

## Maryland Real Estate Licensing

We've Helped Launch The Careers Of Thousands Of New Real Estate Agents

The CE Shop-MD Pre Course

[Learn More >](#)

# MEDC provides \$73 million to support entrepreneurship centers across the state

by Shawn Johnson — November 19, 2023 in Entrepreneurship



## Too Much Dust in Your House?

Do You Have a Dusty House? Do This

Clarifion

[Open >](#)

LANSING – Governor Gretchen Whitmer joined the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to announce that 27 organizations have been selected to serve as entrepreneurship hubs across the state of Michigan, providing comprehensive resources and support to the state's small businesses. Are.

Ann Arbor Spark has partnered with the Greater Washtenaw Region MI-SBDC, Howell Chamber of Commerce, Jewish Family Services, Launch 734 from the Monroe County Business Alliance, the Uplift Michigan™ Business Development Program from the Michigan SBDC, and the Washtenaw Community College Entrepreneurship Center. Increasing services and resources available to small business owners.

"We have a proven history of supporting high-growth entrepreneurs in the greater Ann Arbor area," said Paul Krutko, President and CEO of Ann Arbor Spark. "We are excited to build on that foundation, as well as the recent success of the Washtenaw County program, Advance Your Business, serving small businesses and use this grant to expand opportunities within the myriad communities served by Spark and our partners. Are meant to generate long term profits. ,

Ann Arbor SPARK will provide centralized administration of the grant, allowing strategic partners to focus on programming and rapid deployment of services. Christine Nash-Wong, director of entrepreneurial services at the Spark East Innovation Center in Ypsilanti, will lead the effort.

According to Nash-Wong, "Spark collaborated with our strategic partners to create detailed strategy and programming that provides a clear path to meaningful resources for small businesses; ensures equitable access; and builds collaborative, sustainable partnerships with community providers."



The CE Shop The CE Shop-MD Pre Course

[Learn More](#)

ALSO READ:

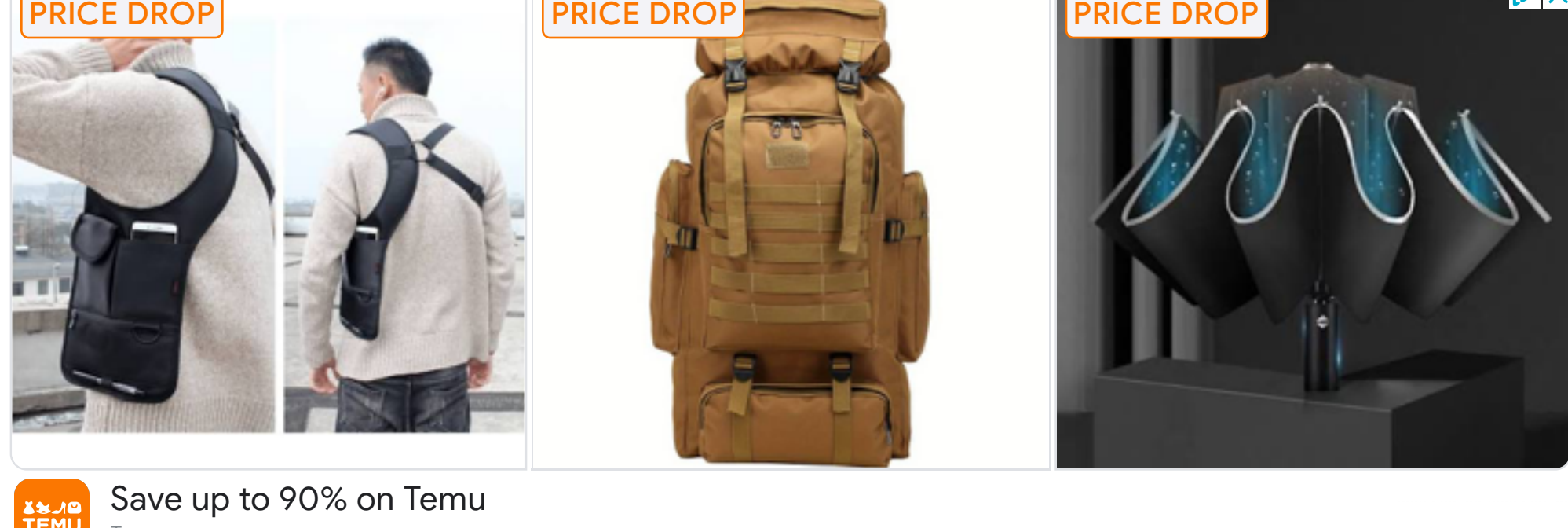
- ▶ [Oakland students stay up all night writing code and solving problems at experiential entrepreneurship summit](#)
- ▶ [Should you buy Rivian stock instead of Tesla? , The Motley Fool](#)

Ann Arbor Spark and its partners received a maximum award of \$3 million from the Small Business Assistance Hub program.

Following passage of the \$75 million Small Business Smart Zone and Business Accelerator initiative by the Michigan legislature in February, the Small Business Support Hub (SBSH) program received approval by the Michigan Strategic Fund in June. The program is funded by a one-time appropriation using American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") dollars to create and operate the program to support small businesses disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 .

"Small businesses are the backbone of Michigan's economy, and this investment from President Biden's American Rescue Plan to support their growth will build on Michigan's economic momentum," said Governor Whitmer. "These 27 entrepreneurship centers across the state will strengthen our small business ecosystem, providing economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs and small businesses the support they need to grow and expand in Michigan."

The program generated a high level of interest and demand, with a joint evaluation committee reviewing over 80 applications, requesting a total of \$275 million in funding. The 27 organizations selected will receive grants averaging \$2.7 million. While state law requires 20 percent of the businesses served by the SBSH program to be minority-owned, on average, more than 50 percent of the selected applications will be minority-owned businesses.



Save up to 90% on Temu

"Michigan is committed to strengthening our entrepreneurial ecosystem by supporting the small businesses that drive our economy, as well as the trusted and expert partner network that serves them across the state," said Amy Rencher, MEDC's senior vice president of Small Business Services. committed to." "By leveraging federal dollars, Small Business Assistance Centers will help us expand and improve resources across the state, while raising the national profile of the strength of our entrepreneurial community."

Programming in the 27 centers is designed to meet regional needs as well as economic competitiveness measures, such as resources for strategic sectors including climatetech and advanced manufacturing. The hubs will also provide targeted support to family-owned and rural businesses to build resilience in a rapidly evolving economic environment.

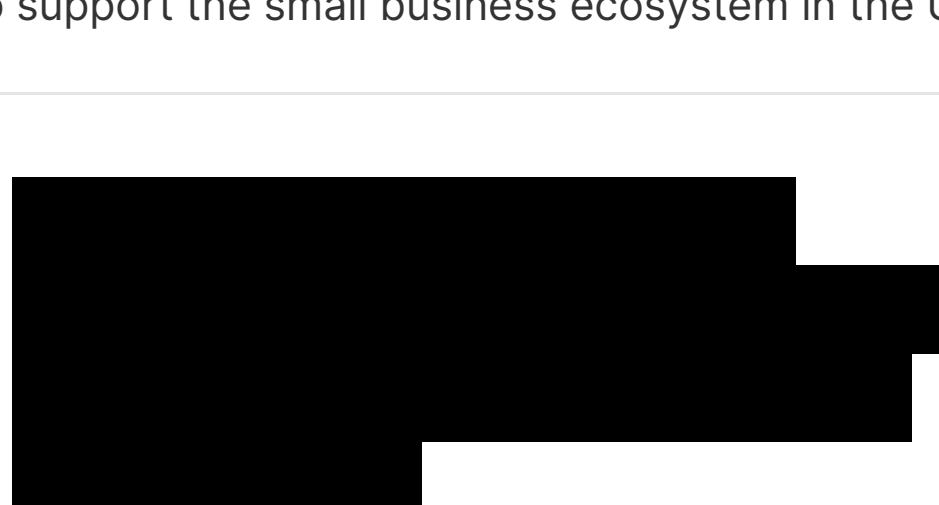
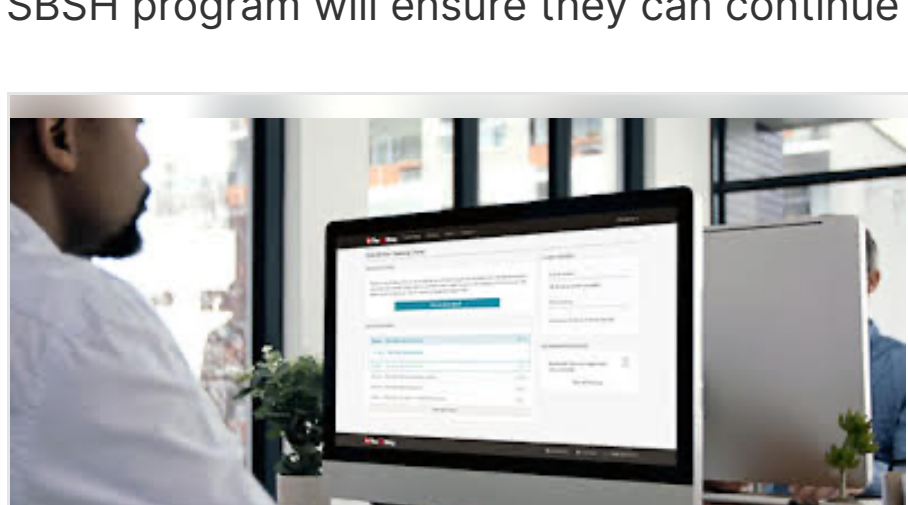
Resources available from the Hub will include one-on-one coaching, group-based learning and accelerators, mentor matchmaking, pitch competitions, networking events, access to capital, partner referrals, and statewide resource navigation.

### Grant recipients by region

- **In area 1**The grant recipients are Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation (\$3,426,316), Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. (\$3,426,315), and Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (\$1,426,315).
- **In area 2**The grant recipient is the Traverse City Center for Entrepreneurship (\$3,300,000).
- **In area 3**The grant recipients are Target Alpena Development Corporation (\$2,149,239) and Otsego County Economic Alliance, Inc. (\$1,136,859).
- **In area 4**The grant recipients are the Muskegon Innovation Hub at Grand Valley State University (\$1,796,721), Start Garden Inc. (\$3,426,316), and the Grand Rapids Nehemiah Project (\$2,426,316).
- **In area 5**The funder is Central Michigan University Research Corporation (\$3,426,316).
- **In area 6**Grant recipients are the Flint & Genesee Chamber Foundation (\$2,366,356) and the Economic Development Coalition of St. Clair County (\$2,500,792).
- **In area 7**The grant recipient is the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (\$3,426,316).
- **In area 8**The grant recipients are Battle Creek Unlimited, Inc. (\$3,300,000) and Can-Do Kalamazoo dba Can-Do Kitchen (\$1,926,315).
- **In area 9**The grant recipients are Ann Arbor SPARK (\$3,426,316) and Lean Rocket Lab (\$1,400,000).
- **In area 10**The grant recipients are the School of Operations (\$2,815,115), Tejara (\$3,426,316), Detroit Economic Growth Association (\$3,426,316), Wayne State University Research and Technology Park in downtown Detroit (\$3,426,316) and Velocity SmartZone (\$1,800,000).

Multi-sector grant recipients are the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (\$2,500,000) and Prosperous Detroit Micro Lending (\$2,000,000), while state-wide grant recipients are Lawrence Technological University Centerpolis Accelerator (\$3,426,316), Small Business Association of Michigan Foundation (\$3,426,316), and Are Michigan. Founding Fund (\$2,926,315).

Among the award winners for Region 1, Lake Superior Community Partnership has provided support to its business community in Marquette County for 25 years. With 95 percent of businesses in Marquette County classified as small businesses, \$3 million in funding from the SBSH program will ensure they can continue to support the small business ecosystem in the UP.



The CE Shop The CE Shop-MD Pre Course

[Learn More](#)

"We are honored to be awarded the funding to expand those efforts by adding grassroots support to reach small businesses throughout the central Upper Peninsula region, increasing our impact through more customized support and small business grants," Lake said. Feeling honoured." Christopher Germain, CEO of Superior Community Partnership. "With a wide range of partners, including Innovate Marquette, Accelerate UP, Northern Michigan University, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Sault Tribe Inc. and SBDC Upper Peninsula, the next three years will further solidify the region as a great place to start do. Grow a Small Business."

"The Upper Peninsula is a great place to live, raise a family and work," said State Senator Ed McBroom (R-Waucedah Township). "These funds will help ensure that work opportunities remain available. Our small businesses remain the foundation of our economy, and MEDC support reflects a commitment to fostering those opportunities." "Making sure that future generations have the opportunity to live here is great for the UP and the state of Michigan."

Providing further support state-wide in Region 10, the Lawrence Technological University Centerpolis Accelerator also received a maximum award of \$3 million from the SBSH program. The Centerpolis Accelerator aims to foster the growth of Southeast Michigan's small makers and hardware entrepreneurs by providing access to key resources including mentors, workshops, cutting-edge technologies, corporate connections, student and faculty engagement, workspaces and a collaborative community of coworkers. ,

"The MEDC Small Business Hub award allows Centerpolis, Michigan's only dedicated hardtech physical product technology accelerator, to expand our capabilities to support entrepreneurs in the Upper and Lower Peninsula," said Dan Radomski, CEO of Centerpolis Accelerator. "With this funding, we will commercialize more physical products, advanced materials and manufacturing technologies, maintaining our state's leadership in this area and ensuring these products are designed, engineered, prototyped and manufactured in Michigan. "

SBSH funding will also help Centerpolis launch a Defense HardTech Accelerator to develop technologies critical to national security and address domestic supply chain gaps.

"This is an exciting time in Michigan, we are investing in businesses large and small," said State Representative Jason Hoskins (D-Southfield). "This is really critical infrastructure to compete for the best jobs and strengthen small business and entrepreneurship in our communities. Not just in Southfield – but across the state, we're delivering.

Source: mitechnews.com

Share 4 Tweet 3 Pin 1

### Related News

- [Oakland students stay up all night writing code and solving problems at experiential entrepreneurship summit](#) © NOVEMBER 21, 2023
- [Should you buy Rivian stock instead of Tesla? , The Motley Fool](#) © NOVEMBER 21, 2023
- [Adore Me launches sustainability accelerator](#) © NOVEMBER 21, 2023
- [Doing Good by Giving Back: Honoring National Philanthropy](#) © NOVEMBER 21, 2023

LEGO insiders LEGO® Insiders is here! Learn more >