Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator
We connect opportunity with capital.

Bridgeway provides loans for small businesses and real estate projects that create economic opportunity in communities that need it most.

We are on a mission to make capital available to build a vibrant regional economy where everyone thrives. As a mission-driven lender, we provide fair, flexible financing for entrepreneurs and community partners that create social and economic impact in underinvested communities. Our funding solutions help our clients pursue new opportunities for economic mobility, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhoods.

Together, we are building a stronger local economy for all.

Since 1990, Bridgeway has been at the forefront of community and economic development. We take a market-based approach to community development by providing lending capital to create economic opportunities and revitalize communities. Bridgeway is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the U.S. Treasury Department.

From our offices in Erie, Pittsburgh, and Uniontown, we connect entrepreneurs with capital to build businesses and revitalize communities across western Pennsylvania.

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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When building a business, there are often more unknowns than knowns. Bridgeway's Entrepreneurship Hub helps you navigate entrepreneurship. Its Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator can help you turn obstacles into opportunities for business growth.

If you’re an entrepreneur – whether that means you have just developed a business plan or have a long track record of success – and are looking to take your business to the next level, the Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator program is designed for you. We are seeking driven and focused entrepreneurs that are ready to set a vision for business growth and take action to achieve it.

The 9-month accelerator program selects entrepreneurs to learn as a cohort, build their networks, and develop plans for business growth. Seminars and networking events focus on customer discovery, market validation, financial management, business development and professional network development.

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

**AUGUST - APRIL**

Meet as a cohort for seminars and networking events, while you develop a business growth plan with trusted advisers.

**MAY AND BEYOND**

Next, you’ll take the lead on your business growth plan with access to your advisers and the Entrepreneurship Hub.

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Charting a course for success.

Grow your businesses through an action-focused process.

**360° ASSESSMENT**
*Get a 360° view of your business.*

We’ll start with a visual checklist that gives you a complete 360° view of your business to identify key focus areas to move your business forward. Then, working with a team of trusted business advisers, you will develop a business growth plan to set actionable goals and measure your progress.

**SEMINARS**
*Navigate entrepreneurship.*

Take part in 4 facilitated workshops with your cohort of entrepreneurs. As a group, you will explore business concepts and navigate entrepreneurship together. These sessions will be roughly 3 hours each and will occur every other month over the 9 month Accelerator.

**NETWORKING**
*Grow your network and make it work for you.*

Networking events will be scheduled over the course of the nine months and may include round table sessions, panel discussions, social networking engagements, and coffee meetings in small groups.

**COACHING**
*Structured conversations about your business.*

Your coach will help you build a custom toolbox to help you take action. They will help hold you accountable and keep you on track.

**WORK WITH EXPERTS**
*Access expertise to close gaps.*

We’ll help you identify the strengths and gaps you’ll encounter as you execute your business growth plan. Then we’ll help you build a “brain trust” of trusted experts and advisers invested in your success to help you close gaps.

**GROWTH PLAN**
*The proving grounds.*

After 9 months, you’ll take the lead and test your new skills and network. The business growth plan you create will guide you. Our business coaches and your brain trust will be available during this period. You’ll take the lead, but we’ll stand with you to achieve your goals.

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We seek entrepreneurs who use the power of business to make a difference in their community.

APPLY

Please submit your application by July 1st. To get started, click on and complete the online inquiry form below.

GET STARTED

TIMELINE

• **July 1st**: Applications Due
• **August**: 360° Business Assessment
• **September**: Seminar
• **October**: Networking Event
• **November**: Seminar
• **December**: Coaching Session
• **January**: Seminar
• **February**: Networking Event
• **March**: Seminar
• **April**: Graduation Event

• After graduating from the cohort learning phase, you take the lead and test your new skills and network. Your business growth plan will guide you with access to your advisers and Entrepreneurship Hub.

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