

Northern Tier RISE Grant Program

Regional Interest for Small Enterprise

Helping Northern Tier Businesses RISE & Grow.

The Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission is proud to offer microgrants to help small businesses grow, strengthen their operations, and create new opportunities for success. Through the HDBA program, eligible businesses across our five-county region can access funds to support critical business needs, make strategic investments, and build a stronger future. ***We're investing in the small businesses that make our communities thrive.***

How much can I apply for?

Eligible businesses may receive a grant amount up to

\$5,000

Award amounts are subject to program requirements and available funding.

When can I apply?

The application period will open:

October 1st to 31st, 2026

Funding is limited, so don't miss your opportunity to apply!

Questions? Contact:

Cynthia Traore,

Business Development Administrator

(e): traore@northerntier.org

What's Eligible?



Business registration



Equipment and machinery



Insurance expenses



Inventory and supplies



Licensing and certification fees



Marketing and advertising



Professional services



Website development and technology



Working capital

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be a for-profit business operating in Pennsylvania
- Be owned and controlled (51% or more) by one or more Pennsylvania residents
- Have fewer than 100 full-time employees
- File a Pennsylvania tax return
- Be actively operating at the time funds are awarded
- Be in good standing with federal, state, and local taxes with no outstanding liens or judgments
- Be able to provide documentation verifying eligibility



northern tier
regional planning
& development
commission

312 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848
www.northerntier.org



Scan here
to apply!



Frequently Asked Questions

What expenses are not eligible?

- Debt repayment
- Payroll taxes (owner or employee)
- Interest or finance charges
- Political, lobbying, or religious activities
- Fines, penalties, or legal settlements

Is there a time limit to spend the funds?

Yes, grant funds must be expended by February 28th, 2027.

Will everyone who applies receive a grant?

No, funding is limited, and submitting an application or meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee an award.

Applications will be reviewed according to the program's established eligibility criteria, priorities, and available funding. NTRPDC may receive more eligible applications than it can fund.

Can ready-to-launch businesses apply?

Startup eligibility depends on the final NTRPDC RISE Microgrant Program guidelines.

If ready-to-launch businesses are eligible, applicants should be prepared to demonstrate a viable business concept, the status of business operations, and how the requested funding will support business development.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligibility is determined by the official NTRPDC RISE Microgrant Program guidelines. Applicants should review the program requirements before submitting an application.

The program is intended to support eligible small businesses operating within NTRPDC's designated five-county service area:

- **Bradford County**
- **Sullivan County**
- **Susquehanna County**
- **Tioga County**
- **Wyoming County**

Funded through the HDBA program through the **PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)**

What documents do I need to provide?

Applicants should be prepared to provide documentation necessary to verify eligibility and evaluate the proposed use of funds. Documentation may include:

- EIN or Social Security Number (as applicable)
- W9 Form
- Business plan and financial projections, if applicable (for ready-to-launch and start-ups)
- Business registration or formation documentation
- Business ownership information
- Documentation supporting the proposed use of funds, including quotes, estimates, or other supporting documentation, when applicable
- NTRPDC may request additional information during the application review process

How will I know if my application is approved?

Applicants will be notified via email from NTRPDC if their application is selected for further review and will be required to work with a Business Assistance Service Center (BASC) to review the application. Applicants will receive an email notification from NTRPDC regarding the final funding decision.

Do microgrants need to be repaid?

No, microgrant awards are grants and do not require repayment, provided the recipient complies with all applicable program requirements, grant conditions, and reporting obligations.

Grant funds must be used for approved purposes. Failure to comply with the terms of the award may result in corrective action or other remedies, as provided in the grant agreement. Grant awards may also be considered taxable income and recipients may receive a Form 1099.

Will I have to report how I use the grant funds?

Yes, grant recipients must comply with applicable reporting and documentation requirements established by NTRPDC and the program's funding source. This is a reimbursement-based grant, meaning recipients must provide receipts, invoices, proof of payment, and other supporting documentation, as applicable, to demonstrate eligible expenses incurred.

Only actual, eligible expenses incurred under the approved use of funds, up to the maximum award amount, may be reimbursed. Recipients will be required to provide documentation demonstrating how funds were used and how the funded activity aligns with the approved purpose of the award. Specific reporting and reimbursement requirements will be communicated to awarded businesses.