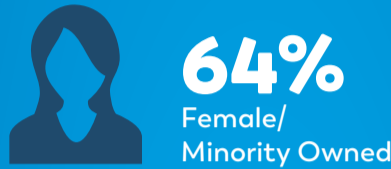


We're Better Together

In May 2020, the Consumers Energy Foundation donated **\$1.8 million** to nine community organizations to provide a lifeline during COVID-19 to small businesses across Michigan – focusing in particular on helping female- and minority-owned businesses. Other local organizations also provided financial support, bringing the total to **\$4.3 million**.



Types of Businesses

antique mall, barbershop, brewery, catering, child care, consignment, construction, counselor, cleaning service, dance studio, farm, gallery, hair and nails, health and fitness, kennel, lodging, photography, restaurant, tailor, travel agency, spa, winery and many, many more.



“I want to continue to grow in the online marketplace. People go to a gym, but others are not interested. I want to bring fitness to the people that want to be fit but are not ready to do that in a public atmosphere.”

Theresa Horne
Sisterhood of Strong
Jackson



“This grant provides critical funding to get back on track to opening so that my dream can be realized and so the community has a space in which people can create, exchange ideas, take refuge and inspire one another.”

Rebecca Macleery
Loose Parts Studio
Kalamazoo



“We truly appreciate your kindness and generosity! It means so much to our small farm and business. You give us hope and even more determination to be successful with your grant! We know it's been a struggle for many small and large businesses and we feel honored to be blessed with your assistance! We promise to continue to work hard and make it! Thank you over again and again!”

Christine and David Nelson
Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm
Frankfort



“Self-employment takes hard work and diligence and we thank you for adding energy to our beings so that we can serve our community with GOOD. AFFORDABLE. FOOD. This grant was indeed a blessing to Kuntry Cookin’.”

Destinee Keener
Kuntry Cookin’
Muskegon



“This resilience grant is a reinforcement of the most tangible kind. With it, I will be better able to move forward, reimagine, and put into play, significant strategies to advance my company into its 2.0 incarnation.”

Rita Brown
BCC + Construction
Pontiac



Special thanks to local organizations that distributed the grants:

The Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation's Rapid Response Economic Relief Fund • Saginaw Future's Small Business Fund • Venture North's Regional Resiliency Fund • Battle Creek Unlimited's COVID-19 Microgrant Fund • United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region's Kalamazoo Micro-Enterprise Grant Fund • Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Restart Flint & Genesee Fund • Lansing Economic Area Partnership's One & All Program • The Jackson Community Foundation's Small Business Fund • Michigan Women Forward's Michigan Entrepreneur Resilience Fund