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Flint & Genesee entrepreneurs, small business owners can now plug into new support hub

by Tanya April 24, 2024 0 comments 46 views

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Featured photo: The Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub – main location

Hub affiliate locations launch, offer open office hours in Flint, Swartz Creek, Fenton

(Flint, Mich., April 23, 2024) A new program in Genesee County aims to be the ultimate small business resource. Led by the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, the new Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub provides comprehensive resources and support at no cost to entrepreneurs and small business owners in Genesee County.

The Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub is one of 27 hubs established, or in the process of launching, through the state's **Small Business Support Hub** program. It is made possible through a nearly \$2.4-million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

“Whether you’re writing a business plan or seeking capital, there’s a lot that goes into starting and growing a business – and it can be challenging without the right network, resources, or understanding of processes,” said Karena Hamlet, director of Business Services at

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Hamlet added: “That’s where the Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub comes in.”



Affiliate location for new support hub in Flint – Berston Field House

The hub – which is also supported by partners including Doxa Development, Metro Community Development and the Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC) – takes a holistic, customized approach for each client. This includes providing data-informed business counseling, experienced capital access coaching, personalized personal finance mentorship and connections to resources to grow a business.

According to Hamlet, it all starts with the intake form, available at DevelopFlintandGenesee.org/hub. After an entrepreneur or small business owner completes the form, the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance will schedule a meeting to learn more about the business and determine next steps and make referrals to the appropriate hub partners and many other service providers that make up the region’s robust entrepreneurial network.

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Affiliate location in Swartz Creek

“We provide coaching and technical assistance, but one of our greatest strengths is the role we play as connector,” Hamlet said. “We can help local entrepreneurs and small business owners navigate the wide variety of resources available to them and make the connections they need to thrive.”

The hub partners will come together on a monthly basis and offer open office hours at the Flint & Genesee Small Business Hub’s headquarters, located in the Flint & Genesee Group office, in downtown Flint. To begin, they will be available for walk-in appointments on May 1 from 1 – 4 p.m.

Entrepreneurs may also take advantage of the hub’s recently launched affiliate locations, which offer walk-in hours every Monday and by appointment.

These locations include:

- **Berston Field House**
3300 Saginaw St., Flint 48505
Hours: Mondays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **City of Swartz Creek Paul D. Bueche Municipal Building**

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■ **Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce**

104 S. Adelaide St., Fenton 48430

Hours: Mondays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.









Additionally, the small business community is invited to attend the hub’s trainings, which will kick off this summer with the Rules of Lending (June 11). The hub will also host events including the Immerse Entrepreneurial Summit (Sept. 26) and Flint & Genesee Business Bridge Expo (Oct. 24); details for each will be provided this fall.






Businesses that would like to connect with the hub can get started at DevelopFlintandGenesee.org/hub.



Affiliate location at the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce

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Entertainment News	(88)
Events	(776)
Faith	(66)
Family and Kids	(243)
Flint Water Crisis	(125)
Headlines (2,470)	
Health and Wellness	(945)
Holiday	(98)
Local Elections	(100)
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Travel	(5)
Uncategorized	(41)
US News	(217)
Weekly Religious Notes	(446)
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April 2024

March 2024

February 2024

January 2024

December 2023

November 2023

October 2023

September 2023

August 2023

July 2023

June 2023

May 2023

April 2023

March 2023

February 2023

January 2023

December 2022

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September 2022

August 2022

July 2022

June 2022

May 2022

April 2022

March 2022

February 2022

January 2022

December 2021

November 2021

October 2021

September 2021

August 2021

July 2021

June 2021

May 2021

April 2021

March 2021

February 2021

January 2021

December 2020

November 2020

October 2020

September 2020

August 2020

July 2020

June 2020

May 2020

April 2020

March 2020

February 2020

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- December 2019**
- November 2019**
- October 2019**
- September 2019**
- August 2019**
- July 2019**
- June 2019**
- May 2019**
- April 2019**
- March 2019**
- February 2019**
- January 2019**
- December 2018**
- November 2018**
- October 2018**
- September 2018**
- August 2018**
- July 2018**
- June 2018**
- May 2018**
- April 2018**
- March 2018**
- December 2017**
- November 2017**
- October 2017**
- February 2016**
- October 2015**
- August 2015**
- July 2015**
- June 2015**
- May 2015**
- April 2015**

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January 2015

December 2014

November 2014

October 2014

September 2014

August 2014

July 2014

June 2014

May 2014

April 2014

March 2014

January 2014

November 2012

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Beauty

Business

Church News

Classified Job Postings

Community

Editor's Picks

Education

Entertainment News

Events

Faith

Family and Kids

Flint Water Crisis

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Opinion

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Social Security Tips

Sports

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Technology

Travel

Uncategorized

US News

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Women

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Money	(17)
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Obituaries	(13)
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Opinion	(67)
Political News	(31)
Recipes and Food	(127)
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Statewide News	(5)
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The inspirations and ideas for the Courier newspaper grew out of the need to provide a voice for the ecumenical community. The Courier is respected as one of the oldest and most prestigious newspapers in this region, serving this community for over 40 years.

Contact us: theFlintCourierNews@gmail.com

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