

MBDP

Micro Business Development Program
moving VT businesses toward prosperity



Serving Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle Counties
(802) 860-1417



Serving Caledonia, Essex & Orleans Counties
(802) 748-6040



Serving Bennington & Rutland Counties
(802) 665-1744



Serving Windham & Windsor Counties
(800) 464-9951





“Business ownership is a proven pathway out of poverty, helping to increase income, create wealth, and move people off public assistance.”*

**Source: The Vermont Department of Children and Families - Outcomes for 2018, Agency of Human Resources - Department for Children and Families*

An Introduction to Vermont’s Micro Business Development Program: 31 Years Strong

Since 1988, the five Vermont Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have successfully led the Micro Business Development Program (MBDP) and enabled low and moderate-income Vermonters to achieve and sustain the dream of entrepreneurship.

Vermont’s micro business economy is robust, with more than 50% of small businesses identified as micro, employing 5 or fewer employees including the owner. Within this micro business community are the clients served by Vermont’s Community Action Network. The clients we work with differ from the traditional start-up business owner who may have the education, and the financial backing from family, investors, or access to adequate business capital. In contrast, our clients are low-income (80% of median income or lower) and often need individualized intensive counseling to turn their dream into a reality. While they come to us with a strong and viable vision, many lack savings or access to capital, due to limited banking relationships and poor or no credit history, making it difficult to launch a business. Additional barriers to success can include physical and mental health disabilities, housing and transportation insecurity, and lack of education and training. Due to myriad barriers, our entrepreneurs are often passed over by other small business counseling programs that are suited to better educated, better resourced individuals. **Thankfully, there is a resource for them in the Vermont MBDP** where our counselors not only help disadvantaged Vermonters realize their entrepreneur capabilities, but also connect them to resources within the Community Action network and partner agencies that help them reach their full potential including food, fuel, shelter, mental health counseling, and personal financial management classes and coaching.

MBDP RESULTS 2020

Out of devastation can emerge innovation and opportunity. Even before COVID-19, Vermont’s economy had shifted towards Micro Business. Gone are the large manufacturing giants opening the door for local Micro businesses. In Vermont, over 50% of all businesses in the State are now microbusinesses (2016). With 10,671 microbusinesses already established, this sector of business is a critical growth engine to our economy and current recovery efforts. Across the country, an estimated 92% of businesses are considered microbusinesses. Our vision is a sustainable path forward for our clients utilizing our years of expertise in starting and growing profitable microbusinesses in Vermont.

	2020	2010-2020
Total # of Participants Served	627	4,502
# Unemployed and Obtained a Job	34	484
# of New Business Stat-Ups	39	721
# of New Business Expansions	57	540
# of Jobs Created (FTE)	32.5	904.7
\$ of Capital Leveraged	\$1,523,109	\$12,032,412

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. GRANT RESULTS 2020

In response to COVID-19, The Vermont Community Action Partnership and The Micro Business Development Program have come together to establish the E.M.B.R.A.C.E. (**E**conomic **M**icro **B**usiness **R**ecovery **A**ssistance for the **C**OVID-19 **E**pidemic) direct grant program to support Vermont micro businesses owned by an individual with a "household" income at or under 80% of state median "household" income.

- ❖ We supercharged the Micro Business Development Program by increasing capacity with five new counselors needed to meet the growing demand of existing and future micro-entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The statewide Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Coordinator supported the counselors in achieving program outcomes, produced public data and reporting, led the development of the MBDP.org web site and implemented marketing/outreach efforts to increase the program's visibility.
- ❖ Created the MBDP.org website in partnership with ETERNITY MARKETING a local Vermont based company. MBDP.org is a central location and access point for all MBDP clients to connect with region specific counselors (and coaching in a remote setting), education tailored to micro businesses, webinars, videos, templates for budgeting, and other tools for success.

Results Round #1- Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. met all goals and objectives in less than **60 days** we processed and distributed **206** individual grants to micro businesses totaling **\$1,011,879.37**.

Results Round #2- In less than one month from November 5th to December 1st Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E processed and approved an astounding **230** with no increased administration cost. We adapted to the existential threat of COVID-19 by the rapid development and launch of Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. under stay-at-home orders by utilizing the existing Micro Business Development Program network. To date we have approved over **436** micro business grants averaging **\$4,825** and totaling over **\$2,100,000**. The E.M.B.R.A.C.E. grant is so important that **81.6%** of all grant applicants stated that the E.M.B.R.A.C.E. grant would **"Prevent them from going out of business"**.

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. RESULTS BY COUNTY

County	Total Paid
Addison	\$71,407.08
Bennington	\$160,782.47
Caledonia	\$164,972.00
Chittenden	\$423,820.14
Essex	\$45,000.00
Franklin	\$45,803.85
Grand Isle	\$9,785.00
Lamoille	\$134,956.00
Orange	\$69,060.00
Orleans	\$145,000.00
Rutland	\$226,855.01
Washington	\$283,210.62
Windham	\$232,371.73
Windsor	\$90,814.60
	\$2,103,838.50

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. RESULTS BY AGENCY

Agency	Count	Percent	Average
BROC	82.00	18.8%	\$ 4,849.24
CAPSTONE	99.00	22.7%	\$ 4,871.06
CVOEO	116.00	26.6%	\$ 4,748.26
NEKCA	70.00	16.1%	\$ 4,999.60
SEVCA	69.00	15.8%	\$ 4,683.99
	436.00	100.0%	\$ 4,825.32

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT

The following applicant information and statistics were gathered from the E.M.B.R.A.C.E. grant application and follow up survey. The statistics paint a picture of the individuals we are serving and the importance of Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. at this pivotal moment.

- 61.7% of all applicants are from female or minority owned business.
- 38.8% of applicants have children living at home.
- 84% Rely on self-employment for household income.
- 89.3% of applicants are Sole Proprietors or Single Member L.L.C.
- 50.3% of applicants have at least 1 employee.
- 98% of all applicants have not received any business financial relief before E.M.B.R.A.C.E.

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. TESTIMONIALS

Project EMBRACE was an investment in Vermont's future and beyond into our new economic reality. Sustainable micro businesses that help raise individuals out of poverty breaking the generational cycle. Entrepreneurship is the greatest wealth builder for the State, local economy and individual. EMBRACE the path forward and together we can innovate and build our own ladder to success. This proposal demonstrates our ability to leverage investment in the underserved to bring lasting prosperity to hundreds of Vermonters.



FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County Businesses

Security on Site

Heather Lynn Snider
Richford

<https://www.facebook.com/SOSvt802>

2 Years in Business

“We are your eyes by keeping everyone safe when you need to focus on your event.”



Dr Heather Mobile Vet

Heather Skilling
Richford

Less than 1 Year in Business

“Dr Skilling Mobile Vet provides house calls for dogs and cats in Franklin County and beyond. My mission is compassionate care in the comfort of clients’ homes. I aim to provide services to elderly folks who have trouble getting out with their pets as well as to animals who don’t travel well in the car and pets who are anxious and fearful at the vet’s office. It is wonderful to be able to see pets in their own environment as they are so much more relaxed for the physical exam and thus a better exam can be performed.”



Fun Time Productions

Charles O Massey

St. Albans

<http://www.fun timedesign.com/>

2 Years in Business

“Allowed me to add equipment that will help mw make more income when covid is over. Testing and prepping this equipment in this down time is an investment in the future.”

The Harvest House LLC

Franssy Arleny Garcia Ordonez

Franklin

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Harvest-House-LLC-577180006292977>

Less than 1 Year in Business

“The Harvest House multicultural store that offers different varieties of local and 100% imported products.”





Mulehead United Contracting LLC

Tiffany Joy LeGrand

Franklin

4 Years in Business

“The EMBRACE grant has allowed me to meet all requirements related to Covid-19 and expand my spectrum of work. ”

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Round 2 Recipients

Grant Recipient	Business Name	City	Business Website
Thomas Francis Benton	BENT Media L.L.C.	St. Albans City	bent.media
Ryan Matthew O'Grady	O'Grady's Collision Repair LLC	St. Albans	
Cheryl Uderwood	C C CUTTER	Swanton	
Aaron M O'Grady	Upper 23 LLC	Saint Albans	
Robin Jean Lebel	Robins Shear Design	Saint Albans	

WINDSOR COUNTY

Windsor County Businesses



P'tricia, a Salon by Appointment

Patricia S Wyse

Marlboro

<https://www.facebook.com/ptricia.wyse>

37 Years in Business

“I was disappointed that the first state grant I applied for was denied, as the funds had run out. I am deeply grateful that you all took the time to consider other ways to help get us small, women-owned businesses, the boost we needed. My mentor was wonderful, as well!”

Hobby Hill Farm

Erica Irene Walch

Newfane

<https://www.hobbyhill.farm/>

2 Years in Business

“ This is such a big deal. Thank you so much, Denise. I’m actually crying (tears of joy).”





Drewski's on the River

Franca & Andrew Geller

Bridgewater Corners

<http://www.drewskisontheriver.com/>

11 Years in Business

"We are a small breakfast & lunch restaurant who have been helped by the E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Grant to acquire equipment necessary to continue our business operation."

Joan Hoffmann

Joan Eastman Hoffmann

South Royalton

<http://www.joanhoffmann.com/>

49 Years in Business

"In the middle of this pandemic I thank Vermont for granting my very small art business, money to move forward; I have renewed confidence that my business makes a difference. Vermont thrives from the variety of small businesses that make up our communities and my art business is one of these that makes Vermonters proud. Thanks!"



Kindred Circle Farm

Kathleen Ellen Gulick
Springfield

<http://www.kindredcirclefarm.com/>

20 Years in Business

"I cannot thank you, or the individuals who put together the E.M.B.R.A.C.E grant program for micro businesses, enough. The \$5,000 grant you awarded me with is the lifeline I needed at exactly the right moment to be able to continue on and grow the cut flower portion of my business. The animal care service part of my business evaporated after Covid-19 hit in March and there are no signs of improvement in the near future. On top of that, the wedding events I had secured in 2019 from the cut flower part of my business were cancelled entirely or postponed until 2021. Despite those incredible hardships, I adapted and marketed a small CSA, opened some new businesses, and expanded my presence in our local Coop, who happen to be moving to a larger location next year. I was now going to need to produce more cut flowers for 2021 and desperately needed some additional funding to make it happen. Without the E.M.B.R.A.C.E grant, I would not have been able to make the necessary investments into my flower inventory or land before the snow flies. The E.M.B.R.A.C.E grant is a game changer for my business for 2021, and I will always be incredibly grateful to those of you who made it possible for me."



Butterfly Love Gifts

Joyce Priscilla Amsden
Sharon

<http://www.joyceamsden.com/>

7 Years in Business

"I would like to thank the team and the legislature for the opportunity to regroup, revise and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic. Small business is the heart, soul and backbone of Vermont and I am proud and grateful to be a part of what you have created with this grant."

Honeycomb Arts

Trystan Bates

Weston

<http://www.trystanbates.com/>

3 Years in Business

“I would just like to say thank you, and emphasize to the Vermont state legislature the importance of this grant. I am sure I am not the only small business that felt great aid and relief upon receiving E.M.B.R.A.C.E.”



Dance with Ashley

Ashley Dianne Hensel-Browning

Weathersfield

<http://dancewithashley.org/>

10 Years in Business

“This grant has allowed me to quickly transition my work to serving the populations I work for virtually, expanding the reach of my business and the scope of it’s impact, as well as document efforts to better share and promote to a larger audience. The E.M.B.R.A.C.E. grant has allowed me to both restart aspects of my work and continue other parts of my work. I was able to get off of PUA and rely on previous sources of income due to the equipment allowing me access my customer base again.”

Nomad Chefs LLC

Brandon Ruble
Wilmington

<https://www.nomadchefsvt.com/>

3 Years in Business

“Nomad kitchen food trailer and catering company specializing in high end homemade food.”



Kyle Oliver Handyman Services

Kyle M Oliver
West Marlboro
8 Years in Business

“What a great program. It’s going to make a big difference in my small business! I hope other Vermonters can benefit from it as well!”



Stone Revival LLC

Lee Ann Isaacson
Stockbridge

<http://www.stonerevival.com/>

12 Years in Business

“As a small business owner, self-employed featuring local crafters and our own artwork, Covid has caused us to close down our business. However, the cost of our doing business still remains the same while we wait for the opportunity to re-open. The grant that we received has helped us to cover the cost of waiting patiently for that opportunity. We are so grateful for the help that we received as it has lifted a financial burden off of our shoulders. As retirees our income is limited unless our business is operating, this grant has helped us to keep the costs of our business covered until we can open our doors again. We didn’t fall into any other guidelines than this particular grant. We are very grateful for the assistance.”

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Round 2 Recipients

Grant Recipient	Business Name	City	Business Website
Staci Baker	Rhino Consulting LLC	Quechee	http://www.letrhinodoit.com
Amanda D Clark	A.S. We Grow Childcare LLC	Proctorsville	aswegrowchildcare@weebly.com A.S. We Grow Childcare Face-book Page
Elizabeth Jean Roberts	Sweet Sprouts Daycare	Perkinsville	
Nicole Daly	Nikki'S Cleaning	Chester	
Christine Carol Rua	Christine C Rua	South Royalton	
Susan Leader	Susan Leader Pottery	Andover	
Charles Joseph Steventon	Steventon Electric	Rochester	
Chris Michael Brothers	Brothers Leather Co.	South Royalton	
Dorianne Lescord	Ascutney Country Hair Salon	Weathersfield	

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Chittenden County Businesses



North Country Kettlebells, LLC

Abdullah Al Mujib Khaliq
Burlington

<https://www.northcountrykettlebells.com/>

6 Years in Business

“Mujib Khaliq, owner of North Country Kettlebells, offers comprehensive in-person and online personal training across the globe!”

Vermont Sound Mixer, LLC

Berl Jonathan Colle Mendel
Williston

<https://staffmeup.com/profile/jmendel?ne=1>

1 Year in Business

“Grants like these are generous and essential to a vibrant working creative economy in our great state of VT. We need to keep our small businesses growing and moving during these uncertain times.”



Brooke Moen Acupuncture

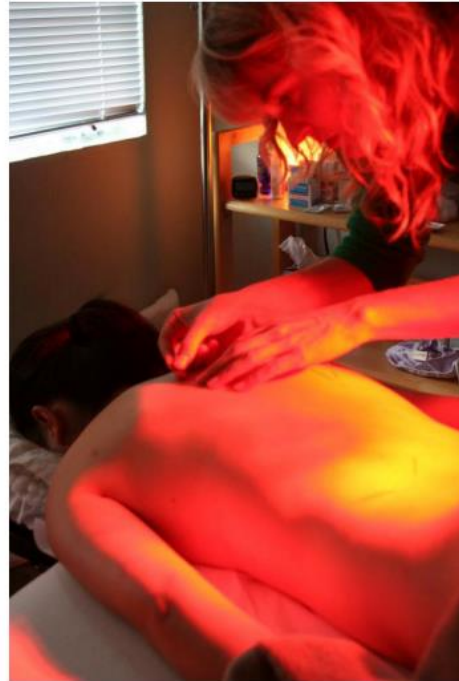
Aimee-Brooke Derby Moen

Richmond

<http://www.brookemoenacupuncture.com/>

7 Years in Business

“I am an acupuncturist with a small practice in downtown Burlington.”



Jamaican Supreme LLC

Bilon Bailey

Winooski

<https://www.facebook.com/JamaicanSupreme.org>

5 Years in Business

“Jamaican Supreme - providing delicious, authentic home cooked Jamaican cuisine, also available for food truck events and catering.”

BRM Inc.

Bruce Robinson MacDonald

Jericho

<http://havocgallery.com/>

31 Years in Business

“HAVOC Gallery with its eighteen foot ceilings and massive doors for natural light exhibits fine art by Joël Urruty, Miguel Edwards, Clarke Derbes, Stone, George Peterson, Gordon Auchincloss and Bruce R. MacDonald; Large, Precise and Multidimensional. HAVOC Gallery came from Gallery 180 (opened in 2007), the creation of artist Bruce R. MacDonald, to exhibit visionary mid-career artists who create works that exemplify their well honed technique and ascetic of minimalist beauty. When Gallery 180 moved to a more visible location in the heart of Burlington’s South End Arts district along Lake Champlain in 2012, HAVOC Gallery was born. This unique space allows patrons to be exposed to artwork from very divergent sources curated by experienced professionals.”



Cathy LaClair Jewelry Design

Catherine Y LaClair

Miton

<http://www.cathylaclairjewelry.com/>

9 Years in Business

“I am incredibly grateful for this grant. It has given me the chance for my busines to grow into a different market and move from surviving to thriving.”



The Hair Chair

Casey Fay Fisk
Essex Junction
1 Year in Business

“Studio Fisk is a full service hair studio servicing all genders of all ages. I want to thank all who has been involved in offering this grant and supporting our VT small business. E.M.B.R.A.C.E. is here to help, make the jump!!”

Claude Lehman Pottery

Claude Lehman
Burlington
<https://www.facebook.com/Claude-Lehman-Pottery-109678952529197>
26 Years in Business

“My business produces and markets handmade pottery and offers small community pottery classes.”





Corrine Yonce Studio

Corrine Yonce
Burlington

<https://www.cmyonce.com/>

2 Years in Business

“Corrine Yonce Studios LLC specializes in place-based, story-centered paintings and installations. CY Studios explores the therapeutic role of story sharing and receiving through portraiture and audio histories. Yonce creates from her own experience of inequity as a low-income woman in a female household of addiction and mental illness. Her work addresses the power of creative placemaking through presentation of projects in nontraditional art spaces and by bringing contemporary art pieces to low-income communities. You can view her work at SoapBox Arts this winter.”

Prima Dogga LLC

Elizabeth Ann Weir
Shelburne

<http://www.primadoggavt.com/>

11 Years in Business

“Last winter a wind storm compromised one of our play yard fences we had been hoping to use our “summer time surpluses” to get the section of fence replaced. However, with the pandemic causing us to shut down for two months heading into summer, and only about half our regular customers returning once we re-opened, we had a very different financial picture than anticipated. It was only due to the EMBRACE grant that we were able to replace this section of fence.”



Home Designs LLC

Diane A. Ravenscroft

Shelburne

<http://www.homedesignsandstagingvt.com/>

1 Year in Business

"I offer interior design and color consultation services."



Remembering, LLC

Emily H Piccirillo

Burlington

<https://remembering.pet/>

1 Year in Business

"Remembering is a hands-on resource for celebrating love when it's time to say goodbye to a beloved pet. It is the only pet loss resource that meets both essential needs for healing grief - Holding On and Letting Go."

Vertscape L.L.C.

Fidel Flores Alvarado
Essex Junction
<http://vertscape.co/>
5 Years in Business

“Vermont’s Landscape Company. I’m very thankful for the amazing help! Micro business are essential to maintain a vibrant local economy.”



Fortify Foods LLC

Holly Katherine McLaughlin
Burlington
<http://www.fortifyfoods.com/>
1 Year in Business

“Fortify Foods produces nutrient-dense organic food items including raw mini-cakes.”



Gwen Evans Consulting

Gwen E Evans

Essex Junction

<https://www.gwendolyns-cauldron.square.site/>

20 Years in Business

“Gwendolyn’s Cauldron offers products and services to support the personal and spiritual journey.”

Come2see LLC

Jackie Mukamuzungu Abeneto

South Burlington

1 Year in Business

“I sell African clothes to low income immigrants and refugees as well as provide sewing and repair services.”



802 Reptiles

Kevin Joseph Clarkson

Colchester

<http://802reptiles.com/>

5 Years in Business

“The E.M.B.R.A.C.E grant literally kept us in business. I am very grateful. Thank you from my heart.”



Superb Cupcakes LLC

Hannah B Lenehan

Williston

<http://www.superbcupcakes.com/>

9 Years in Business

“We are a locally owned gourmet cupcakery dedicated to bringing you the best tasting cupcakes around. We make all of our cupcakes from scratch in single batches using the finest ingredients. All of our cupcakes are made daily in house to maintain quality and freshness.”



Kevin Hans

Kevin Matthew Hans

Hinesburg

20 Year in Business

“As an independent contractor working in the automotive training space, I have many years wearing many hats across the industry. With a background as a professional driver, I have worked with many auto manufacturers to deliver experiential programs to both staff and the public. I have also had the honor to serve our Dept of Defense as a driving instructor for special operations forces in the area of vehicle mobility in a variety of environments and situations. When not behind the wheel, I work as a trainer/

facilitator delivering coursework for sales and service professionals in the auto industry.” While the future is very uncertain with the direction of my industry as a whole, I believe that the grant puts me in a more competitive position to have the resources required to deliver training on short notice in a variety of environments. I am grateful to the state of VT for working so hard and quickly to distribute CARES act funds to help the residents of our great state. Thank you!

Lee.Speak LLC

Leora Dowling

South Burlington

<https://www.leoradowling.com/>

7 Years in Business

“I am a public speaking and communications coach. I work with individuals, non-profits, and companies to help people overcome their fear of public speaking”





Hair R Us

Leroy A Nedd

South Burlington

<https://www.hairrusvt.com/?v=7516fd43adaa>

5 Years in Business

“The EMBRACE funds were helpful in allowing me to purchase merchandise for my store that I was unable to buy due to the Covid 19 shutdown. These funds were beneficial to my store being able to continue to provide essential products to the community that I serve. I would recommend to any business owner that they apply for the EMBRACE grant because there was excellent communication between the staff and myself which makes the process easy.”

Elegant Day Spa

Lynn Tuong Nguyen Kenney

South Burlington

<https://www.facebook.com/Elegant-Day-Spa-148266861882755>

13 Years in Business

*“Full service spa for Ladies and Gentlemen
REFRESH, RENEW, RELAX...”*



Swan Dojo

Lois L. Trombley

Burlington

<https://www.facebook.com/swandojo>

5 Years in Business

“Fully dedicated to preserving and enriching Burlington’s Dance community while empowering women and creating a safe space for all people.”



Feast of Fools

Mark Keppel

Charlotte

<http://woodykeppel.com/>

22 Years in Business

“The Feast of Fools & Little Fool Productions have been created to bring performance art, mainly “family - friendly variety arts, music, & physical comedy, to as many people as possible through online and in-person productions. I’m really committed to using the E.M.B.R.A.C.E funds I received to create meaningful music and video content. I feel honored and determined to make something good happen with this opportunity I was given.”

Grey Owl Design

Matthew Gang
Burlington

<http://www.greyowldesign.com/>

8 Years in Business

“Grey Owl Design specializes in laser cut wooden magnets, earrings, ornaments, buttons, maps, wall decor, journals, bottle openers, and other products I haven’t thought to make yet. I really appreciate this money. I’m a self made man, very self reliant. It is difficult for me to be in a place where I need help. But I am thankful that help has been there for me during these crazy times. Thank you!”



Elite Health and Wellness LLC

Nicole Lynn Tatro
Colchester

<https://www.elitehealthandwellnessvt.com/>

10 Years in Business

“Thank you for all that you have done for myself and I am sure the many others you have helped. I am so grateful and will always be! Thank you!”



Abode Contracting LLC

Matthew Van Order

Burlington

<http://abodecontractingvt.com/>

16 Years in Business

“Residential remodeling”

Soapbox Arts

Patricia Sabrina Trafton

Burlington

<http://soapboxarts.com/>

2 Years in Business

“Soapbox Arts is a contemporary gallery space hosting rotating exhibitions of works in a variety of media by local and nationally recognized emerging artists. With a penchant for innovative mark-making, we highlight artists who enthusiastically embrace aesthetic exploration and whose work speaks a distinct visual language. The end game? To connect first-time and veteran collectors with the most original, engaging new voices in contemporary art.”





PJ Enterprises

Peter Jonathan Perkett
South Burlington
25 Years in Business

“Laser cut products and laser cutting services.”

Saraz LLC

Sameen Mohideen
South Burlington
14 Years in Business

“A family owned business located in the Burlington TownCenter since 2006. We carry a variety of women’s clothing & accessories. We also carry Indian clothing. We are proud to be a small business and have the ability to showcase our culture to the greater Burlington area.”



South End Studio, LLC

Sabrina Beth Gibson
Burlington
www.southendstudiovt.com
11 Years in Business

“South End Studio offers daily classes in Nia as well as multi-week series classes. Movement forms include, but are not limited to yoga, hip hop and ballet.”



Stephen Mease Photography LLC

Stephen Michael Mease
Williston
<https://stevemease.wixsite.com/stevemeasephoto>
21 Years in Business

“Stephen Mease Photography focuses on providing full, journalistic-style photography for non-profit organizations, organizations, businesses, and individuals holding events, fundraisers, and special events. We also offer Vermont scenic and art photos as cards, prints, and calendars.”

Blossom Whole Food Kitchen and Catering LLC

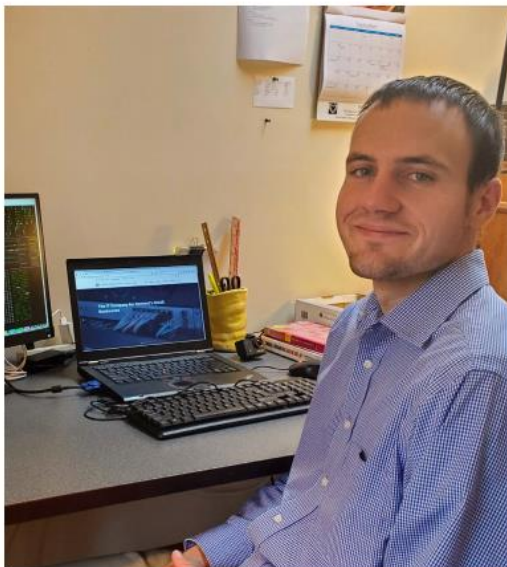
Tessa Holmes

Hinesburg

<http://www.blossomholmes.com/>

5 Years in Business

“a huge help in a scary and uncertain time”



Green Mountain IT Solutions, LLC

Timothy Richard West

Colchester

<http://greenmtnitsolutions.com/>

1 Year in Business

“Green Mountain IT Solutions is the IT company built specifically for Vermont’s small businesses. We help Vermont business owners secure their networks, eliminate IT problems, and save valuable time and money with proven, easy-to-use computer and network solutions. We focus on doing business the Vermont way, with personal, no-nonsense service. Thank you very much to CVOEO, the EMBRACE team, and the state legislature for providing valuable assistance to local businesses during this difficult time. I feel blessed to live in a state where our government and local organizations are dedicated to providing help to the local business community. Again, thank you.”



Champlain Valley Antique Center

Thomas Cross
Shelburne

<http://vermontantiquecenter.com/>

26 Years in Business

“For 26 years we have served our local community and tourist alike by providing an excellent selection of antiques and collectibles.”



Brows Design Center

Tulasha Adhikari
South Burlington
10 Year in Business

“We provide eyebrow threading services.”

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Round 2 Recipients

Grant Recipient	Business Name	City	Business Website
Beth Anne McFadden	McFadden Academy of Irish Dance LLC	Unit 305	www.mcfaddenirishdance.com
Lou DiMasi	Red Clover Events LLC DBA he Wheel House	Burlington	www.Redcloverevents.com
Roderick Alexander Carder-Russell	Remarkably Human, LLC	Burlington	www.roderickrussell.com
Mary Symington Lacy	Mary Lacy LLC	Burlington	www.marylacyart.com
Brandy Lynn Oswald	Sauvage Wellness LLC	Winooski	www.sauvagewellness.com
Morgan Trevor Aldridge	TOBUJI LLC	Winooski	https://tobuji.tech/
John Chadwick Murphy	Sidesurfers L.L.C.	Underhill	Sidesurfers.com
Kelsey Dearing Conroy	Vermont Knitting Company	South Burlington	vermontknittingco.etsy.com
Chip Ryder Viau	Vermont Massage Clinic	Milton	www.vtmassageclinic.com
Emily Eden Athearn	Emily Eden Food Services LLC	Winooski	emilyshomecooking.com
Susan Smereka	Alburnum	Burlington	www.susansmereka.com
Katharine Delp	The Animal Collective LLC	South Burlington	www.vtanimalcollective.com
Anne E. Mientka	Anne Mientka Photography LLC	Burlington	www.annemientkaphotography.com
Rachel Jaca Averitt	Rely on Rach	Williston	relyonrach.com
Ricky Handy	GBE LLC dba Blazer Transportation	Burlington	Blazercab.com
Jason Jon Paquette	802 Cocktails	Milton	802Cocktails.com
Bridget Randall Kimsey	Bridget Kimsey	South Burlington	www.bridgetkimsey.vpweb.com and https://www.amazon.com/-/e/B07JGPV2ST
John Joseph Wiley	Envision Pictures LLC	South Burlington	www.envision.pictures
Haley Fenn Ahearn	Fenn LLC	Burlington	Haleyfenn.com
Bryan Conrad Foster	Foster Forestry & Environmental Consulting LLC	South Burlington	Www.fosterforestry.com www.alpine.resort.sustainability.com
Christopher R Russell	Teeth Whitening Plus LLC	Essex	Www.teethwhiteningvt.com
Nicole Bonneau Dagesse	Murmurations LLC	Jericho	murmurationsaerial.org murmurationsdance.org
Heather Matthews	Savvy Gal Technical Solutions	Colchester	www.savvygaltech.com
Marina Michelle McCoy	Waste Free Earth LLC	Burlington	www.wastefree.earth

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Bennington County Businesses

Primitive Industries LLC

Jesse John Loomis

Peru

<http://www.powderjets.com/>

11 Years in Business

“By providing us with the opportunity to modify our focus from filling class spaces to producing snowboards to sell directly, we’re able to broaden our client base. This is a great opportunity to expand our sales model, which we may not have been able to do without the grant.”



Fat Gorilla Cookies

Rebecca Ann Berthiaume

Bennington

1 Year in Business

“Enabled our business to get equipment and ingredients that otherwise we would have not been able to afford.”



Cavallaro and Associates, LLC

Michelle & Jay Cavallaro

East Arlington

<http://www.cavallarogroup.com/>

25 Years in Business

“We feel very fortunate to receive financial support from EMBRACE to help us weather this period. This is a difficult time for so many businesses and organizations like yours who create opportunities especially for small businesses to sustain ourselves is truly helpful and important. We found your process and the communication with your team very clear and efficient. Thank you so much for your assistance!”

The Goat Project, LLC

Rebecca Elizabeth Knouss

Bennington

<http://thegoatproject.net/>

3 Years in Business

“With the help of this grant, I have been able to pay off a portion of debt acquired since the start of COVID as well as cover some operating expenses when my income was deeply impacted. This grant also paid for a course with a business marketing coach specific to agriculture which will help me to build a solid marketing plan to move my business forward. I would also like to add that this grant made me feel supported and recognized by my community and reignited my enthusiasm for my business to help me make it through this challenging time..”



Mountainside Therapeutic Massage

Megan Kathleen Rush-booth

Stamford

<http://www.massagebook.com/biz/mountainsidetm>

2 Years in Business



“The E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Grant was so easy to apply for and everyone is so helpful and kind. The funds came in so much faster than expected and it really helped us!”



Studio Gratitude LLC

Abby Mary Skidmore

Manchester Center

<http://www.studiogratitude802.com/>

3 Years in Business

“Based in Southern Vermont, our goal is to help people live better. Whether visiting the area for rest and relaxation, or taking it down a notch from your daily running and hiking, we can help with relaxation, pain-reduction, or improving your overall physical and emotional well-being.”



Kate's Full Circle Farm

Katherine M McPhee

East Dorset

<https://katesfullcirclefarm.com/>

1 Year in Business

"I am so grateful for this grant. It has really made all the difference in the world for me as a business and as an individual. Adam Annunziata was so helpful and the entire application process was very user-friendly. Thank you so much. I hope to give back to the community exponentially more than what you have given to me, and this support from you gives me the drive to do so."

Mind & Body Wellness, LLC

Rebecca Dawn Nenno

Bennington

<http://www.mindbodymt.com/>

9 Years in Business

"I have big plans, and I'm incredibly thankful for the grant money, because it is helping me to chip away at them. My space is looking wonderful so far, and my clients have all commented on that! It's just so helpful to have this cushion in these hard times."





A&W Estate and Farm Service Professionals, LLC

Anthony Williams
Bennington
3 Years in Business

“My business is focused on providing top-end professional maintenance, repair, and renovations. Most of the work we do is interior maintenance work, which can included wall repairs (removing old wallpaper) painting. We repair old Vermont barns too. We pride ourselves on developing long lasting professional relationships with our clients..”

Thomas Dunn

Thomas Frederick Dunn
Bennington
10 Years in Business

“Pre-Covid the majority of my business depended on people gathering for live events. The E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Grant has allowed me to begin an adaptation to a digital form and am confident this new form will succeed.”



Amanda Gibbons Clean House Service

Amanda Jean Gibbons
Bennington
7 Years in Business



“Thank you so much. I can not express my gratitude for programs like this.”



Eons Creative

Michael Ellenbogen
Manchester Center
<http://www.eonscreative.com/>
9 Years in Business

“Michael Ellenbogen is available to help artists, collectors, art consultants, art galleries, arts organizations and museums with their digital documentation

needs. We specialize in 2D artworks that require high resolution digital mastering for archival purposes, publicity purposes, promotional purposes, eCommerce and social media.”

Carolina Ellenbogen

Carolina Ellenbogen

Manchester Center

<https://ellenbogengallery.art/collections/carolina-ellenbogen-1>

3 Years in Business



“This grant has enabled me to prepare for the largest solo art show I have ever had in my life as an artist. It will also help me market my exhibition online and pay for the services of a professional photographer to document all the new artworks. I truly appreciate the support of the EMBRACE program. Thank you.”



Classic Dental Laboratory LI

Jose Anibal De Leon

Bennington

<https://www.classicdentalvt.com/>

1 Year in Business

“Helping Dentists improving quality in patient lifestyle.”

E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Round 2 Recipients

Grant Recipient	Business Name	City	Business Website
Kathleen Susan Irion	The Vermont Spatzle Company	Arlington	www.vtspatzlecompany.com
Patricia B Pedreira	Community Exchange & Development Corporation	Bennington	www.sagestreetmill.com
Lisa Carton	Lisa J. carton, LICSW	Bennington	Lisajcarton.com
Geoffrey Gordon Silver	GGs LLC	Bennington	www.tomasiawards.com
Amanda M Tiff	Mattison Accounting	Shaftsbury	www.mattisonaccounting.com
Ida Mae Specker	Ida Mae Specker	East Dorset	www.idamaespecker.com
Jackie Lyn Berry	CIT Associates LLC	Bennington	www.citassociates.net
Jonathan David Simon	Green Mountain Powersports	East Arlington	https://www.facebook.com/greenmtpowersports
May Stannard	The Moonwink LLC	Manchester	https://m.facebook.com/moonwinkvt/
Michael Anthony Nigro	Green Mountain Concessions	Bennington	
Angela Kathryn Harrison	The Roasted Bean Espresso Bar LTD., CO	North Bennington	
Josiah Heath Durfee	Durf's Interior Solutions	Pownal	
Joseline Marie Harrington	JayBern Inc Green Mountain Dry Cleaners	Bennington	
Joseph Benjamin Comi	Mountain Winds Construction	Pownal	
Marcella D Miller	On Demand Office Assistance	Manchester Center	
Claire Longtin North	Rev. Claire L. North, MSS, MFA: A Community Ministry in the Mountains	Manchester Center	

Acknowledgments

Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. was an investment in Vermont's future, and we acknowledge and thank those who believed, without them it would not have been possible. Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. was federally funded through the **C.A.R.E.S. ACT** and appropriated as part of the **Coronavirus Relief Fund**. Administrative oversight was provided by the **Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity** (Sarah Phillips) and managed by **BROC Community Action** and the **Vermont Community Action Partnership**.

Special thanks to key **Senate Committees**, the **Legislature**, leadership in both Houses and **Governor Phill Scott** and his Administration for great leadership and ongoing commitment to the Micro Business Development Program.

Vermont Community Action Partnership

Executive Directors

Tom Donahue, CEO

BROC Community Action

Sue Minter

Executive Director

Capstone Community Action

Steve Geller, CEO

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Paul Dragon

Executive Director

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Jenna O'Farrell, CEO

Northeast Kingdom Community Action



Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Contributors

Tyler J. Jokinen

Micro Business Development Program
Project E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Coordinator
BROC Community Action

Shelley Faris

Team Leader
Economic & Workforce Development Program
BROC Community Action

Adam Annunziata

Micro Business Development Program
BROC Community Action

Benton Winrich

Micro Business Development Program
BROC Community Action

Victoria Loomis

Development & Marketing Specialist
BROC Community Action

Liz Scharf

Director of Community Economic Development
& Food Security
Capstone Community Action

Margaret Ferguson

Business Support, Micro Business Development
Capstone Community Action

Laura Sudhoff

Business Support, Micro Business Development
Capstone Community Action

Mary Johnson

Micro Business Development Program
Capstone Community Action

Jessica Edgerly Walsh

Technical Support Specialist
Capstone Community Action

Alison Calderara

Interim Director of Advancement & Development
Capstone Community Action

Kathryn Baudreau

Financial Futures Program Director
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Simeon Geigel

Financial Futures Program
Micro Business Development Program
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

John Gergely

Financial Futures Program
Micro Business Development Program
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Barrie Rosalinda

Financial Futures Program
Micro Business Development Program
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Diane Ravenscroft

Financial Futures Program
Micro Business Development Program
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Amy Robinson

Director, NEKCA Micro Business Development Program
Northeast Kingdom Community Action

Michael Strait

Micro Business Development Program
Northeast Kingdom Community Action

Denise Mason

Economic Development Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Gretchen Havreluk

Micro Business Development Program
Southeastern Vermont Community Action