

BfWA RESOURCES, TOOLKIT, AND ONGOING PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT



Peer-to-peer networking

Overview: Peers across BfWA have a wealth of knowledge and support for each other in this work. Looking to workshop an idea or change how you approach an aspect of your work?

Action: Let us know (dcowen13@gmail.com) what idea you want to discuss, and we can let you know who else is thinking about a similar idea across the network.

Lender's circle

Overview: Peer group of lenders across BfWA that meet monthly to share experiences, best practices and developing new shared resources.

Action: For non-lenders this peer resource can be replicated for other roles or positions. Contact Dan (dcowen13@gmail.com) to join or start your own group.

Communication consultation

Overview: BfWA communication consultants offer TA to develop internal capacity and create communication materials through office hours, workshops and 1-on-1s.

Action: Contact MJ (MJ@loveso.org) & Sharonda (sharonda@gloverdisruptive.com) to build out your comms toolkit!

Policy consultation on applying for an earmark

Overview: The Feighan Team offers TA building federal policy approaches from the ground up and applying for federal resources (e.g., earmarks) through workshops and 1-on-1s.

Action: Contact Alison (Alison@feighan.org) and Hannah (hannah@feighan.org) to strengthen your policy chops!

BfWA Character-Based Loan Guarantee Pilot Fund

Overview: This resource supports low-income entrepreneur/business owners who BfWA members believe in because of their "character" but wouldn't otherwise receive a loan.

Action: [checkout the application](#) and contact Mihailo (MTemali@ndc-mn.org) to connect entrepreneurs to loans they wouldn't access otherwise.

BfWA Key Site Control Pilot Fund

Overview: The Key Site Control Fund provides funding to revitalize key abandoned or vacant properties or to secure spaces to preserve neighborhoods facing displacement.

Action: Set up a call with Mihailo (MTemali@ndc-mn.org) to learn more about the opportunity and to use the opportunity to secure a key site for your entrepreneurs.

Apricot

Overview: A shared and discounted CRM designed to help members with client management; program organization; and data collection and reporting.

Action: currently in a pilot phase of customizing with a handful of members. Contact Dan (dcowen13@gmail.com) if you are interested in piloting in your own community.

The evolving dataset

Overview: Successful resident owned small businesses in low-income neighborhoods impacts individuals and communities' well-being and quality of life beyond the economic.

Action: Check out this [interactive tool](#) developed by Reinvestment Fund to see how we are exploring the connection between small business and social wellbeing. Email Dan (dcowen13@gmail.com) to tell us how you see these connections in your neighborhoods.

Professionals on Demand (PODs)

Overview: The POD program provides opportunities for BfWA organizations to connect established entrepreneurs to business service providers they have been unable to source locally; and connect their local advisors to entrepreneurs in other alliance communities.

Action: Fill out [the survey](#); and Log-in to the [BfWA app](#) and nominate POD advisors: email Suan (suan@convergencepointconsulting.com) If you need help.

1-on-1 TA to members

Overview: NDC staff and a bench of BfWA consultants bring expertise and experience in implementing the 4-pillar approach. They are available to support you as you adopt and adapt in your neighborhoods, particularly in navigating the lending and real estate pillars.

Action: Contact Mihailo (MTemali@ndc-mn.org) when navigating implementation.

Policy Playbook

Overview: The playbook raises opportunities, provides guidance on tackling shared problems and connects a national network of practitioners working with entrepreneurs.

Action: At the convening, checkout the 1-page handout about the various chapters in the policy playbook. Steve, Nour and Dan will roll out the Playbook early this summer!