

MINNESOTA EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR LOAN PROGRAM



The Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program (ELP) supports the growth of businesses owned and operated by minorities, low-income persons, women, veterans and/or persons with disabilities. DEED provides funds to a network of nonprofit lenders which use these funds for loans to start-up and expanding businesses throughout the state. Additional program goals are to provide jobs for minority and/or low-income persons, create and strengthen minority business enterprises, and promote economic development in low-income areas.

ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS

- Term loans available to new and existing businesses
- Must be at least 51% owned and operated by one or more qualifying Minnesotans:
 - Minorities
 - Low-Income Persons
 - Women
 - Veterans
 - Persons with Disabilities
- ELP funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$150,000
- Lenders set terms and rates not to exceed 4% over the Wall Street Journal prime rate
- Private matching funds in the form of debt or equity are required for projects that are not beginning microenterprises
- Some industry limitations exist, including restrictions on the age and size of retail businesses
- Certain lenders offer alternative financing, such as buy/sell arrangements

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- \$6.8 million allocated to certified lenders throughout Minnesota
- Balanced lending between Greater Minnesota and Twin Cities Metro
- \$5.3 million loaned to 188 eligible borrowers through February 2021
- \$34.2 million in additional funding to ELP loan recipients
- Borrowers expect to create more than 700 new jobs

HOW TO APPLY

Contact one of the certified lenders found at mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/elp

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Email us at ELP@state.mn.us or call ELP's Program Administrator, Drew Lindorfer, at 651-259-7450

PARTNERING TO HELP MINNESOTA'S DIVERSE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THRIVE.

mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs