

THE BUFFALO LISC INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKING GROUP set out to strengthen awareness of the local inclusive entrepreneurial economy of Buffalo, to foster alignment among both its grass-roots and tree-top stakeholders, elevate voices of the community, and build consensus for a set of pilot initiatives aligned with mutually agreed upon outcomes.

focus

inclusive, entrepreneurial efforts in target neighborhoods as a model for other communities

understand

the local inclusive entrepreneurship landscape within target neighborhoods through a systems mapping effort

build

awareness, support, and alignment among a set of cross-sector stakeholders to strengthen inclusive economy approaches

develop

- a set of pilot initiatives designed to:
- accelerate and eliminate barriers to entrepreneurship and small business growth
 - boost job opportunities
 - revitalize commercial corridors with a focus on local ownership

BARRIERS

OUTCOMES

SOLUTIONS

Buffalo’s Entrepreneur Ecosystem Fast Facts

32%

more self-employed men than women

12x

business ownership is 12 times higher for Whites than for African Americans



36,656 Self-Employed Workers

544,834 Total Workers

WHERE WE ARE

Buffalo's Inclusive Entrepreneurship Working Group engaged in a data-enabled assessment of the entrepreneurial landscape featuring assets and barriers facing minority entrepreneurs and geographies in most need of improved entrepreneurial support networks. The unveiling of this data began the process of creating a more equitable and accessible environment for all Buffalo entrepreneurs.

of Businesses per 1,000 residents Under 4 Employees



UNITED STATES



NEW YORK



BUFFALO

WHAT'S RECOMMENDED



Minority Women Business Enterprises Directory



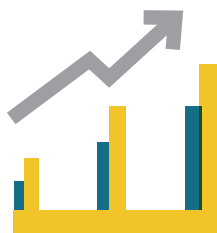
Inclusive Entrepreneurship Campaign



Small Business Test Network

The path suggested by Forward Cities seeks to increase businesses owned by women and minorities, promote under-connected entrepreneurs through inclusive storytelling strategies, and create a risk-averse atmosphere for the testing of new business concepts. These recommendations offer strategies that can scale to other neighborhoods and entrepreneurial clusters in Buffalo, helping the city create a more robust, coordinated, and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

WHERE WE HOPE TO BE



Increased engagement between K-12 schools & support organizations.

Increased visibility of minority & women-owned enterprises by customers and contractors.

Increased number of employees from identified target populations employed by small businesses.

Enhanced marketing & communications that champions inclusive entrepreneurship.

Improved environment for entrepreneurial experimentation.