

Investing in Our Mission

WBD is the Midwest's largest and most successful SBA 504 lender. Each year we collaborate with local financial institutions to provide financing to hundreds of growing businesses for real estate and equipment. We provide low, long-term, fixed rate financing and minimum payments. Attractive financing leaves more money available to reinvest in the business.

As a nonprofit, our mission is to help grow businesses, create jobs and build communities. We are proud to have helped create over 72,000 jobs since our founding in 1981.

WBD serves the entire state of Wisconsin, the Twin-Cities metro area of Minnesota and the border counties of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. With offices and staff located throughout our service area we build lasting relationships with businesses, lenders and communities.

As a successful nonprofit company, we reinvest in Other Economic Development Activities throughout our service area. We identify investment opportunities (programs, initiatives ...) that support local economic development activities, preferably in small business development and job creation.

How to apply for an Investment

We work to keep things simple, but we are results oriented. Our application process focuses on:

- Who you are and what you do
- What project/initiative you are proposing
- How much money you need
- What expected results are from this effort

Successful applicants will have a clear goal and some way to measure results. We also require follow-up reports that detail the actual results of the project.

What is the deadline for applying?

WBD has an Other Economic Development Committee that meets 3-4 times per year to review proposals, consider investments and make recommendations to the WBD Board of Directors. Both groups meet quarterly and can consider proposals at any meeting.

What if I have questions?

Contact:
Lance Walter
SVP Marketing and Communications
lwalter@wbd.org

More detailed information and application form can be found at wbd.org/OpportunityFund

WBD Opportunity Funds

WE WANT
(WBD)

to INVEST
(Grants or Loans to support your economic development efforts)

in YOU!
(Non-profit organizations doing this stuff in MN, WI and MI)





What sort of things would we consider?

- Small Business Incubators
- Technical Assistance Providers that provide grants and/or entrepreneurial or training programs to small businesses or scholarship assistance to those who wish to participate
- Workforce development or job training programs
- Investments that help attract matching funds
- Studies that enable or document local economic development options
- Other creative ideas that align with our mission, to grow businesses, create jobs and build communities.



How much is available?

The amount we have to invest varies from year to year, depending on WBD's success. From 2019-2021 WBD made over \$680,000 of investments.

How much can you request?

Typical WBD investments range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. WBD will make multi-year commitments in some cases.

Who can apply?

Non-profit Organizations undertaking efforts in Wisconsin, Minnesota or Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

RECENT INVESTMENT PARTNERS

