



Small Business Resources

City of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Targeted investment continues in South Milwaukee's Downtown District through the Bucyrus Foundation commitment, supporting projects and businesses that increase the vibrancy of downtown.

<https://www.southmilwaukee.gov/458/Bucyrus-Foundation-Grants>

Facade Improvement Grant

The program offers 50% matching grants up to \$15,000 (\$1,000 minimum) in the Downtown District and \$7,500 in other commercial districts for street facing facades. Projects under \$5,000 qualify for 75% reimbursement. An additional grant of \$2,000 for professional design fees is available, reimbursing 90%. Grant limits apply to certain improvements.

Bucyrus New Business Grant

The program offers \$5,000 grants providing one-time assistance to new and existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a space that has been vacant for 60 days or more. Eligible locations are spaces between the 800 to 1300 blocks of Milwaukee Avenue and greater than 500 sqft. Businesses must be open to the public at least 25 hours per week.

Bucyrus Storefront Activation Grant

The program offers a 50% matching grant up to \$20,000 (\$3,000 minimum) for storefront spaces not readily leasable for interior improvements resulting in a close-to finished leasable space. Spaces must be located in the Downtown District and be vacant at the time of application. Buildings must be greater than 50 years old. Planned or future business lease agreements shall require a business open to the public at least 25 hours per week.

Contact [Ericka Lang elang@smwi.org](mailto:Ericka.Lang.elang@smwi.org), 414.762.2222 ext135

Other Funding & Learning Resources

South Milwaukee Library

The library offers many free or low-cost services to assist businesses, such as printing, large document scanning, basic tech and varying webinars and classes.

BizStarts

It's a one-stop resource center that helps entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses. Receive one-on-one coaching, personalized mentoring and get connected to proper resources. Call 414.973.2334

Micro Loans through WWBIC

Offers loans up to \$100,000 designed to improve buildings and to support ongoing investment, making downtown buildings attractive and safe for new and growing businesses. Loans can range up to \$250,000 utilizing Small Business Association Community Advantage Guarantee Loan. Contact [Lynn Debilzen ldebilzen@wwbic.com](mailto:Lynn.Debilzen@wwbic.com)

KIVA Loans through WWBIC

Offers loans up to \$15,000 at 0% interest, fee-free, crowdfunded loans with applications that require no credit score, collateral, business plan or financial statement. Contact [Lynn Debilzen ldebilzen@wwbic.com](mailto:Lynn.Debilzen@wwbic.com) Kivaushumb.org

Wisconsin Small Business Development Center

The SBDC at UW-Milwaukee offers no-cost, confidential consulting and business education for entrepreneurs. SBDC is supported by U.S. Small Business Association. sbdc@uwm.edu 414.227.3240

Other Helpful Resource Links

[South Shore Chamber of Commerce](#)

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

[National Mainstreet Program](#)

[WHEDA](#) affordable housing/business financing

[SCORE](#)- counselors to small businesses

[Small Business Administration](#)

[Wis Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Metro Milwaukee Assoc of Commerce](#)