

BUSINESS EQUITY INITIATIVE FUND

Equal Opportunity. Stronger Community.



The Business Equity Initiative (BEI) Fund is a community project launched by a group of local donors concerned about equity and wishing to support a Muskegon County economy that works for all. Our goal is to position women business owners, particularly women of color, for success. Often these owners may not qualify for traditional lending opportunities, placing them at a disadvantage.

Grant awards ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants and designated for expenses that are critical to operating a small business such as rent, utilities, machinery, equipment, marketing, supplies, furniture, fixtures, or licenses. Applicants must be women residing in Muskegon County who are low to moderate income and have been in business one to three years.

The BEI Fund donor committee has appointed Michigan Women Forward (MWF) to administer the grants and provide technical assistance to the grantees. MWF is a certified community development financial institution (CDFI) whose mission is to expand economic opportunity for women and entrepreneurs of color in the state of Michigan.

We'd like your help

To expand our reach, we seek to grow a community of like-minded investors beyond the founding donors. Join us in **investing in women entrepreneurs, supporting diversity and inclusion, and creating a stronger economy in Muskegon County**. Please consider a tax-deductible, multi-year pledge donation to the Business Equity Initiative Fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, our fund administration partner.

“We have always been committed to improving the health of our community.

We were moved to start the BEI Fund after much study and discussion about inequities that exist in both our local and national economic systems.

In doing so, we will create opportunities and close funding gaps for women entrepreneurs, supporting job creation, revenue growth and an economy that works for ALL.”

Please join us!

Nancy McCarthy
Mary Anne Gorman
Kim Suarez

INVEST WITH US!

Online at
www.muskegonfoundation.org

A **gift of stock** or directly from your IRA/RMD.

By check payable to the *Community Foundation for Muskegon County*, include the BEI fund designation on the memo line.

Mail to:
Community Foundation for Muskegon County
425 W. Western Avenue Suite 200
Muskegon, MI 49440
(231) 722-4538

For more information on giving to the fund please contact
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