



## THE NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING COLLABORATIVE

The Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative connects local businesses with resources that are available through governmental and non-profit programs. This list highlights some of the programs available to your business.

**Please contact Pete for more information** about any of these programs or others that could help you start, grow, or strengthen your small business.

**Peter Feen, Small Business & Economic Development Program Coordinator**  
[pete@nwctplanning.org](mailto:pete@nwctplanning.org) or (860) 605 - 7183

### Planning Assistance Programs

---

- CT Small Business Development Center - Torrington
  - They provide no cost advising services to both prospective and existing business owners to help them start or expand their business.
  - Expertise - Business plan review, Cash flow analysis, Guidance with loan and grant applications, Marketing and social media, International trade, Inventory control management, Market research, Management and personnel expertise, Emergency preparedness
- Northwest Connecticut SCORE (Service Core Of Retired Execs) – Torrington
  - SCORE's mentors, comprised of active and retired business people that provide clients with free and confidential business counseling.
  - Expertise - [Business Finance & Accounting](#), [Business Operations](#), [Business Strategy & Planning](#), [Sales, Marketing & Public Relations](#), [Technology & IT Services](#).
- Women's Business Development Council- Torrington office
  - WBDC offers two pathways into their Entrepreneurial Education Programs and Services: 1) Thinking of Starting a Business and 2) Ready to Build Your Business

### Small Business Financing Programs

---

- CT DECD Small Business Express Revolving Loan Fund Program
  - Eligible Businesses: Less than 100 employees must have been in business more than 12 months, current on taxes.
  - Eligible Funds For: equipment, construction or improvements, relocation cost working capital.
  - Terms: Loan amounts 10,000 -100,000, up to 4% interest rate. Max 10 yr. terms.
- Litchfield Hills Regional Micro-Loan Program - Low Interest Financing for Eligible Businesses in Norfolk and Goshen via The City of Torrington
  - Eligible Businesses: 5 or fewer employees meet income limits; will create at least one full time job.
  - Eligible Funds For: a wide variety of uses including equipment purchase, acquisition or business expansion, or working capital.
  - Terms: Low interest financing of up to \$25,000.

- Community Economic Development Fund (Meriden, CT)- Small Business Lending
  - Eligible Businesses - business owners with adjusted gross household income of less than \$89,200.
  - Can provide flexible financial options that some banks cannot provide.
  - Provide financial assistance to both start-up and established businesses including:
    - [Standard Loan](#) (\$50,000 to \$250,000)
    - [SBA/Microloans](#) (up to \$50,000)
    - [Grow Your Business Loan](#) (\$50,000 – \$250,00 and in business at least 3 years)
  
- Small Business Energy Advantage- save money on your energy bills
  - Eligible “small businesses” include, restaurants, retail stores, offices, and B&Bs
  - Step 1- Program conducts a free energy assessment
  - Step 2- They prepare a proposal including all eligible energy efficiency measures, detailing materials and installation costs and estimated saving
  - You decide what improvements make sense for you; there’s no obligation to install
  - No upfront costs for installed upgrades
  - Zero-interest and low-cost financing \* (payable on your monthly electric bill, so you only have one monthly payment)

**Have questions about how to get started on any of these programs or how they can help you?**

***Call Pete (860) 605 - 7183***