

May 21, 2022



The Honorable Eric Pratt  
Chair, Omnibus Jobs, Energy and Commerce  
Policy and Supplemental Appropriations  
95 University Ave West  
Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mohamud Noor  
Chair, Omnibus Jobs, Energy and Commerce  
Policy and Supplemental Appropriations  
379 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Small Business Partnership Grant Program to provide technical assistance to Minnesota small businesses**

Dear Chair Pratt, Chair Noor, and Conference Committee Members,

Thank you for the inclusion of new funding for the Small Business Partnership Grant Program in your bill. MCCD, our members and community partners are especially grateful for the base increase of \$2.360 million for the Small Business Partnership Grant Program. We also appreciate the additional \$1 million in one-time funding and the clarification that commercial cooperatives, employee-owned businesses and commercial land trusts are eligible businesses to receive technical support.

Over the past decade, this program has allowed the network of economic development organizations and CDFIs, that provide technical assistance, to form strong partnerships with thousands of small business owners. These relationships, especially with BIPOC, women, veterans, people with disabilities and many other small business owners were critical to Minnesota's pandemic recovery. With this permanent funding increase, MCCD, our members and community partners look forward to continuing to be a trusted partner for thousands of small businesses for years to come.

Thank you again for recognizing the value that CDFIs and economic development organizations play in the strength and success of our state's economy through this important program. We look forward to continuing to partner with Chair Pratt, Chair Noor and Commissioner Grove on this and other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

*Kari Johnson*

Kari Johnson  
MCCD | Co-Director of Public Policy & Field Building

Cc: Commissioner Steve Grove, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development