

## DECD Commissioner Visits Three Rivers to Explain New Small Business Programs

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*December 29, 2011* - Three Rivers Community College recently hosted over 100 Norwich-area businessmen and women who came to hear Connecticut's economic development commissioner, Catherine Smith, explain new state programs created to help small businesses and create jobs.

In its October 2011 special legislative session, the Connecticut legislature enacted a "jobs bill," which includes a number of financial and tax incentive programs to help small businesses.

Smith's stop at Three Rivers Community College was one of more than a dozen informational sessions held across the state to let businesses know what the new programs have to offer.

Although the 98-page jobs bill creates a number of tools designed to help create and retain jobs, a centerpiece of the bill is the **Small Business Express Program**, which offers loans and grants to Connecticut's small business to spur job creation and growth. The legislature authorized \$120 million in funding for the Small Business Express Program for 2012 and 2013. The program includes low-interest loans, deferrable and forgivable loans, and matching grants to Connecticut-based small businesses and small manufacturers.

**What's available?** Matching grants from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and loans for \$10,000 to \$250,000, at a maximum of 4% interest for loan periods up to five years, are available for employee training, working capital, machinery and equipment purchases, construction improvements, or for relocation within Connecticut. Certain loans may be forgiven or deferred based on the borrower's actual job creation. Eligible small businesses may obtain loans and grants in combination, whether from the Small Business Express Program or through other municipal, state or federal programs.

**Who may apply?** Small businesses employing 50 or fewer employees are eligible for the Small Business Express Program. Applicants must also: be based in and operate in Connecticut; have been registered to do business in Connecticut for at least 12 months; be current on all state and local taxes; and be in good standing with all state agencies. In awarding grants or loans, DECD must give priority to Connecticut's "economic base businesses," which include precision manufacturing, business services, green and sustainable technology, bioscience, and information technology businesses.

For more information on the Small Business Express Program, see the table and links to additional resources below.

### Other resources:

- CT Department of Community & Economic Development (DECD): [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- DECD Small Business Express Program and application: <http://1.usa.gov/uic6wr>
- An Act Promoting Economic Growth and Job Creation in the State (Public Act 2011-1, October Spec. Sess.) - bill text at <http://1.usa.gov/vIOyEA>; OLR Bill Analysis at <http://1.usa.gov/rLsleB>
- DECD Presentation on Jobs Bill: [http://www.ct.gov/ecd/lib/ecd/csra\\_road\\_tour\\_\(jw\).ppt](http://www.ct.gov/ecd/lib/ecd/csra_road_tour_(jw).ppt)
- DECD Jobs Bill Webinars (Jan 18, 2012 and Jan 19, 2012) - <http://1.usa.gov/uxFlhi>
- Norwich Community Development Corp (NCDC), for Norwich-based businesses, at [www.askncdc.com](http://www.askncdc.com).

## Connecticut DECD Small Business Express Program

Public Act 11-1, Oct. Special Session

	<b>Revolving Loan</b>	<b>Forgivable Loans (Job Creation Incentive)</b>	<b>Matching Grant</b>
<b>Overview</b>	Loans to support small business growth	Deferrable or forgivable loans for borrowers that increase and maintain jobs for at least 12 consecutive months, to support hiring	Matching grants to provide working capital
<b>Who may apply</b>	Businesses with 50 or fewer employees that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are based in and operate in CT, and</li> <li>• Have been registered to do business in CT for at least 12 months, and</li> <li>• Are current on all state and local taxes, and are</li> <li>• In good standing with all state agencies.</li> </ul>		
<b>Terms and conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10,000-\$100,000</li> <li>• Up to 4% interest</li> <li>• Maximum 5-year term</li> <li>• DECD determines loan terms, conditions, and collateral requirements prioritizing job growth and retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10,000 to \$250,000 forgivable loans</li> <li>• Commissioner may defer loan payments and forgive all or part of loan based on the borrower's job creation</li> <li>• DECD determines loan terms, conditions, and collateral requirements prioritizing job creation and retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10,000 to \$100,000 grants</li> <li>• Business must match state grant</li> <li>• DECD prioritizes on likelihood of applicant maintaining job growth</li> </ul>
<b>Funding must be used for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquiring machinery and equipment</li> <li>• Construction or leasehold improvements</li> <li>• Relocation costs</li> <li>• Working capital</li> <li>• Other commissioner-approved business expenses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing or new training</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Working capital</li> <li>• Other commissioner-approved expenses that support job creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Working capital</li> <li>• Machinery and equipment acquisition</li> <li>• Construction or leasehold improvements</li> <li>• Relocation within the state</li> <li>• Other commissioner-approved business related expenses</li> </ul>
<b>Priority will be given to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic base businesses</li> <li>• Businesses creating new jobs that will be maintained for not less than 12 consecutive months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic base businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic base businesses</li> <li>• Businesses likely to maintain job growth with the grants</li> </ul>
<b>Application Turnaround</b>	In most cases review and approve applications and deliver aid within 30 days after application's submission		