



**ESSEX COUNTY IN THE PARK
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New York State Homes and Community Renewal, Community Development Block Grant Fund

Microenterprise Program awarded to: The Town of Jay

Elizabethtown, NY – September 24, 2025

The Town of Jay, in partnership with the Essex County IDA, was awarded a Community Development Block Grant, from the New York State Homes and Community Renewal, creating the Town of Jay Microenterprise Grant Program. The total amount awarded for this program was \$200,000.

A public meeting on the Microenterprise Grant Program will be held on October 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The Community Center is located at 11 School Street, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912.

A detailed Town of Jay Microenterprise Grant program guidebook will be available at the meeting. The guidebook outlines general grant program information, eligibility, eligible uses of funds, ineligible uses of funds, program process, and additional details. Also included is information on business support and resources that will be available.

The Microenterprise Grant Program (MPG) will be established to provide grants to eligible startup and expanding Microenterprise businesses located in the Town of Jay. The primary goal of the program is to stimulate the inception and growth of private sector businesses owned and operated by low-to-moderate income people and provide training and financial

assistance to entrepreneurs, existing businesses and startups that will create jobs for persons who are low-to moderate income.

A minimum of 50% of the CDBG award grant must be awarded to start-up businesses, defined as a business that has been actively providing goods and services for less than six (6) months to submission of grant applications. Priority will also be given to MWBE's and other disadvantaged populations.

As qualified businesses are identified through an application process, the MPG will provide resolution to small businesses lack of access to capital and assist businesses to offer more relevant mix of wares, goods and services to help improve the viability of the businesses, to become more resilient and sustainable and create new jobs. The MPG will create a more attractive and functional business environment which will benefit the year-round residents as well as tourists.

A microenterprise is a business that employs no more than five (5) persons, including the owner or owners. To be eligible for assistance, a business must meet a low-to-moderate income test, that is the majority business ownership must qualify as low-to-moderate income (based on family size and gross, annual income) or a majority of the jobs to be created must meet the low-to-moderate- income jobs and/or available to low-to-moderate income persons. The low-to-moderate income test requirement is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

All grant applicants will be required to complete the Town of Jay Microenterprise Training Program to be held on Tuesday, October 7th from 8:30 – 3:30 at the Senior Center located at Community Center is located at 11 School Street, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912.

Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Essex County IDA by calling 518-873-9114 or emailing: info@essexcountyida.com