



## Financial Capital Resources for IL Women-Owned Businesses & Future Female Founders

*powered by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)  
as of March 2023*

The [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#), is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs, overall marginalized owned businesses, across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OMEE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth. This investment spurs local economic development in underserved areas resulting in a revitalized and thriving Illinois economy. Click [here](#) to get connected with Team OMEE.

Sign-up for e-updates from the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at DCEO by visiting <https://bit.ly/3Iphbpi> to receive updates for your business. Contact Women's Business Development Manager Michelle Lura White at [Michelle.White@illinois.gov](mailto:Michelle.White@illinois.gov) with any questions.

The [Office of Regional Economic Development \(Team RED\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#), lives and works in the communities they serve and are charged with facilitating economic development efforts in their regions, in addition to providing communities with front-line access to state programs and services. Team RED serves as an Economic Development Concierge for the State of Illinois. To help provide localized assistance, the State of Illinois is divided into 10 economic development regions. Download a copy of the Illinois Economic Development Regional [map](#) and [contacts](#).

Sign up for a e-newsletter from the Office of Regional Economic Development (RED) at DCEO by visiting <https://bit.ly/41s1erV> or contact Office of Regional Economic Development team member Kala Lambert at [Kala.Lambert@illinois.gov](mailto:Kala.Lambert@illinois.gov) with any questions.

# State of Illinois Government

## Grants

### ❖ [Grantee Resource Site](#)

DCEO's Grantee Resource Site explains how to prepare to receive a grant and how to be successful.

### ❖ [Apply for Funding](#)

Browse DCEO's current grant programs that are accepting applications.

### ❖ [OMEE Business Resource Library](#)

Learning how to prepare for grant opportunities is among featured business resources in the OMEE Business Resource Library. As content is presented through videos, slides are also included. The OMEE Business Resource Library is presented by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Small Business Development Center (IL SBDC) Network at DCEO.

## Loans

### ❖ [Advantage Illinois – FAME: Fund for the Advancement of Minority Enterprises](#)

Advantage Illinois is a participating loan program which provides funding for loans where borrowers have difficulty accessing traditional funding sources. DCEO takes subordinate position thereby reducing the lender's risk. The rate for DCEO's portion of loan is 2% less than lender.

As an extension of the Advantage Illinois loan program, the Fund for the Advancement of Minority Enterprises (FAME) which is offered by the state of Illinois, provides loans to minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned businesses.

Maximum participation is the lesser of:

- 50% of the project (all sources of funding), 50% of the loan, or \$400,000
- maximum term 7 years
- rate fixed at 2%
- With each \$65,000 participated, one full time job should be created (*it's preferred*) or retained in the next 2 years.

### ❖ [Business Invest](#)

The Office of the Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs partners with approved financial institutions to provide business loans -- either lower rate loans, or loans to a business or non-profit that would not otherwise qualify -- to facilitate capital to underserved communities. This provides an opportunity for the Treasurer's Office to stimulate business growth and economic activity while earning a competitive return for the state.

#### ❖ [Ag Invest](#)

Through a commitment to Ag Invest, the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs partners with approved financial institutions to provide qualified farmers, agri-business and agriculture professionals below-market rate loans to start, expand or add value to their farm operations. The loans provided by the financial institution can be used for the purchase of farm equipment, purchase of land, construction-related expenses, provide operating lines of credit or other costs related to conventional or sustainable farming.

#### ❖ [Equity Agriculture Programs](#)

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has identified programs at both the state and federal level which either specifically support socially disadvantaged farmers, or which can be utilized by socially disadvantaged farmers. These programs offer options in commercial, large-scale agriculture as well as small-scale urban agriculture, agribusiness, and food programs.

### **Incentives & Tax Assistance and Funds**

#### ❖ [Incentives and Tax Assistance](#)

Illinois offers a competitive range of incentives for locating and expanding your business, including tax credits and exemptions that encourage business growth and job creation. Additional grant programs and access to loans can assist your business with working capital, machinery and equipment, land acquisition, building construction and public infrastructure improvements. And for those looking to invest in Illinois companies, early-stage investment incentives are also available.

#### ❖ [Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund \(ILGIFT\)](#)

##### *for technology-enabled businesses*

The Office of Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs makes targeted investments with venture capital, growth equity, and private venture debt funds that invest in technology-enabled businesses and are either based in Illinois or possess a significant workforce in Illinois. Tech-enabled businesses can be situated in industries such as, but not limited to: agricultural tech, bio tech, consumer tech, financial services tech, green tech, health care tech, logistics tech, manufacturing tech, and services tech.

### **Business Advising & Consulting (*at no-cost*)**

#### ❖ [The Illinois Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)](#)

Providing at no-cost, confidential one-on-one business advising, the Illinois Small Business Development Centers (IL SBDCs) are centers located across the state. Assistance with accessing business financing programs, advising with financial analysis, and planning, and much more is offered. The IL SBDC network also provide specialized services in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurial development. Business consultation is available to businesses of all stages/sizes/industries/etc. as well as for future owners & founders. Click [here](#) to find the nearest IL SBDC by address or zip code. For upcoming events & webinars, click [here](#).

## Financial Capital Updates

### ❖ [Online with OMEE](#)

Presented by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at DCEO, *Online with OMEE* is a monthly webinar series on the first Wednesdays of the month at 10:00 a.m. which focuses on financial capital resources. Team OMEE shares the latest financial resources across the sectors along with federal and state programs, and other opportunities for business owners & entrepreneurs while taking attendees' questions in English & Spanish during the 1-hour virtual event.

## Additional Financial Capital Resources

Below is not a complete list of all the financial capital resources (*hubs/grants/loans/crowdfunding platforms/investors/tax incentives/funds/financial education & tools/etc.*) available to Illinois business owners & entrepreneurs and future founders. The below listed financial capital resources is not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products, or services of any the below entities.

### **Hubs** (*includes grants & loans*)

#### ❖ [Women's Entrepreneurs Hub](#)

The Illinois based Women's Entrepreneurs Hub is tailored to Black & Latinx women founders & women in low-wage roles who are thinking about starting a business; however, many of their resources including financial capital such as grants, are applicable to women founders from all backgrounds. Additional features include resources on financial literacy, taxes, and financial tracking. Presented resources are curated at three different business stage levels and are regional based; all resources are offered by Illinois organizations committed to helping women business owners and entrepreneurs along with future female founders. The Women's Entrepreneurs Hub is powered by the national non-profit, Women Employed, which is based in Illinois.

#### ❖ [Founders Resource Hub](#)

The Illinois based Founders Resource Hub is tailored to underrepresented Chicagoland tech founders; however, many of their resources including financial capital such as grants, are applicable to founders in different industries and outside Chicagoland as well. Additional financial resources include information regarding pitch competitions and funds & venture capital. The Founders Resource Hub is powered by Techrise, which is a multi-stakeholder initiative of Illinois based P33 to support historically underrepresented tech founders from Chicago.

#### ❖ [ChiBizHub](#)

The Chicago-based ChiBizHub matches business owners with a Chicagoland organization who can provide free help in finding financing from grants, loans, etc. ChiBizHub is powered by Allies for Community Business (A4CB) and was launched in 2018 by the City of Chicago and World Business Chicago.

## Grants

Grants are financial award assistance which you don't have to pay back to the entity (*government/non-profit/company/etc.*) who awarded you. However, there are grant opportunities which may have deliverables that the awardees must meet; check each grant opportunity for additional details. As below is a small list of grant opportunities, we encourage you to conduct your own research as well, utilize [DCEO's Grants website landing page](#), the monthly *Online with OMEE* webinar which shares the latest grant opportunities, the above hub platforms, and additional resources presented in this financial capital resources guide.

- ❖ [Grants.gov](#)  
Centralize website which lists all federal government agencies' grant opportunities
  
- ❖ [Boss Impact Fund](#)  
*for Black female founders*  
Presented by The BOSS Network, the Boss Impact Fund focuses on investing in Black women led businesses and preparing these entrepreneurs to build scalable, growth aggressive companies.
  
- ❖ [Founders First Capital Partners](#)  
Their regional & national grants are for BIPOC, female, LGBTQIA+, and military veteran business owners and for business owners located in a low-to-moderate income area.
  
- ❖ [Hello Alice](#)  
The free online platform helps businesses launch and grow, in addition to sharing grant opportunities.
  
- ❖ [IFundWomen](#)  
IFundWomen is a centralize marketplace for women-owned businesses and the people who want to support them with access to capital, coaching, and connections. The marketplace includes grant opportunities.
  
- ❖ [SoGal Black Founder Startup Grant](#)  
*for Black women & Black non-binary founders*  
SoGal Foundation has teamed up with Winky Lux, bluemercury, twelveNYC, Twilio, Walmart.org's Center for Racial Equity and other sponsors to make a small step towards progress by providing several cash grants to Black women or nonbinary entrepreneurs. Applications are rolling.
  
- ❖ [The Bank of America Access to Capital Directory](#)  
The online platform shares local and national funding sources, including grants for women entrepreneurs.

## Loans

As below is a small list of organizations (*financial institutions/non-profits/etc.*) which provide loans, we encourage you to conduct your own research too as Illinois is home to many financial institutions. For loan programs that the state of Illinois offers such as the [Advantage Illinois – FAME: Fund for the Advancement of Minority Enterprise](#), please refer to the top of this financial capital resources guide or click the above hyperlink.

### ❖ [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)

The U.S. federal agency, the Small Business Administration (SBA), features SBA loans which generally have rates and fees that are comparable to non-guaranteed loans. Some loans come with continued support to help you start and run your business. The SBA loans also offer lower down payments and flexible overhead requirements while no collateral is needed for some loans.

### ❖ [WBDC Direct Loans](#)

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) provides loans to small business owners including aspiring and established childcare entrepreneurs, who cannot get a loan from a bank. Loans are available to small businesses in Northeast Illinois with less than \$1,000,000 in annual revenue.

### ❖ [First Women's Bank](#)

The Illinois-based First Women's Bank is the only women-founded, women-owned, and women-led commercial bank in the U.S. with a strategic focus on the women's economy.

### ❖ [Kiva Chicago](#)

As the world's first personal micro-lending website, Kiva has zero percent interest microloans for those in a cash flow crunch. Kiva Chicago is managed by the Women's Business Development Center.

### ❖ [SomerCor](#)

As a mission-based, nonprofit corporation certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA), SomerCor fills in the financing gap for those businesses that face barriers to traditional loans and for those that want to preserve working capital.

### ❖ [BMO for Black and Latinx Businesses](#)

BMO helps fuel growth for Black and Latinx businesses with access to financial capital, educational resources and meaningful networking opportunities. They also provide free, 1:1 coaching regarding financial topics that are important to Black & Latinx businesses.

### ❖ [BMO for Women in Business](#)

BMO helps fuel growth for women-owned businesses with access to financial capital, educational resources and access to partnerships. They also provide free, 1:1 coaching regarding financial topics that are important to women-owned businesses.

❖ [Chase for Minority Business Owners](#)

Chase helps minority business owners in growing their businesses through accessible education, coaching and banking solutions through services such as 1:1 mentorship and programs such as [Advancing Black Entrepreneurs](#) and the [NGLCC x JPMorgan Chase & Co. program](#) for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs.

❖ [Founders First Capital Partners](#)

As they focus on businesses led by women, people of color, LGBTQ+, military veterans, as well as inclusive teams and businesses located in low to moderate income areas, they offer revenue-based financing.

❖ [Grameen America](#)

As a nonprofit microfinance organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurial women who live in poverty build small businesses to enable financial mobility, Grameen America offers microloans.

❖ [Hello Alice](#)

The free online platform helps businesses launch and grow, in addition to sharing loan programs.

❖ [IFundWomen](#)

IFundWomen is a centralized marketplace for women-owned businesses and the people who want to support them with access to capital, coaching, and connections. The marketplace includes loan programs.

❖ [Accion Opportunity Fund](#)

As a nonprofit small business lender, they offer loans in a range of sizes as well as educational resources, coaching, and support networks in English and Spanish. They also support ITIN-only borrowers.

❖ [The Tory Burch Foundation and Bank of America Capital Program](#)

The program connects women entrepreneurs with local Community Lenders, who directly provide affordable loans to eligible women entrepreneurs.

## Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is the engagement of raising small amounts of financial capital from many individuals/donors to finance a new or existing business. With each crowdfunding platform operating differently, check platform for full details. As below is a small list of crowdfunding platforms, we encourage you to conduct your own research, too.

❖ [GoFundHER](#)

*for women-owned businesses*

global crowdfunding platform for equality

❖ [IFUNDWOMEN](#)

*for women-owned businesses*

a national crowdfunding platform for women

- ❖ [10K Project](#)  
*for Black founders*  
The membership-based organization is a 100% Black-owned crowdfunding platform.
- ❖ [Crowd WallStreet](#)  
*for Black founders*  
As a Black-owned crowdfunding platform, it is a community-driven platform.
- ❖ [FundBlackFounders](#)  
*for Black founders*  
crowdfunding for Black Founders, by Black Founders
- ❖ [Seed at the Table](#)  
*for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) business owners*  
Equity crowdfunding platform committed to connecting diverse entrepreneurs with accredited and non-accredited investors
- ❖ [Seed Invest](#)  
an equity crowdfunding platform that lets individuals invest in pre-vetted startups
- ❖ [GoFundMe](#)
- ❖ [Honeycomb Credit](#)  
is a loan crowdfunding platform connecting small businesses looking for expansion loans with community members who want to support local businesses
- ❖ [Indiegogo](#)
- ❖ [Kickstarter](#)
- ❖ [Mainvest](#)
- ❖ [Wefunder](#)



## Additional Investors

As there are [different types of investors](#) including family & friends and the above crowdfunding investors, another type of investor is venture capitalists. Venture capital is a form of private equity financing for startups and business ventures with potential high growth. In exchange of funding, venture capitalists receive company ownership. As below are a small list of investor lists and investors including venture capital firms, we encourage you to conduct your own research too as Illinois is home to many investors.

### ❖ [Founders Resource Hub](#)

The IL-based Founders Resource Hub features a community-generated list of investment funds & venture capital firms focused on supporting early-stage BIPOC/Womxn founded and/or Chicago-based startups.

### ❖ [Chicago:Blend](#)

The Illinois-based non-profit which is committed to increasing diversity in Chicago's VC firms and startups, can assist eligible entrepreneurs identify potential investors through its Chicago Venture Fellows program.

### ❖ [M25](#)

list of Midwest investors, presented by Chicago-based early-stage venture firm, M25

### ❖ [Capitalize VC](#)

The Illinois-based firm is focused on investing in teams with Black and Latino founders leading the next generation of tech innovation and consumer brands.

### ❖ [Chingona Ventures](#)

The Illinois-based investment firm focuses primarily on pre-seed companies where they are raising their first institutional round of capital with focus areas in financial technology, female technology, food technology, health/wellness, and future of learning. Founded and led by Samara Mejia Hernandez, the first and only Latina venture capitalist in Illinois, with her past executive & leadership roles including Goldman Sachs and Math Venture Partners.

### ❖ [Cleveland Avenues](#)

The Illinois-based venture fund and accelerator invests in a new generation of remarkable restaurant, food tech and beverage companies. Cleveland Avenues is founded and led by African American/Black executives, husband & wife team, Don & Liz Thompson. Don was McDonald's first Black CEO & Liz who was trained as an electric engineer, was a career-long education & non-profit executive.

### ❖ [Female Founders Fund](#)

is an early-stage fund investing in the next generation of transformational technology companies

### ❖ [Fearless Fund](#)

Fearless Fund invests in women of color led businesses seeking pre-seed, seed level or series A financing. Our mission is to bridge the gap in venture capital funding for women of color founders building scalable, growth aggressive companies. Fearless Fund is built by women of color for women of color.

- ❖ **[Fil-Kor](#)**  
As the first Pan-Asian American women firm in the U.S. to empower Asian Americans to build enduring companies, the Illinois-based firm is focused on Asian-American women entrepreneurs. Founded by managing partner Filipino American Maria Odiamar Racho, Maria founded Allstate's grassroots corporate incubator and employee resource group, Intrapreneurs@Allstate (I@A).
- ❖ **[Illinois Ventures](#)**  
They manage both return-focused venture funds and an evergreen fund for seed-stage tech startups from the University of Illinois System.
- ❖ **[Impact Engine](#)**  
Illinois-based Impact Engine focuses on early-stage and late-stage software or software-enabled services companies.
- ❖ **[Invest HER Ventures](#)**  
Founded and led by women, the Illinois-based investment firm focuses on early stage, data driven technology companies with B2B components in untapped markets which also have at least one female executive with equity interest.
- ❖ **[Kinzie Capital Partners, LLC](#)**  
Kinzie Capital Partners, LLC invests in lower middle market companies amidst transition in the manufactured products, business services and consumer industries. The Illinois-based firm is co-founded & led by Asian Americans Suzanne Yoon and David Namkung. In 2019, *The Wall Street Journal* recognized Suzanne as a Top Female Deal Maker Shaping Private Equity's Present and Future. Prior to co-founding Kinzie Capital Partners, David founded and managed Clarity Partners, a high growth management and technology consulting firm.
- ❖ **[S2G Ventures](#)**  
National investors with an office in Illinois, they invest in companies that are mainstreaming the transition through clean energy generation and decarbonation of the mobility, industrial, and built environment sectors.
- ❖ **[Serra Ventures](#)**  
Founded in Champaign, Illinois, Serra Ventures focused on early-stage growth companies that have a strong patent or technology advantage along with other preferred characteristics.

## Incentives & Funding Opportunities

### ❖ [Smart Energy Design Assistance Center's \(SEDAC\) Resources](#)

#### *for clean energy companies*

List of federal and state of Illinois funding and incentive programs for clean energy companies presented by Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) which is a research program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a public-private partnership with 360 Energy Group in Chicago

### ❖ [Black Founders Fund](#)

The Google for Startups Black Founders Fund provides non-dilutive cash awards to Black led startups who have participated in their programs or have been nominated by their partner community or a previous recipient. Click [here](#) for additional information and to sign-up for alerts when the 2023 fund opens.

### ❖ [Latino Founders Fund](#)

The Google for Startups Latino Founders Fund offers cash awards (without asking for equity) as well as Google Cloud credits and hands-on support to help Latino entrepreneurs build and grow their businesses. Click [here](#) for additional information and to sign-up for alerts when the 2023 fund opens.

## Financial Education and Tools

### ❖ [OMEE Business Resource Library](#)

Learning how to prepare for grant opportunities and how to file for taxes as a business are among featured business resources in the OMEE Business Resource Library. As content is presented through videos featuring leaders from Illinois' small-medium business & entrepreneurial ecosystem, slides are also included. The OMEE Business Resource Library is presented by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Small Business Development Center (IL SBDC) Network at DCEO.

### ❖ [Illinois Small Business Development Centers \(IL SBDCs\)](#)

Assistance with accessing business financing programs, help with financial analysis and planning, and much more is offered at no-cost throughout Illinois by the Illinois Small Business Development Centers which offer confidential, one-on-one business advising. Business consultation is available to businesses of all stages/sizes/industries/etc. as well as for future owners & founders. Click [here](#) to find the nearest IL SBDC by address or zip code. For upcoming events & webinars, click [here](#).

### ❖ [The Illinois Minority Business Development Agency \(IL MBDA\) Business Center](#)

Assisting minority business enterprises (MBEs) with securing financial capital is available at no-cost (free) through the Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (IL MBDA) Business Center which is operated by Strategic Exceptions Professional Consulting Inc. The IL MBDA Business Center is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Minority Business Development Agency. In addition to providing assistance securing capital, they provide additional services to English & Spanish speakers.

- ❖ [Chicago Venture Fellows](#)  
Presented by Chicago:Blend, the Chicago Venture Fellows is a four-month cohort program for underrepresented, aspiring VCs to gain valuable experience sourcing and evaluating deal flow while expanding their networks and their knowledge of VC. Click [here](#) to join the waitlist to receive information about the Fall 2023 application when it opens later this year.
- ❖ [Ascent](#)  
The U.S. federal agency, the Small Business Administration (SBA), offers a free learning online platform for women entrepreneurs which is called Ascent. As the platform features different educational journeys, one of the journeys is focused on financial capital which helps you understand the appropriate funding for your women-owned business, including familiarity of debt and equity. Additional topics include banking relationships and how to put together a funding pitch.
- ❖ [SBA's Events & Webinars](#)  
As the U.S. federal agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA), hosts virtual events & webinars throughout the week and in different time zones, check out their financial capital resources webinars.
- ❖ [SBA-Fund Your Business](#)
- ❖ [ChiBizHub](#)  
The centralized hub powered by Allies for Community Business (A4CB) matches business owners with Chicagoland organizations who can provide free help to capture wealth for businesses
- ❖ [Women's Business Development Center \(WBDC\)](#)  
The Illinois-based women's economic development non-profit which serves a nine-state Midwest region, features an Access to Capital Program among its many programs and services. This helps business owners achieve their business goals by providing capital preparation services, business financial education and direct lending.
- ❖ [YWCA Metropolitan Chicago](#)  
The YWCA Metropolitan Chicago along with its partners offer a financially inclusive suite of programs that provide one-on-one coaching and training on topics such as improving credit rating and decreasing debts credit, budgeting tools and techniques for better money management, and much more.
- ❖ [National Association of Women Business Owners' \(NAWBO\) Resource Center](#)  
Business resources such as an accounting guide for small businesses are presented on the National Association of Women Business Owners' (NAWBO) Resource Center page. NAWBO which has two chapters in Illinois, is the unified voice of over 10 million women-owned businesses in the United States representing the fastest growing segment of the economy.

- ❖ [First Women's Bank](#)  
As the Illinois-based bank is the only women-founded, women-owned and women-led commercial bank in the U.S. with a strategic focus on the women's economy, the First Women's Bank's Resource Center offers everything from clickable demos of their online and mobile banking platforms, to hiring tips for your business.
- ❖ [BMO for Women in Business](#)  
They offer free, 30-minute, one-on-one coaching sessions with a BMO Harris banker for advice on financial topics that matter to women-owned businesses.
- ❖ [The Bank of America Access to Capital Directory](#)  
The online platform features financial educational and funding opportunities for women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ [The Tory Burch Foundation and Bank of America Capital Program](#)  
The online platform features financial educational for women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ [IFundWomen Crowdfunding eCourse](#)  
Designed with early-stage entrepreneurs in mind, this FREE e-course will teach you how to use the IFundWomen Method to hone your pitch, map your network, strategically estimate your fundraising goal, market to your target audience, and design rewards that sell.
- ❖ [Female Founders Fund's Resources](#)  
They present resources on venture capital, fundraising & pitching, term sheets, and much more.
- ❖ [Accion Opportunity Fund's Resource Center](#)  
As a nonprofit small business lender, their Resource Center offers a variety of financial literacy articles as well as trainings on different topics including trainings in Spanish.
- ❖ [SCORE](#)  
As a nonprofit organization that is driven to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and educational workshops, they offer a variety of financial literacy trainings and resources to women-owned businesses.
- ❖ [Founders First Capital Partners](#)  
They provide information about raising funds for your growing company. Founders First Capital Partners support businesses led by women, people of color, LGBTQ+, military veterans, as well as inclusive teams and businesses located in low to moderate income areas.
- ❖ [Money Smart Financial Education](#)  
Presented by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the FDIC's Money Smart financial education program can help people of all ages enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships.
- ❖ [Wells Fargo Small Business Resources](#)  
Their content includes creating a cash flow projection and balance sheet basics.

❖ [Entrepreneur-Money & Finance](#)

*Entrepreneur* magazine's money & finance content includes buying & investing in businesses, accounting, debt, refinancing, cryptocurrency / blockchain, and more.

❖ [Arlan's Academy](#)

Entrepreneurs and leaders share their experiences through video courses (*some courses aren't free*) such as how to raise startup capital. Arlan's Academy is powered by Backstage Capital, a fund that invests in underestimated founders.

❖ [Coursera](#)

a global online learning platform that collaborates with universities who provide content including financial capital resources

❖ [Khan Academy](#)

a nonprofit with the mission to provide a free, world-class education which includes financial capital resources

❖ [Udemy](#)

an online learning and teaching platform which includes financial capital resources

***for minority, women, persons with disabilities, veteran-owned, and LGBTQIA+ businesses owners & entrepreneurs***

❖ [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fearless Fund VC Summit | August 18-19, 2023](#)

The hybrid experience is tailored toward Women of Color about venture capital and entrepreneurship and is presented by the Fearless Fund.

❖ [BMO for Black and Latinx Businesses](#)

They offer free, 30-minute, one-on-one coaching sessions with a BMO Harris banker for advice on financial topics that matter to Black and Latinx-owned businesses.

❖ [Chase for Minority Business Owners](#)

***For minority and LGBTQ+ business owners***

Chase helps minority business owners in growing their businesses through accessible education, coaching and banking solutions through services such as 1:1 mentorship and programs such as [Advancing Black Entrepreneurs](#) and the [NGLCC x JPMorgan Chase & Co. program](#) for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs.

❖ [SoGal Academy](#)

***for women and diverse entrepreneurs***

The donation-based online platform offers webinars such as breaking into venture capital. SoGal Academy is presented by the SoGal Foundation which is largest global platform for diverse entrepreneurs and investors that provides resources, education, and community for a 100K+ person network with chapters in 50+ cities across 5 continents around the world.

- ❖ [Advancing Black Entrepreneurs](#)  
*for African American/Black entrepreneurs*  
Financial literacy sessions such as the power of capital and navigating your cash flow are presented in the Advancing Black Entrepreneurs – a collection of practical resources to help Black business owners grow and scale their business. Presented by the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., in partnership with Chase for Business, Black Enterprise, the National Urban League, and the National Minority Supplier Development Council.
- ❖ [Resources for AAPI Small Business Owners](#)  
*for Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI)-owned businesses*  
Presented by the national Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE), ACE features financial literacy resources for AAPI-owned businesses including for AAPI women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ [Unlocking Access to Capital Resource Guide](#)  
*for Black/Brown women-owned businesses*  
The guide which is developed by the national non-profit Black Girl Ventures and empowered by Visa, was developed to help Black/Brown women-owned businesses unlock access to capital and much more.
- ❖ [Funding Your Business as a Latino Immigrant](#)  
*for Latino immigrant business owners and future business owners*  
A review of funding options as presented by Bankrate and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC)
- ❖ [NGLCC x JPMorgan Chase & Co](#)  
*for LGBTQ entrepreneurs*  
Presented by the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, the chamber along with their partner [J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.](#) offer free Chase for Business educational courses designed to help LGBTQ entrepreneurs grow and scale their businesses. From navigating your cash flow to marketing in a digital world, these guided sessions focus on addressing immediate and long-term financial needs and building resiliency.
- ❖ [Taking Pride in Financial Literacy: Safe Resources for LGBTQ+ Financial Education](#)  
*for LGBTQ+ owned businesses*  
*Forbes* advisor contributor E. Napoletano includes resources for LGBTQ+ business owners & entrepreneurs in the article.
- ❖ [Financial Education & Resources](#)  
*for LGBTQ-owned businesses*  
The non-profit, The Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research, provides access to LGBTQ-affirming financial workshops, counseling, and self-help resources for consumers, families, and communities.