

Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grants

United Way of South Central Michigan (formerly United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region), in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo with support from Foundation for Excellence and Consumers Energy, launched the Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grant program in 2020 with an aim to bring relief to those hit hardest by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program provides our community's smallest businesses with support grants of \$5,000 each. The grant program prioritizes businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, as well as women-owned businesses and those located within Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo neighborhoods of Eastside, Edison and Northside. In 2022, Kalamazoo County Government granted a portion of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to UWSCMI to expand the program countywide for one year, and in 2023, the City of Kalamazoo also allocated ARPA funding to support the Spring KMEG grants. The data below show the program's overall impact from 2020 through fall 2023.

City of Kalamazoo & Kalamazoo County Combined Priority Criteria Outcomes from 2020-2023



550 Microbusinesses



\$2,750,000



**18 City Neighborhoods
13 County Jurisdictions**

BIPOC* & Female & COK Priority Neighborhood** Grantees	86
BIPOC OR Female & COK Priority Neighborhood Grantees	145
BIPOC & Female Grantees	206
BIPOC OR Female Grantees	465

*BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, People of Color

**COK Priority Neighborhoods are Eastside, Edison, Northside