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A Multi-CDFI and CDC Collaboration to Increase Entrepreneurship in Communities of Color A Case Study

Kimberly Hunter, Mountain BizWorks
Sharon Oxendine, Carolina Small Business Development Fund
Stephanie Swepson-Twitty, Eagle Market Street Development Corporation

Thursday, September 28 from 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Mountain BizWorks was founded 27 years ago to: build a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial community in Western North Carolina by helping small businesses start, grow, and thrive. When small businesses succeed, we all prosper.

MBW envisions a thriving WNC in which small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs have access to the resources needed to make their dream a reality - a region where collaboration, creativity, innovation and investment create opportunity for all.

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The mission of the **Western Women's Business Center**, a program of Carolina Small Business Development Fund, is to provide capital, high quality technical assistance and programs that reduce barriers and serve as a catalyst to the success of entrepreneurs, particularly women who are socially and economically disadvantaged, in Western North Carolina. Our vision is to create economic opportunity for all people.

Carolina Small Business Development Fund is a CDFI creating economic opportunities across North Carolina



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Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization which serves the Asheville Buncombe County community in western NC, by providing property development, economic development and access to human services. EMSDC was founded in 1994 with a mission to develop people, property and businesses, and envision economic and social justice for all.

EMDC's vision is to bring the opportunity for economic and social independence to the low-to moderate-income community.



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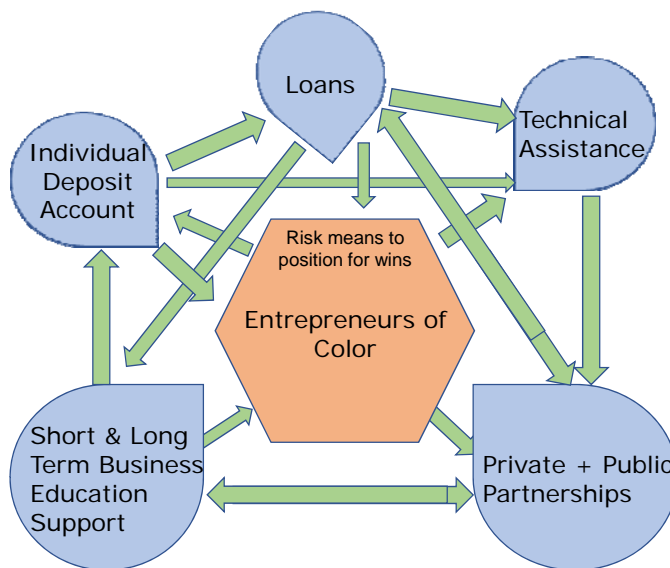
Asheville, NC Context

- Known as an entrepreneurial city
- However, marginalization of minority entrepreneurs persists:
 - Accessing capital
 - Resources
 - Networking & Events
- Minority businesses lack opportunities to grow and thrive
 - African American firms are 2% of businesses in Western NC, but only 0.2% of total revenue



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Opportunity Collaboration Model



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