

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Schor and Lansing Economic Development Corporation Launch 2025 Empower Program

Small Businesses Encouraged to Apply

Lansing, MI — Mayor Andy Schor, in partnership with the Lansing Economic Development Corporation (Lansing EDC), is proud to announce the return of The Empower Program as part of the Lansing Equitable Economic Development (LEED) Initiative.

The Empower Program provides tailored support for small businesses in Lansing, equipping participants with the resources, expertise, and connections they need to strengthen operations and scale their impact.

Through the 6-month program, up to 25 businesses will be paired with project managers, consultants, and business specialists to create and implement individualized business development plans. Participants will also gain access to technical assistance, networking opportunities, and long-term tools for growth and sustainability.

“The Empower Program has been such a tremendous success. Economic development done through an equity lens is important for so many small businesses in Lansing. This program provides technical assistance for BIPOC-owned businesses and gives them the tools, opportunities, and access to expertise, resources, and training to start and sustain successful businesses,” Mayor Schor stated. “I am excited to expand the universe of those doing business in our city, especially for those who haven’t had the opportunities to contribute to this growth in the past.”

The Empower Program is designed to foster an inclusive economic environment by addressing barriers to success and creating pathways for business owners who have historically been underserved.

“As Chair of the Lansing EDC Board, I'm incredibly proud of the work we do to nurture small business growth and economic equity in Lansing. The Empower Program reflects our commitment to walking alongside entrepreneurs, especially those who are often overlooked. The launch of Cohort 3 means we're investing in people, possibility, and the future of our community," said Chair of the Lansing EDC Board, Shelley Davis-Boyd.

The Empower Program is part of the Mayor’s Racial Justice and Equity Alliance (MRJEA) Plan, which works to identify and reduce the harmful impacts of institutional racism and create initiatives that promote racial equity across Lansing. Funding for the program is provided through federal ARPA allocations secured by Mayor Schor.

Applications are now open and will close on October 31, 2025. To apply, visit: [The Lansing Empowerment Program Application Portal](#).

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Media Contact: Kahleea Washington | Community Development Specialist
Lansing Economic Development Corporation P: 517-273-9877 | E: kahleea@lansingedc.com
www.LansingEDC.com