (2) attempting to export products or services to foreign markets (CGS § [32-222](#)).

SBE funding is available to eligible businesses in the form of a loan or a grant through three separate program components: the Revolving Loan Fund, the Job Creation Incentive Program, and the Matching Grant Program.

SBE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Revolving Loan Fund

Businesses that receive loans under the Revolving Loan Program may use the funds for purchasing machinery and equipment, construction, relocation costs (within the state), working capital, or other DECD-authorized business expenses.

Eligible businesses may receive loans from the fund in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. These loans have up to a maximum four percent interest rate and a maximum 10-year term. DECD determines loan terms, conditions, and collateral requirements in a manner that prioritizes job growth and retention. DECD must give priority to applicants that, as a part of their business plan, are creating new jobs that will be maintained for at least a year (CGS § [32-7g\(d\)](#)).

Job Creation Incentive Program

Businesses that receive loans from the Job Creation Incentive Program may use the funds for training, marketing, working capital, or other DECD-authorized business expenses that support job creation.

Eligible businesses may receive loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$300,000. The terms and conditions of loans awarded from this program are the same as those awarded from the Revolving Loan Fund. Additionally, the DECD commissioner may allow deferred loan payments and forgive all or part of a loan based on a business's attainment of job creation goals (CGS § [32-7g\(e\)](#)).

Matching Grant Program

Businesses that receive grants under the Matching Grant Program may use the funds for ongoing or new training, working capital, purchasing machinery and equipment, construction, relocation costs (within the state), and other DECD-authorized business expenses.

The program provides eligible businesses with grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. To receive a grant under this program, a business must match the state award dollar-for-dollar. DECD gives priority to applicants it believes are likely to maintain job growth (CGS § [32-7g\(f\)](#)).

SBE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Table 1 shows the overall impact of SBE, including jobs created and funding awarded, from the start of the program until June 30, 2014. Table 2 shows the job creation and funding data broken down by industry.

Table 1: Overall SBE Totals

Number of Businesses Funded	1,128
Businesses Closed Since Receiving Assistance	15
Jobs Created	4,061
Jobs Retained	11,650
Revolving Loan Funds Awarded	\$13,810,992
Job Creation Loans Awarded	\$81,165,363
Matching Grants Awarded	\$59,489,805
Total Assistance Awarded	\$154,466,160

Source: DECD

Table 2: Job Creation and Funding by Industry

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Business and Jobs</i>			<i>SBE Component Programs</i>			<i>Total Component Program Funding Awarded</i>
	<i>Number of Businesses</i>	<i>Jobs Created</i>	<i>Jobs Retained</i>	<i>Revolving Loan Fund</i>	<i>Job Creation Loan</i>	<i>Matching Grant</i>	
Business/ Financial Services	83	263	562	\$1,238,480	\$4,877,100	\$3,866,865	\$9,982,445
Construction	73	274	647	\$578,000	\$5,529,475	\$4,309,542	\$10,417,017
Healthcare/ Bioscience	63	207	465	\$378,688	\$5,283,846	\$3,879,788	\$9,542,322
Hospitality/ Entertainment/ Tourism	90	372	524	\$966,450	\$6,347,836	\$4,076,066	\$11,390,352
IT/ Computer Tech.	80	358	939	\$633,850	\$7,770,612	\$5,208,600	\$13,613,062
Main Street Retail	163	479	1,567	\$2,887,082	\$7,466,700	\$6,450,637	\$16,804,419
Manufacturing	219	1,013	3,703	\$2,238,500	\$19,995,581	\$14,565,493	\$36,799,574
Specialty Products/ Services	357	1,095	3,243	\$4,889,942	\$23,894,213	\$17,132,814	\$45,916,969

Source: DECD

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