

Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program



The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program is a new program funded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency under the Office of the Governor, and administered regionally by the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), PCA's statewide network of re-granting partners. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation serves as the PCA's PPA partner organization for Region 5 which includes Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton Counties.

The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program is designed to:

- Pair creative entrepreneurs with existing small business consulting services
- Help creative entrepreneurs grow their business, audience, and revenue
- Provide financial resources through grants of up to \$2,000
- Advance the PCA's overarching value of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Prioritize investments to creative entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC)
- Prioritize investments to creative entrepreneurs located in and whose work benefits low-income communities as defined by the Small Business Administration

Eligibility Criteria

Entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program once every three years. Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age and a current resident of Pa. for at least one year.
- Intend to form/operate a business with annual gross revenue less than \$200K.

Be a creative entrepreneur intending to form a business or operating a business in Pennsylvania within one or more of the following creative industry areas:

Marketing - Advertising and marketing agencies & professionals

Architecture - Architecture firms & architects

Visual Arts & Crafts - Galleries, artists, artisans & makers

Design - Product, interior, graphic, and fashion design firms and designers

Film & Media - Film, animation, TV & Radio businesses

Digital Games - Companies, programmers & individuals producing games

Music & Entertainment - Producers, venues, musicians & performers

Publishing - Print or electronic businesses & content creators, editors & writers

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Grants & Eligible Uses of Funds

Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$2,000. Funds must support business formation or development. Eligible grant uses include:

- + Professional fees for workshops, consultants, and career coaching
- + Participation in events, trade shows, festivals that offer access to audience and revenue generation potential
- + Business development fees for courses or seminars for business skills
- + Research and development
- + Marketing and promotion
- + Development or upgrades to technology related to business practices
- + Studio/rehearsal/retail space rent
- + Reasonable fees for supporting/collaborating artists
- + Purchase of supplies and equipment

Funds **cannot** be used for the following:

- Activities outside the funding period
- Activities that have a religious purpose
- Payments to lobbyists
- Activities for which academic credit is given
- Offsets to regular business operating costs, including regular salary or wages
- Hospitality, food, or beverages

How to Apply For a CEAP Grant

To begin an application, LVCF needs to receive two forms:

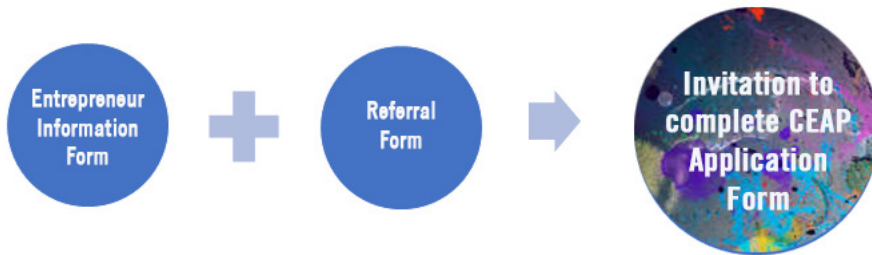
Entrepreneur Information Form

- To be completed by the applicant
- Can be accessed and submitted online - [Click here](#)

Referral Form

- To be completed by a participating referral partner listed below
 - » Existing or past clients of any of the organizations on the list, may reach out to their contact at that organization to request a referral to the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program.
 - » New clients should choose a referral coordinator that serves their area and follow the initial steps outlined on the referral list. Once connected to the referral coordinator, clients will need to complete at least one consultation regarding a business formation or development activity.
- The referral coordinator will submit the referral form to LVCF.

The Entrepreneur Information Form and the Referral Form can be submitted in either order, but both are required to move forward with the application. When both forms have been submitted, LVCF will review them for eligibility. Pending availability of funds, LVCF will invite the entrepreneur to submit an Application Form for the program. The application form will be online and access will be given to those who are invited to apply.



Key Dates

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Funding decisions will be made on cycles as outlined below. An application is considered complete when LVCF has received a Referral Form from a participating referral partner, an Entrepreneur Information Form from the applicant, and a CEAP Application Form completed by the applicant.

Cycle	Completed Applications Received Between	Will be Reviewed for Funding
1	Before August 15, 2022	August 2022
2	August 16 - November 15, 2022	November, 2022
3	November 16, 2022 - February 15, 2023	February 2023
4	February 15, 2023 - May 15, 2023	May 2023

Participating Referral Coordinators

[Lehigh University Small Business Development Center](#)

Serving Lehigh and Northampton Counties
To get started, submit a Request for Service: <https://sdbc.lehigh.edu/request-service>
Phone: (610) 758-3980
Email: sdbc@lehigh.edu

[Wilkes University Small Business Development Center](#)

Serving Carbon County
To get started, submit a Request for Service: <https://pasbdc.ecenterdirect.com/signup>
Phone: (570)-408-4335
Email: lucy.singer@wilkes.edu

[The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center](#)

Serving Monroe County
To get started, submit a Request for Service: <https://pasbdc.ecenterdirect.com/signup>
Phone: 570-941-4152
Email: Leigh.Fennie@scranton.edu

[Rising Tide Community Loan Fund](#)

Serving Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton Counties
To get started, call or email Chris Hudock at the contact information below
Phone: (484)-893-1093
Email: chudock@caclv.org

[Community First Fund](#)

Serving Lehigh and Northampton Counties
To get started, submit an [interest form online](#) and mention CEAP or call John Scott
Phone: (717)-205-6074
Email: jscott@communityfirstfund.org

