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

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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.
The mission of the **Western Women’s Business Center** 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.

**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.
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

Opportunity Collaboration Model

- Loans
- Technical Assistance
- Individual Deposit Account
- Short & Long Term Business Education Support
- Entrepreneurs of Color
- Private + Public Partnerships

Risk means to position for wins
Before You Go

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