



## PURPOSE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

The DeKalb County Community Development Small Business Loan Program is designed to provide below market rate fixed asset financing to new and existing small businesses who want to do business in DeKalb County. This program also establishes a platform for creating and retaining jobs in the County.

As an engine for economic growth, the DeKalb County Community Development Department is excited to provide small business financing opportunities to DeKalb County businesses.

We are hopeful that the program will encourage enthusiasm and creativity in the marketplace and help open the door to an exciting and profitable future for DeKalb's entrepreneurial community.

**LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
SMALL BUSINESS  
LOAN  
PROGRAM

Revised May 2025



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM



## SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

The Small Business Loan Program is used to make direct loans to small businesses located in DeKalb County, Georgia, where the primary provisions of the program are:

**Minimum Loan**—\$15,000\*

**Maximum Loan**—\$50,000

**Interest Rate**—not to exceed 5%

**Term**—Determined by the needs of the business 7-10 years

**Collateral**—Traditional collateral. Non-traditional collateral will be addressed on a case-by-case basis

**Legal Entities**—Sole Proprietorship, Partnerships (Limited & General), Sub-Chapter S Corporations, Corporations, Limited Liability Companies

**Minimum Credit Score**—560

\*On a case-by-case basis, loans may be available under \$15,000.00.

## HOW TO APPLY:

1. Eligible borrowers can apply by emailing [c-egramsay@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:c-egramsay@dekalbcountyga.gov).
2. Upon receipt of the application, a loan analyst will review the application for: completeness, eligibility, loan amount, and purpose.
3. An email will be sent to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the application, and any initial questions or feedback. Additional information will be requested at this time, if required.
4. For all acceptable applications, underwriting will be initiated by the loan analyst.
5. If the loan is approved by the loan analyst, a full loan application package will be presented to the DeKalb County Loan Committee for review.
6. If the loan is approved by the Committee, a closing will be scheduled within 30 to 45 days.



## ELIGIBLE BORROWERS

***For-Profit Businesses must provide the following:***

1. Existing Businesses with two (2) years of experience must provide a Financial Business Summary, and two (2) years audited tax returns.
2. Start-Up Businesses with less than two (2) years of experience must provide a Business Plan, and one (1) year audited tax return.
3. In writing, the business must demonstrate significant expertise and passion in its industry.
4. In writing, commit to the creation of new jobs and/or retention of existing jobs.

**For additional information contact:**

Elrado G. Ramsay

(404) 371-2693

[c-egramsay@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:c-egramsay@dekalbcountyga.gov)



## ELIGIBLE USES

- ✓ Purchase machinery, equipment, trucks, supplies, inventory and purchase of an existing business.
- ✓ Facility-related real estate acquisition, construction, renovation, or rehabilitation.
- ✓ Working capital for limited inventory purchases.
- ✓ Leasehold improvements.
- ✓ Architectural design, engineering, or environmental testing.
- ✓ Financial, legal and technical consulting expertise.

