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



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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

Hamlet added: "That's where the Flint & Genesee Smale 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.



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 $1-4\,\mathrm{p.m.}$

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

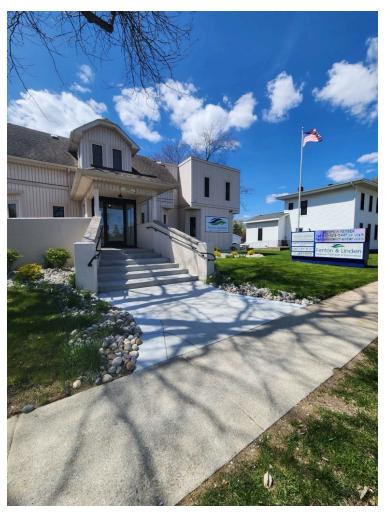
Hours: Mondays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

City of Swartz Creek Paul D. Buche Municipal
Building

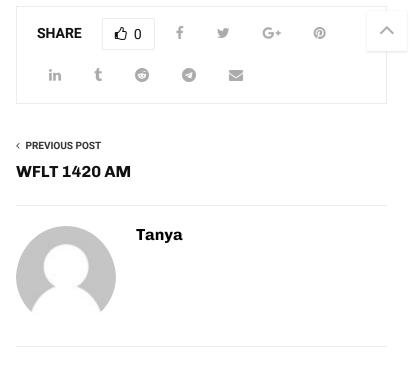
 Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commer 104 S. Adelaide St., Fenton 48430
Hours: Mondays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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.



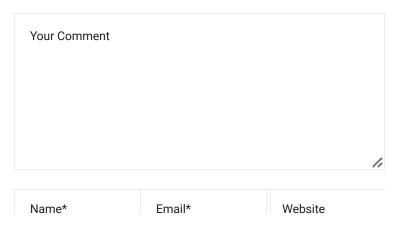
Affiliate location at the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce



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Greater Flint African American Sports Hall of Fame (GFAASHOF) to announce its Class 2024 Inductees.

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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.

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