



WEDFA

Washington
Economic Development
Finance Authority

The Washington Economic Development Finance Authority (WEDFA) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposal (RFP) for its 2026 Small Business Technical Assistance Program, a grant program focused on improving economic development opportunities for small businesses in Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan and Yakima counties.

WEDFA'S 2026 SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM is a grant program focused on improving economic development opportunities for small businesses in Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan and Yakima counties. Grant awards between \$5,000 and \$80,000 will be made to Technical Assistance providers to help better connect Washington State small businesses in these five counties with funding and business development opportunities.

HOW TO APPLY:

- The deadline for submitting a completed RFP is March 24, 2026. Submit completed RFPs to molly.abbey@wshfc.org.
- A Q&A session will be held on Zoom on March 3, 2026 at 11am. The information session will be held via Zoom (*please refer to page 1 of the attached RFP for meeting information.*)
- Grant award notifications will be made by May 19, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY: Any organization that supports small businesses in Washington by providing Technical Assistance is invited to apply, especially members of the Washington State Department of Commerce Small Business Resiliency Network, Tribal agencies, ADOs and local governments.

QUESTIONS? Contact molly.abbey@wshfc.org with any questions.

About the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority's Small Business Technical Assistance Program:

This program will fund the addition of needed advice, education and expertise to entrepreneurs and small businesses so they can access available funding resources, as well as increase their functionality, financeability and employment potential. Some technical assistance areas WEDFA believes are currently lacking include ongoing technical assistance to early-stage businesses, business-to-business mentorship, advising for government contracts and procurement, and grant writing assistance.

WEDFA seeks to enhance delivery of technical assistance by (1) providing funds through grants to providers of technical assistance and/or (2) entering into other collaborative arrangements with providers of technical assistance. Eligible providers are anticipated (but not necessarily required) to be 501(c)(3) corporations, local governments, tribal nations, and other not-for-profit organizations. The program's intended beneficiaries are aspiring entrepreneurs, small businesses and medium-sized businesses.

The program will not lend money to technical assistance providers or to the businesses they are expected to help. Assistance is limited to grant funding to technical assistance providers.

Grant funding for the 2026 program will be restricted to the counties in Washington with the greatest rates of poverty at the time of the 2026 program implementation: Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan and Yakima. WEDFA will initiate a competitive solicitation process for this round of funding. Grant agreement deliverables and measurements of economic development success are expected to make up part of the award agreements between WEDFA and grantee organizations.

Expected amounts of grants will vary depending on the extent of services provided and expected economic development benefits. The minimum amount per grant will be \$5,000 and maximum amount per grant will be \$80,000. WEDFA hopes funding will continue in future years depending on fund availability and success of the initial grants.

About WEDFA

The Washington Economic Development Finance Authority (WEDFA) is an independent agency within the executive branch of state government. WEDFA was created by the legislature to act as a financial conduit to businesses through the issuance of nonrecourse revenue bonds. For more information, contact:

*Rodney Wendt, Executive Director
wedfa@wshfc.org
206-587-5634*

*Molly Abbey, Program Administrator
molly.abbey@wshfc.org
206-287-4447*

www.wedfa.org