

Our office serves small businesses, startups and entrepreneurs start and grow.

Launch Minnesota, the **Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)**, **Small Business Assistance**, **Community Partnerships** and **Child Care**.

2025 END-OF-YEAR RECAP

STATE SNAPSHOT

Small Businesses. Big Impact.

Small Businesses:

- ★ Comprise **99% of Businesses**
- ★ **Employ 53%** of full time employees
- ★ Contribute to **34% of state revenue**



Intellectual Property Secured- 1st in the Midwest

Secured nearly 3,800 patents and ranked 5th per capita nationally



Business Applications Highest on Record

(Jan–Nov), up 7.5% from 2024



Venture Capital Investments

2024: \$1.7B across 151 deals (up from 2023)

2025 (first 3 quarters): \$630M across 109 deal



EXPLORE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN YOUR COUNTY

Discover the state of entrepreneurship in the [Minnesota County Entrepreneurship Index](#). This interactive dashboard highlights key county data on innovation, equity, and economic vibrancy, offering insights to guide local growth.

BY THE NUMBERS



Access to Capital

\$29+ million of funding deployed to startups, small businesses, childcare facilities and organizations to support small businesses.



Improved Connectivity between Businesses & Resources

Worked with **1000+** grantees, **40+** support organizations, **25** higher education institutions, **41** corporate innovators, and **35+** investors.



Expanded Capacity for Businesses to Start and Scale

About **23,000+** entrepreneurs and businesses received technical assistance, **25,000+** jobs created or retained, over **\$140 million** of capital accessed.





TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS



Showcased and Celebrated Small Businesses through visits and roundtable discussions during the *Season of Small Business*, highlighting their role in building thriving communities.



Brought Together Corporate Innovation Leaders from U.S. Bank, Allianz Life, 3M, Cargill, Polaris, Solventum, and other Minnesota corporations to accelerate the state's startup ecosystem.



Convened Regional Leaders and Businesses: Hosted strategic meetings across the state with UMN Extension and Humphrey School Fullbright Scholars to strengthen regional economic development and innovation.



Increased Child Care Capacity by an estimated 2,385 childcare slots across all categories to support working families.



Revitalized Main Streets: 22 partner organizations received funds for 43 projects. The program secured \$45 million in matching funds, increased the local tax base by \$32 million, and created or retained 574 jobs.



Invested in Tech Startups: Invested \$630,000 in Launch MN innovation grants to 25 startups. Past grantees have collectively raised \$324 million post-award, delivering a \$33 Return on Investment.



Supported Business Navigation: Small Business Assistance team provided critical guidance, referrals and resources to over 8,500 entrepreneurs navigating regulatory, financial and other inquiries.



Provided No-Cost Consulting: Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) consulted over 4,700 businesses statewide, helped them access \$141,520,514 in capital, and created and retained over 13,500 full time employees.



Supported Equity and Opportunity: In partnership with Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) and the Minnesota Initiative Foundations, the **PROMISE grant program** awarded \$16 million to 929 businesses.



Activated the Higher Education Network to engage public and private colleges and universities, strengthening the talent pipeline and fueling the startup ecosystem.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

- ➔ MN Monthly [Small Business Call](#) (2nd Tuesday at 2pm)
- ➔ [Statewide Calendar](#) for Startups and Small Businesses
- ➔ Interactive [Funding Matrix](#)
- ➔ [Digital Guidebook](#) to Starting a Business in MN

- ➔ Find your local [Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#)
- ➔ [Startup Showcase](#)
- ➔ [Monthly Newsletter](#)
- ➔ Reach out to [local partners](#)



**EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AND INNOVATION



mn.gov/deed/dobusiness/smallbusiness

If you have any questions, please contact:
Smallbusiness@state.mn.us
800-310-8323