

Airtech Heating secures grant for business growth

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Subtitle: 1) PHOTO: Airtech Heating of Huron County received a \$7,552 Small Business Grant to invest in software, training, office organization and equipment protection to support continued business growth. (Lacey Dhyse/Courtesy Photo)

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Airtech Heating of Huron County LLC has been awarded a grant that will help accelerate the company's growth through investments in customer service software, employee training, office organization and equipment protection.

The Eastern Michigan Small Business Network recently announced the recipients of its 2026 Small Business Grant, with six Huron County businesses receiving a combined \$37,141 in funding.

"We're shocked and super grateful for the generosity of the grant," said Lacey Dhyse, office manager at Airtech Heating. "It has allowed us to get these items sooner than we may have been able to. They're not emergency items that we needed right now, but by being awarded the grant, it will assist in accelerating the growth and overall success of the company."

More than 400 small businesses across Region 6 -- which includes Shiawassee, Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties -- applied for 2026 grant funding. That total included 75 applications from businesses in Huron County.

Airtech Heating of Huron County LLC received \$7,552.94 through the grant program. The funding will be used to improve efficiency, enhance customer experience and extend the lifespan of tools and vehicles, allowing the HVAC business to build on its steady growth and recent expansion in downtown Kinde.

Airtech Heating is an HVAC company entering its 10th year in business, offering heating, cooling, geothermal and indoor air quality systems. The business was founded by Adam Dubs, who has more than 15 years of experience in the HVAC industry.

Since its founding, Airtech has grown from a one-person operation to six full-time employees. The company recently purchased and renovated a historic building in downtown Kinde to serve as its headquarters.

With the grant funding, Airtech invested in several upgrades designed to support long-term growth and operational efficiency.

Grant-funded purchases

Through the grant, Airtech invested in the Trane Comfort Specialist Program, which includes Podium Pro software and JB Warranties extended coverage. The program

provides AI-powered customer communication tools, online management and payment portals, employee training resources and sales incentives. It also allows Airtech to offer extended warranties to customers, helping reduce unexpected repair costs while improving customer confidence.

The funding also allowed the business to purchase an industrial storage credenza to better organize customer files, records and important documents. The addition is expected to improve accuracy, efficiency and day-to-day office operations.

Additionally, Airtech installed a Knapheide powered roll-up bed cover on a service truck used daily. The cover protects tools and equipment from weather and wear, saves time on service calls and reduces long-term equipment replacement costs.

More about the Eastern Michigan Small Business Network

The Eastern Michigan Small Business Network operates the grant program using funding from a Michigan Economic Development Corporation Small Business Support Hub grant supported by the state's American Rescue Plan. The initiative expands Michigan Small Business Development Center services across six counties, providing coaching, mentoring, access to capital and intensive support through the region's Entrepreneurial Cohort Program.

The 2026 Small Business Grant program is administered by the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County in partnership with Region 6 economic development organizations and the Michigan Small Business Development Center. For-profit businesses meeting U.S. Small Business Administration size standards were eligible to apply, with funding available for equipment, inventory, software, consulting and training.

Samantha Schnettler, executive director of the Huron County Economic Development Corporation, said grant recipients were selected through a competitive, anonymous review process that prioritized projects with strong economic and community impact, demonstrated business stability and clear growth potential. Because the grants are reimbursement-based, projects also had to show they could be completed quickly, with all spending finalized by Feb. 28.

In Huron County alone, 75 businesses applied for funding, requesting more than \$920,000, highlighting both the demand for the program and the breadth of local business growth plans supported through the Eastern Michigan Small Business Network and its regional partners.

For more information about the Eastern Michigan Small Business Network or the grant program, prospective applicants may contact the Economic Development Alliance at 810-982-9511 and ask for Kanchan Wankhede or Stacy Elliott.

For more information about Airtech Heating of Huron County, contact them at 989-551-6555 or visit their Facebook page.

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