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 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