



The City of Chicago, Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP), provides hyper-local support to entrepreneurs and business owners through the Neighborhood Business Development Centers (NBDC) Program, which is a network of nearly 70 grantees that are Chicago-based nonprofit business service organizations providing ***FREE business development assistance and located throughout the City.***

About NBDCs

- NBDCs deliver highly specialized business programs that help entrepreneurs start, sustain and grow their small businesses.
- NBDCs work in partnership with the City to improve the small business ecosystem in Chicago by providing entrepreneurs and business owners with expert training and resources to help address common challenges and support key City priorities.
- NBDCs serve as conduits for sharing business-related information to their clients/members that the City/BACP provides.
- NBDCs have a strong neighborhood network and coordinate efforts with local elected officials, government agencies, and other community partners.

NBDC Types

- Place-Based Generalists | Support general business needs at the hyper-local level.
- Cultural Specialists | Tailor business support to meet cultural and language needs.
- Innovation Specialists | Create and support new and emerging business models; incubators.
- Capital Specialists | Provide expertise on access to capital; recommending funding options, mentorship and credit building coaching.
- Industry Specialists | Provide industry-specific support for start-up and mature businesses in key foundational and growth industries:
 - Arts, Entertainment and Media Production;
 - Construction, Building Trades and Engineering Design;
 - Food & Beverage (Manufacturing and Retail);
 - Transportation and Logistics.
- Business Stage Specialists | Provide targeted strategies for at least one of the following business stages:
 - Pre-start-up and start-up;
 - Growth and establishment;
 - Maturity and exit/conversion.

For additional information, including a list of all NBDCs and maps of Service Areas, please visit:
www.chicago.gov/nbdc

