



Hamilton County's 4th Annual Small Business Day

Monday, May 18, 2026 | 8 am - 1 pm

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



PRESENTED BY:



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EVENT SCHEDULE

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|-------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. | Registration & Continental Breakfast (<i>Lobby</i>) |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | State of Small Business in Hamilton County Opening & Ribbon Cutting (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom A</i>) |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Fireside Chat with Regional Chamber Leaders (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom A</i>) |
| 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Business Resource Zone (<i>Portune Hall East</i>) |
| 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Contracts & Procurement Opportunities Panel (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom A</i>) |
| 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Breakout Sessions (<i>Rooms 201–204</i>) |
| 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Deal Zone Appointments & Open House (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom B</i>) |
| 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Capability Statements & Codes 1:1 Support (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom A</i>) |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Coaching & Consultation 1:1 Sessions (<i>Northern Lights Ballroom A</i>) |

RESOURCE ZONE

Open house 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



ZONE 1 – START UP & PLANNING ZONE

Resources for business startup, planning, coaching, and growth support.

Cincinnati State	Apply for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 small business program
CO-OP Cincy	Cooperative business creation
Hamilton County ReSource Department	Provides programs to assist businesses in reducing waste and recycling
Greater Cincinnati & NKY African American Chamber of Commerce	Counseling, technical assistance, training programs, and small business workshops
Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio	Funding for small businesses, business coaching, business plan development, cash flow analysis, sales projections



ZONE 2: CERTIFICATION & BID PREP ZONE

Support for certifications, procurement, contracting, and bid preparation.

APEX	Provide access to government procurement opportunities
Cincinnati Department of Economic Inclusion	Owners can start Certification Applications
Cincinnati Metro Sewer District	Provide bid opportunities for contracts
Hamilton County Economic & Community Support	Provide access to the BOLD vendor list & how to sign up
Hamilton County Purchasing	How to do business with the County, including procurement rules, thresholds, and bids
Minority Business Assistance Center	Certification and funding access support
OH Dept of Transportation (ODOT)	Owners can start the DBE (disadvantaged business) certification process. Help with contracting & procurement opportunities
OH Minority Supplier Dev. Council	Owners can apply for national certifications
Women's Business Council Enterprise	Provide women owned business certifications



ZONE 3: ACCESS TO CAPITAL ZONE

Funding resources including loans, grants, and financial assistance programs.

Cincinnati Dept of Community & Economic Development	Provide local funding and grant programs for small businesses in Cincinnati
ECDI	Assistance in applying for microloans
First Financial Bank	Small business credit lines, micro-loans, OH lending programs and free business checking accounts.
GE Credit Union	Business lines of credit, term loans, equipment financing, commercial real estate loans, and SBA lending options
Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative	Help with Micro-Loans: What is needed and how to apply
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)	Provide funding and programs for disadvantaged communities
OH Dept of Dev. Small Biz & Entrepreneurship	How to apply to the state of Ohio's lending program for small businesses
Small Business Administration (SBA)	Federal funding programs and loan resources
U.S. Bank	Provide small business lending programs
Wright -Patt Credit Union	Provide access to capital through small businesses lending program in Hamilton County

ZONE 4: BUSINESS ASSISTANCE & BACK OFFICE ZONE

Operational support including marketing, workforce, cybersecurity, and technical assistance.

4BIS Cybersecurity	Onsite cybersecurity risk audits
Alloy Growth Lab	Business growth readiness assessments
Aviatra	Provide on-site business coaching, access to small business support services/cohorts
Central State University	Apply to the entrepreneurship training program, access to urban agriculture program, and workforce development help
Cincinnati Public Library	How to utilize the small business MakerSpace to create marketing, signage, and operations manuals
CyberSure	Mini cybersecurity audits
GPD Creative Agency	Get your business website analyzed today to maximize your online presence, how to create capability statements
Hamilton County Office of Small Business	Onsite Business Coaching
Hamilton County Emergency Management	Business continuity via a worksheet that helps businesses start internal planning
Hamilton County Jobs & Family Services	Provide workforce training and RFP support
Hamilton County Public Health	Provide a 1-minute training on how to use Narcan and distribute free Narcan
Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA	Connect to business resources and learn how to make your business bilingual
MORTAR	How to create a “pitch” for your business and help with creating an executive summary for your business

ZONE 4 continued

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Comp	Provide workplace grants and workforce programs for small businesses
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	Provide small business workforce development and jobs support.
Ohio Dept of Taxation	Provide small businesses with access to the online tax system and tax relief initiatives. Provide online registration for tax accounts.
Cincinnati Regional Chamber	Provide economic and workforce development initiatives
SCORE Greater Cincinnati	Sign up for a business mentor and get registered for training programs
Small Business Consulting	Get help with small business financials needed to apply for funding and access to technical assistance
Workforce Council of Southwest OH	Workforce development assistance – Assistance with hiring, training and developing employees
Workforce Innovation Center – Cincy Chamber	Offers workforce tools, training, and talent resources



ZONE 5: MICROENTERPRISE GRANT PROGRAM (MAP) ZONE

Visit Zone 5 to learn more about the Microenterprise Advancement Passport (MAP) Grant Program, which provides grants from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to eligible Hamilton County small businesses. The program helps microenterprises access capital, strengthen operations, and support business growth. Attendees can also learn about eligibility, the application process, and start their application on-site.



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Scan the QR code
to visit our website

SPONSORS

Sponsors offering banking, technology, supplier, and business support resources.

Altafiber	Offer small business communication vehicles to increase productivity and access to IT services, cybersecurity and voice.
Fifth Third Bank	Provide small business banking loan programs and services
Huntington Bank	The Lift Local Business Program – small business loan program from startup to expansion
Kroger	Provide access to the supplier diversity program
Metro	Businesses can apply to become a sales outlet for selling Metro passes. Enroll in the Metro Perks program.
PNC	Provide small business loan programs and services.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Rooms 201 - 204

Breakout sessions eligible for the **Microenterprise Grant Program** are marked with an asterisk (*).

Attendees must attend at least two eligible sessions, one Marketing session and one Funding session. Attendance will be tracked by QR code sign-in.

FIRST SESSION: 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Pitch Like a Pro!	A solid pitch is the bedrock of successful marketing: learn to talk about your business effectively in 30-60 seconds for more success with contracts and sales	Room 201
Quickstart AI Marketing Plans*	AI is a powerful tool for your small business marketing and communications. Use it to create an effective marketing plan in this hands-on session.	Room 202
Profit First Accounting	What if you could run your business by paying yourself first? This new accounting strategy helps you create financial systems that do just that. Learn the basics and hear from a business owner about the impact of shifting to thinking of profit first.	Room 203
Business Plans for Fundability*	This session will help grant and loan seekers prepare their business plan for an application.	Room 204

SECOND SESSION: 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Social Media Marketing for Small Business*	Develop a practical, actionable strategy to increase your digital visibility and learn how to build a social media presence that has both clarity and purpose.	Room 201
Quickstart AI Capability Statements*	Need a capability statement? AI can help you get a jump-start and help you find your industry codes. Learn how in this hands-on session.	Room 202
How to Sell Your Business	Learn how to plan your exit and what you can do now to make your business as valuable as possible to buyers and investors.	Room 203
Fundability for Startups	How do you get enough money to start a business? This session will discuss different options for funding a startup small business and how you can increase your funding readiness.	Room 204

THIRD SESSION: 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Branding Your Small Business*	Learn how to build a strong, unique brand that resonates with your key customers and create effective, consistent messaging for your ideal clients without breaking the bank.	Room 201
Quickstart AI Business Plans*	This hands-on session will help you master the basics of using AI to craft your business plan.	Room 202
Key Financial Statements	Understand the financial documents you need to have for your business and what they can tell you about how to be more successful. This session will cover the Profit and Loss statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.	Room 203
Fundability for Growth	Finding the funding you need to grow is challenging, even if you are very successful. We will explore different sources of working capital. We will also cover strategies to improve your business credit as you grow.	Room 204

DEAL ZONE

10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. - Northern Lights Ballroom B

The Deal Zone features 15-minute one-on-one meetings with prime contractors and buyers, matched to your business profile, services, and capabilities.

- Please arrive at the check-in table at least 5 minutes early for your pre-scheduled session.
- All appointments are scheduled in advance; however, please check in with a Deal Zone representative for any potential openings.

Deal Zone Participants

- **3CDC** – Construction, MEP, maintenance
- **Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA)** – Maintenance, HVAC, plumbing, landscaping
- **Cincinnati Metro** – Construction, electrical, A&E, marketing
- **Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)** – Trades, custodial, food service, supplies
- **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden** – Construction, events, operations
- **Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)** – Plumbing, excavation, infrastructure
- **Jostin Construction** – Civil, structural, MEP trades
- **Messer Construction Co.** – MEP and construction trades
- **Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)** – Sewer, construction, IT services
- **Pepper Construction** – Plumbing, electrical, HVAC, trades
- **Prus Construction Co.** – Paving, concrete, trucking, utilities
- **Skanska USA Building** – All construction trades
- **The Port** – Development, demolition, engineering
- **Turner Construction Company** – HVAC, electrical, construction trades
- **UC Health** – Facilities, clinical, IT, logistics
- **Walsh Kokosing Joint Venture (WKJV)** – Heavy highway, bridge, concrete

COACHING & CONSULTATION

Northern Lights Ballroom A



Coaching & Consultations are short, 15-minute, one-on-one sessions with an expert who can provide personalized guidance and support on a variety of topics to help grow your business.

- Please arrive at the check-in table at least 5 minutes early for your pre-scheduled session.
- All appointments are scheduled in advance; however, please check in with a Coaching & Consultations representative for any potential openings.

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Capability Statements & Codes 1:1 Support

- Need help with your capability statement and/or finding your industry code(s)? Sign up for 1-on-1 sessions with experts who provide hands-on help and advice.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Coaching & Consultation 1:1 Sessions

- Want to follow up on your breakout session or gain some individual guidance? Sign up for 1-on-1 sessions with experts providing hands-on help and advice on a range of topics, including marketing, funding readiness, business planning, AI QuickStart, food businesses and business law.

Hamilton County Presents: **PITCH & EMPOWER**



**Hamilton County's Pitch
& Empower Event
returns for the 3rd year!**

**Coming
October 2026**

Scan the QR code below
to learn more:



**An exciting event empowering
entrepreneurs, connecting
small businesses to resources,
and creating new
opportunities for growth.**

**Visit our website for updates
and event details!**



**Hamilton County
Office of
Small Business**

HamiltonCountyOhio.gov/smallbiz