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# Small Business Grants

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Grants Available to Assists  
Numerous Types of Small  
Businesses in New York State

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**Table of Contents**

**General Grants.....2**

**Technology Grants.....5**

**Manufacturing Grants.....10**

**Energy Efficiency Grants.....14**

**Agricultural Grants.....16**

**Other Grants.....17**

## **General - Grant offered to states to distribute amongst small businesses State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Pilot Grant Initiative**

“The State Trade and Export Promotion Grant (STEP) Pilot Grant Initiative will provide grants to states for small business exporting assistance programs. The aim of the STEP Initiative is to increase the number of small businesses that are exporting and increase the value of exports for those small businesses that are currently exporting. These goals build on the President’s National Export Initiative which is working to double U.S. exports and give America a stronger competitive edge in the global market.

For more information, please e-mail [STEP@sba.gov](mailto:STEP@sba.gov)

### **Program Announcement OIT-STEP-2012-01**

On March 27, 2012, SBA announced the opening of the second round of grant competition under the STEP Program. The STEP Program Announcement is now posted at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). The application period will be March 27, 2012 through May 17, 2012. Awards will be issued by September 30, 2012.

The STEP Program is a pilot grant initiative, authorized for three years under the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. The Act authorizes award of up to \$90 million in grants over three fiscal years, with up to \$30 million to be awarded each year. The 50 states, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa (‘States’) are eligible to apply for competitively awarded grants covering the period October 2012 – September 2013. (For each State, only the single state agency that has been officially designated as sole entity responsible for conducting that State’s trade and export activities, may apply.) Individual State project award amounts will vary based on each State’s proposed project plan and budget. In fiscal year 2011, SBA awarded 52 grants totaling \$30 million. The average value of awards was \$577,000.

### **Eligible Applicants**

The Small Business Jobs Act clearly states that the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Pilot Grant funds must be awarded to States. Therefore, an eligible applicant is a State entity.

In accordance with 2 CFR Part 225 (OMB Circular A-87), Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments, “State” means any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of a State exclusive of local governments (i.e., subject to the unilateral control of the State).”

Also, an eligible applicant is any agency that has been officially designated by a State as being the sole entity responsible for conducting the State’s trade and export activities prior to the date of application submission for a STEP grant. The organizational structure of the State’s designated international trade agency must show an official agency relationship with the State Government, and the State must provide financial backing and show support for grant activities.

## **General**

### **Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)**

#### **Competitive Opportunity for Small Business**

SBIR targets the entrepreneurial sector because that is where most innovation and innovators thrive. However, the risk and expense of conducting serious R&D efforts are often beyond the means of many small businesses. By reserving a specific percentage of federal R&D funds for small business, SBIR protects the small business and enables it to compete on the same level as larger businesses. SBIR funds the critical startup and development stages and it encourages the commercialization of the technology, product, or service, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy.

Since its enactment in 1982, as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act, SBIR has helped thousands of small businesses to compete for federal research and development awards. Their contributions have enhanced the nation's defense, protected our environment, advanced health care, and improved our ability to manage information and manipulate data.

#### **SBIR Qualifications:**

Small businesses must meet certain eligibility criteria to participate in the SBIR program.

- American-owned and independently operated
- For-profit
- Principal researcher employed by business
- Company size limited to 500 employees

#### **Three-Phase Program:**

Following submission of proposals, agencies make SBIR awards based on small business qualification, degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. Small businesses that receive awards then begin a three-phase program.

- Phase I is the startup phase. Awards of up to \$100,000 for approximately 6 months support exploration of the technical merit or feasibility of an idea or technology.
- Phase II awards of up to \$750,000, for as many as 2 years, expand Phase I results. During this time, the R&D work is performed and the developer evaluates commercialization potential. Only Phase I award winners are considered for Phase II.
- Phase III is the period during which Phase II innovation moves from the laboratory into the marketplace. No SBIR funds support this phase. The small business must find funding in the private sector or other non-SBIR federal agency funding.

**SBA Role:**

The US Small Business Administration plays an important role as the coordinating agency for the SBIR program. It directs the 11 agencies' implementation of SBIR, reviews their progress, and reports annually to Congress on its operation. SBA is also the information link to SBIR. SBA collects solicitation information from all participating agencies and publishes it quarterly in a Pre-Solicitation Announcement (PSA). The PSA is a single source for the topics and anticipated release and closing dates for each agency's solicitations.

**For more information on the SBIR Program, please contact: US Small Business Administration Office of Technology 409 Third Street, SW Washington, DC 20416 (202) 205-6450**

All of SBA's programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis

**Technology  
Business Development fund  
Potential Benefit**

Applicants may receive an equity investment from the BDF of up to \$200,000 in two phases:

- Phase I investment up to \$50,000
- Phase II investment up to \$150,000

Funding of each phase is subject to a separate due diligence and approval process. Phase II funding is not automatic.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Any for-profit, technology based business may apply.

Additional requirements also apply, including, but not limited to the following:

- Match funding equal to investment required
- Principal must devote at least 50% time to the company for Phase I and 100% for Phase II

**General Information**

The BDF provides seed capital to technology entrepreneurs and start-up companies in Western New York. It was create to help stimulate and support early entrepreneurial efforts.

The BDF is managed by Insyte Consulting, a company of the Western New York Technology Development Center, Inc. It is funded through a partnership of the Empire State Development Corporation, the Erie County Industrial Development Agency, the University at Buffalo Foundation and the TDC Foundation.

To apply, contact Insyte Consulting and submit a business plan to: [jmcgowan@insyte-consulting.com](mailto:jmcgowan@insyte-consulting.com). Once a business plan has been submitted, applicants can expect a definitive decision within 1-2 months.

Only applicant companies having exceptional potential may be selected by BDF for investment.

**For more information contact:**  
WNY Business Development Fund  
726 Exchange Street, Suite 620  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
Phone: 716-636-3626  
Fax: 716-845-6418  
Email: [jmcgowan@insyte-consulting.com](mailto:jmcgowan@insyte-consulting.com)

## **Technology**

### **Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) Grants**

#### **Potential Benefit**

- Funding of up to \$150,000 to support the development of new biomedical and bioengineering technologies and/or devices (this is a maximum; a typical CAT grant is \$50,000).

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Researchers and entrepreneurs who need assistance with technology and related business development, relating to biometrics and bioengineering, are eligible for funds.
- Projects are selected for funding based on scientific and technical merit and potential economic impact.
- Additionally, projects require a cash contribution from a New York-based company as a prerequisite for funding; corporate sponsor funds are to match grant funds at a 5:1 ratio (5 corporate dollars for every CAT dollar).

#### **General Information**

The CAT is designed to fund any biomedical technology or bioengineering device with application in the medical field that can ultimately enhance the clinical care of patients or aid in the training of medical personnel. The program helps to foster the creation of new biotech start-up companies and help existing biomedical businesses expand through new or improved product lines.

Eligible entities should download the CAT Project Application, which can be found via the link below. Applications are reviewed on an annual basis. Proposals for consideration are due in April of each year, and funding begins in July of that year.

**For more information on how to apply for the Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) Grants please Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330.**

**For questions and to submit the form, please contact:**

Cathy M. Buyea  
UB CAT Deputy Director  
Office: (716) 829-2561  
Email: [buyea@buffalo.edu](mailto:buyea@buffalo.edu)

**Technology**  
**Small Business Technology Investment Fund**  
**Potential Benefit**

Available grant funding; between 200,000 and 500,000

- Applicants must invest 3 times the funding they are to receive, resulting in a 3 to 1 ratio.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Proposals will be accepted from:

- Companies with well-protected intellectual property. Interested in all technologies, the Fund has invested in software, biotechnology, electronics, optics, telecommunications, and materials science, concentrating its efforts in areas of the State, typically underserved by venture capitalists.

**General Information**

To apply, all eligible entities must develop a well-constructed business plan that will serve as an application. Proposals selected for review undergo extensive due diligence, under strict confidentiality. The following relevant factors are part of SBTIF's due diligence process: Evaluation of company history, investors, and board of directors; Assessment of the management team; Analysis of market potential for the product or service and size of the market; Relevance of technology presented and level of protection; evaluation of actual and potential competition, Financial analysis of proposed plan in terms of the company's valuation; potential for creating jobs in New York State.

**For more information on how to qualify for Small Business Technology Investment Fund please call Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330 or click the links below.**

## **Technology**

### **Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)**

#### **Competitive Opportunity for Small Business**

STTR is a highly competitive program that reserves a specific percentage of federal R&D funding for award to small business and nonprofit research institution partners. Small business has long been where innovation and innovators thrive. But the risk and expense of conducting serious R&D efforts can be beyond the means of many small businesses.

Conversely, nonprofit research laboratories are instrumental in developing high-tech innovations. But frequently, innovation is confined to the theoretical, not the practical. STTR combines the strengths of both entities by introducing entrepreneurial skills to high-tech research efforts. The technologies and products are transferred from the laboratory to the marketplace. The small business profits from the commercialization, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy.

#### **STTR Qualifications**

Small businesses must meet certain eligibility criteria to participate in the STTR Program.

- American-owned and independently operated
- For-profit
- Principal researcher need not be employed by small business
- Company size limited to 500 employees

(No size limit for nonprofit research institution)

The nonprofit research institution must also meet certain eligibility criteria.

- Located in the US
- Meet one of three definitions
- Nonprofit college or university
- Domestic nonprofit research organization
- Federally funded R&D center (FFRDC)

#### **Three-Phase Program:**

Following submission of proposals, agencies make STTR awards based on small business/nonprofit research institution qualification, degree of innovation, and future market potential. Small businesses that receive awards then begin a three-phase program.

- Phase I is the startup phase. Awards of up to \$100,000 for approximately one year fund the exploration of the scientific, technical, and commercial feasibility of an idea or technology.

- Phase II awards of up to \$750,000, for as long as two years, expand Phase I results. During this period, the R&D work is performed and the developer begins to consider commercial potential. Only Phase I award winners are considered for Phase II.
- Phase III is the period during which Phase II innovation moves from the laboratory into the marketplace. No STTR funds support this phase. The small business must find funding in the private sector or other non-STTR federal agency funding.

**SBA Role:**

The US Small Business Administration plays an important role as the coordinating agency for the STTR program. It helps the five agencies implement STTR, reviews their progress, and reports annually to Congress on its operation.

SBA is also the information link to STTR. SBA collects solicitation information from all the participating agencies and publishes it electronically in a Pre-Solicitation Announcement (PSA). The PSA is a single source for the topics and anticipated release and closing dates for each agency's solicitation(s).

**For more information on the STTR Program, please contact:**

**US Small Business Administration**

**Office of Technology**

**409 Third Street, SW**

**Washington, DC 20416**

**(202) 205-6450**

The duties assigned to the SBA are:

1. To establish, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, formats and schedules for submission of reports by the heads of departments and agencies; and
2. To issue to departments and agencies guidelines and directives (in addition to the formats and schedules) as the Administrator determines from time to time are necessary to implement the executive order, after such guidelines and directives are submitted to the President, through the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, for approval and are approved by the President.

## **Manufacturing**

### **Industrial Effectiveness Program**

#### **Potential Benefit**

-Grants up to \$50,000 to manufacturing firms for development and implementation of improved management and production processes for businesses to expand market share and promote job growth or retention within New York State.

Direct assistance to companies for:

- Product design and development
- Manufacturing process and quality improvement
- Market expansion and product commercialization
- Information systems upgrades
- Supplier development projects
- Project management
- Technical awareness seminars
- Assistance with environmental and other regulatory requirements

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

-Company must be a manufacturing operation

-Eligible manufacturers are selected based on demonstrated need, company size (companies must be small or medium-sized), economic development benefit of NYS assistance, willingness to share costs and contribute resources, involvement of employees, and commitment to self-improvement.

**To apply for funds through this program, eligible entities must contact the Empire State Regional office and present project.** For more information on how to apply for the NYS Industrial Effectiveness Program please call Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330.

New York State can provide assistance in identifying, developing and implementing improved management and production processes to enhance efficiency, expand market share and promote job growth through its Industrial Effectiveness Program (IEP).

## **Manufacturing Manufacturing Assistance Program Potential Benefit**

Grants up to \$1,000,000

Direct assistance to companies for:

- Product design and development
- Manufacturing process and quality improvement
- Market expansion and product commercialization
- Information systems upgrades
- Supplier development projects
- Project management
- Technical awareness seminars
- Assistance with environmental and other regulatory requirements

## **Eligibility Criteria**

-Eligible firms are resident New York State manufacturers employing 50 to 1,000 workers.

-Business exports at least 30% of their production beyond the region

OR

-Business supplies at least 30% of their production to a prime manufacturer that exports beyond the region.

-Investments of at least \$1,000,000 are being made by the company to significantly improve the productivity and/or competitiveness of a manufacturing operation.

-Maintain employment levels over a five year period at minimum 85% of total at time of application.

## **General Information**

Empire State Development Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) encourages manufacturers to invest in projects that will significantly increase the productivity and competitiveness of their operations. Projects that receive MAP funding will be required to achieve project milestones, which will form the contractual basis for the release of funds, along with the commitment to retain at least 85% of current workforce for a five-year project period.

**To apply for funds through this program, eligible entities must contact the Empire State Development regional office. For more information on how to apply for the New York State Manufacturing Assistance Program please call Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330.**

## **Manufacturing Economic Development Fund (EDF)**

### **Program Purpose**

This program offers financial assistance for projects that promote the economic health of New York State by facilitating the creation and or retention of jobs or the increase of business activity in the State.

#### Program Highlights:

- EDF is a flexible program, providing a range of assistance to businesses, municipalities, IDAs and other economic development organizations to ensure that the diversity of business needs are being met by the State.

- EDF funds assist with construction, expansion and rehabilitation of facilities; acquisition of machinery and equipment; working capital; and the training of full-time permanent employees. Funds can be used for:

- Real Estate and Land Acquisition
- Demolition
- Construction and Renovations
- Site and Infrastructure
- Machinery and Equipment
- Inventory
- Construction Related Planning and Design
- Training
- Soft Costs
- Feasibility Planning Studies

ESD has used carve outs of EDF funds for such specialized assistance as the Manufacturing Assistance Program and the Build Now-NY Program.

### **Program Eligibility**

- Businesses involved in industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and distribution
- Research and development, high technology, service and other non-retail commercial enterprises
- Not-for-profits
- Local Development Corporations and Industrial Development Agencies
- Municipalities

#### Not Eligible:

- Residential, casino, gambling institutions, legal, medical, nursing services, retail firms in non-distressed areas.

### **Application Process**

Interested businesses are encouraged to speak with your local ESD Regional Office or ESD Strategic Business Division staff. ESD and recipient agree to an Incentive Proposal that outlines the terms and ESD staff reviews the terms. Satisfactory applications are presented to the ESD directors for consideration.

### **Contact Information**

Contact your ESD Regional Office.

## **Manufacturing Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)**

### **Program Purpose**

This program provides financing for the growth of manufacturing within New York State.

This program assists New York State manufacturers invest in capital projects that significantly improve production, productivity and competitiveness.

MAP funds must be used for capital investments in machinery and equipment. Projects may also include Industrial Effectiveness consulting and or worker skills training.

Projects must achieve substantial and measurable improvements to the output, productivity and competitiveness of the manufacturing facility, such as:

- increased production output
- process efficiency
- improvements in quality control
- new product line
- resource conservation
- pollution prevention
- cost-reduction or revenue-enhancement measures
- intended outcomes must be quantified and verifiable

Empire State Development (ESD) MAP assistance is capped at \$1 million.

Award amounts are based on the magnitude of the improvements and their overall benefit to the company; the amount of private investment leveraged; and the economic impact of the manufacturer within its regional economy.

### **Eligibility**

Minimum Requirements:

- \$1 million capital investment machinery, equipment and related costs directly tied to production
- Quantified improvements over baseline operation of 20% or more
- Retention of at least 85% of workforce for five years

#### **Eligible Applicants**

NYS manufacturers that employ 50 to 1,000 workers; and export at least 30% of their production beyond the immediate region, or supply at least 30% of their production to a prime manufacturer that exports beyond the region.

#### **Eligible Projects**

Capital investments in machinery and equipment that result in measurable improvements in production output, productivity and competitiveness and associated building expansions modifications.

#### **Ineligible Projects**

Projects in which there are reductions in employee benefits and wages.

### **Contact Information**

**Contact your ESD Regional Office or call the Main Program Administrator at (518) 292-5340.**

## Energy

### FlexTech Technical Assistance

#### Potential Benefit

-Matching grant up to \$50,000 (Total Project Cost \$100,000).

-Used for energy efficiency measures, peak load curtailment, and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) renewable generation projects.

#### Eligibility Companies

- Industrial and Commercial Facilities
- State and Local Governments
- Not-for-profit and Private Institutions
- Public and Private K-12 Schools
- Hospitals
- Colleges and Universities

#### General Information

The overall goal is to increase productivity and economic competitiveness of participating facilities through implementation of cost-effective, energy efficiency measures, peak load curtailment and CHP & renewable generation projects.

These services are provided on a cost-shared basis, and include:

- Engineering feasibility and technical assistance studies
- Detailed analysis of specific energy efficiency projects
- Process improvement
- Peak-Load Reduction and Load Management
- Rate analysis, load shapes, and energy service aggregation
- Engineering in support of project-financing proposals
- Development of long term capital budget strategies for the upgrade or replacement of energy-consuming equipment
- Retro-Commissioning of energy-efficiency measures in existing buildings
- Combined Heat & Power
- Renewable Generation

**Eligible entities should complete the online referral form or the hard copy (pdf) form and submit to Joanna Gomez, fax (518) 862-1091, or e-mail [jag@nyserdera.org](mailto:jag@nyserdera.org). Once an application has been submitted, entities can expect a response from NYSERDA within one week.**

## Energy

### New Construction Program

#### Potential Benefit

-Up to 60% of the incremental costs of purchasing and installing energy-efficient equipment and other qualified energy-efficiency measures.

-Applicants may also be eligible for technical assistance incentives to: install advanced solar energy and day lighting technologies, and evaluate green building and peak-load reduction opportunities in their building projects.

#### Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a New York State electricity customer of one of the following: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.; Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.; New York State Electric & Gas Corporation; National Grid; Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.; OR, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

- Pay the System Benefits Charge (SBC).

The following types of building projects are eligible for incentives under the program:

New Construction: defined as a new building, or space within a new building, for which a licensed professional architect or engineer has prepared and certified building plans.

Substantial Renovations: defined as one of the following types of projects where a licensed professional architect or engineer has prepared and certified building plans:

- Change of use and reconstruction of an existing building or space within; or
- Construction work of a nature requiring that the building or space within be out of service for at least 30 consecutive days, or
- Reconstruction of a vacant structure or space within.

#### General Information

The NYSERDA New Construction program is designed to accelerate the incorporation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building features in the design, construction, and operation of commercial, industrial and institutional buildings.

## **Agricultural**

### **Rural Business Enterprise Grants**

#### **Potential Benefit**

Up to \$1 million in grant funds available for public organizations to assist small and emerging companies.

Funds can be used for:

- providing assistance for marketing studies, feasibility studies, business plans, training, etc.
- purchasing machinery and equipment to lease to a small and emerging business
- creating a revolving loan fund
- construction of a building for a business incubator for small and emerging businesses
- For small/emerging companies involved in processing, marketing, or expanding New York produced

agricultural products.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Limited to rural communities of greater than 50,000 inhabitants.
- Funds for public bodies, nonprofit corporations and Indian tribal groups only.
- Company must have less than 50 employees.
- Company must have less than \$1 million in gross annual revenue.
- Projects should create or retain at minimum one job per \$15,000 in funding.
- 51% of jobs created/retained must be either held by or made to low or moderate income individuals.
- Funds cannot exceed 40% of project costs

#### **General Information**

The Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs (BCP) makes grants under the Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) Program to public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, and Federally-recognized Indian Tribal groups to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises located in any area other than a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town. Funding does not go directly to the company.

#### **To apply, eligible entities should contact their respective local USDA office:**

Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties: Ellicottville Service Center (716) 699-2375 ext 4

Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming Counties: Batavia Service Center (585) 343-9167 ext 2200

For more information on how to apply for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant please click the link below or call Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330.

## **Other - Economic Recovery Zone**

### **HUB Zone (SBA)**

#### **Potential Benefit**

Available Incentives:

- Government estimate can not exceed \$5million for manufacturing equipment or \$3million for all other requirements

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

A small business must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for the HUBZone program:

- It must be located in a "historically underutilized business zone" or HUBZone
- It must be owned and controlled by one or more US citizens
- At least 35% of the businesses' employees must reside in the HUBZone

To apply, all eligible entities must submit an electronic application

#### **General Information**

The HubZone program encourages economic development in historically underutilized business zones. The HUBZone program is in line with the efforts of both the Administration and Congress to promote economic development and employment growth in distressed areas by providing access to more federal contracting opportunities.

**For more information on how to qualify for the HUBZone Incentive program, call Buffalo Niagara Enterprise at (716) 842-1330 or click the links below.**

## Other

**New York State Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence  
University at Buffalo's Center for Industrial Effectiveness (TCIE)**

### Apply for SPIR Grant:



### **SPIR projects can help your business:**

- Develop your intellectual property portfolio by tapping into R&D opportunities
- Preview new technologies without the capital investment
- Access top-notch university equipment and laboratories
- Re-engineer business systems
- Advance with the expertise of faculty engineers and applied scientists
- Overcome staffing constraints by employing UB graduate student interns
- Expand training programs through EngiNet™

### **General Information**

As regional administrator of the Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR) – a program of the State University of New York – TCIE connects corporate partners with UB engineering brainpower. Funds for technically advanced, multidisciplinary assistance are available to New York State companies employing less than 500 people. With SPIR, organizations have upgraded or introduced new technologies, addressed product development and testing challenges, and enhanced continuous improvement programs. Revitalize your product or service offering with any of UB's seven School of Engineering and Applied Sciences departments: Biomedical Engineering; Chemical and Biological Engineering; Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering; Computer Science and Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Industrial and Systems Engineering; and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

### **Contact**

**SPIR Grant Website**

**<http://www.tcie.buffalo.edu/what-we-do/spir-grant>**

## **Other - Verizon domestic violence entrepreneurship grant program NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

### **Purpose**

The Verizon Domestic Violence Entrepreneurship Grant Program provides grants to domestic violence survivors to help them successfully develop small businesses in New York State. The grant program was developed among Verizon Wireless, the Verizon Foundation, and the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV) and is based on the premise that domestic violence survivors, through their past experience and the coping and problem-solving skills they developed to escape the cycle of violence, are uniquely prepared to step into an entrepreneurial role. In 2007-08, 60 percent of the state-supported entrepreneurship graduates were female, and the programs overall resulted in significant increased sales, employee retention, and new jobs. Therefore, connecting domestic violence survivors to existing NYS-supported entrepreneurship programs will provide a safe path to self-sufficiency for some of the state's most vulnerable residents, and enable them to help to grow the state's economy at the same time.

### **Eligibility**

Verizon DV Grants are available to domestic violence survivors planning to start a new business: applicants must submit a business plan, and be enrolled in, or have completed, an entrepreneurship assistance program. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500 per applicant and can be used to make a down payment on a work space, purchase a computer or other office equipment, purchase initial product inventory, as collateral to support the receipt of a small business loan, pay for child care or transportation necessary to complete entrepreneurship classes, or other start-up costs. The application is available on OPDV's website <http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/help/vwentreprogram.html>

### **Contact**

**John O'Malley**  
**Verizon Public Relations Manager**  
**2010 Domestic Violence Entrepreneurship Program**  
**133 Calkins Road**  
**Rochester, NY 14623**  
**(518) 457-4155**