

# Special Status Business Resources in Northeast Ohio

## **Greater Akron Chamber**

1 Cascade Plaza, 17th Floor, Akron, Ohio 44308  
Rick Rebadow, Executive Vice President  
330-376-5550, [rebadow@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:rebadow@greaterakronchamber.org)  
[www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org)  
Serving the Northeast Ohio counties of Medina, Portage, and Summit, the Chamber provides business services, information and advocacy in economic development, entrepreneurship, workforce development, government affairs, research and communications.

## **Akron Development Fund**

1 Cascade Plaza, 17th Floor, Akron, Ohio 44308  
Gregg Cramer, Vice President, Economic Development Greater Akron Chamber  
330-237-1213, [cramer@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:cramer@greaterakronchamber.org)  
The Fund is a mezzanine financing fund to provide \$250,000-\$2 million to promote growth and development in the City of Akron.

## **Akron Urban League & Minority Small Business Development Center**

440 Vernon Odum Blvd., Akron, Ohio 44307  
Fred Wright, President & CEO  
330-434-3101, [fwright@aol.com](mailto:fwright@aol.com)  
[www.akronurbanleague.org](http://www.akronurbanleague.org)  
The Minority Business Development Center provides management, technical, financial and contract procurement assistance, as well as loan, grant and bond packaging services and certification assistance.

## **ShoreBank Enterprise Cleveland**

540 E. 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44108  
Mary Ann Stropky, President  
216-268-6104, [SECinfo@sbk.com](mailto:SECinfo@sbk.com)  
[www.shorebankenterprise.org](http://www.shorebankenterprise.org)  
ShoreBank focuses on building minority owned businesses through business support services, affordable office space, and loan and equity investments from two enterprise finance funds.

## **Ohio Department of Development Division of Minority Business Affairs**

77 S. High St., PO Box 1001, Columbus, Ohio 43216 614.466-5700  
800-848-1300  
[www.odod.state.oh.us/DMBA](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/DMBA)  
The DMBA creates a business environment sensitive to the particular needs of minority business enterprises through efforts including capital access, contractors business assistance and procurement technical assistance programs, as well as the Office of Minority Business Financial Incentives.

## **Consortium Of African American Organizations**

4415 Euclid Ave., Suite 201, Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
216-432-9483, [caao\\_cleveland@yahoo.com](mailto:caao_cleveland@yahoo.com)  
[www.caao.net](http://www.caao.net)  
CAAO (pronounced K-O) is an umbrella consulting organization for the black professional organizations of greater Cleveland connecting entrepreneurial, professional and leadership development resources for members.

## **NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) of Cleveland**

5910 Harper Rd., Suite 102, Cleveland, Ohio 44139-1835  
440-914-9262, [mailbox@nawbocleveland.org](mailto:mailbox@nawbocleveland.org)  
NAWBO is a business owners' peer group, providing resources to women-owned enterprises. NAWBO meets the first Thursday of the month in Akron and the third Tuesday of the month in Cleveland.

## **The University of Akron**

Fitzgerald Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies  
Stephen Washington, Director  
College of Business Administration, Room 409, Akron, Ohio 44325-4801  
330-972-6429, [sw43@uakron.edu](mailto:sw43@uakron.edu)  
[www.uakron.edu](http://www.uakron.edu)  
The university-wide program specializes in teaching creativity, innovation, family business, franchising, acquisitions, corporate innovation and entrepreneurship. The program is experiential in nature as students work with entrepreneurs, investors and existing small business owners.

## **Taylor Institute for Direct Marketing**

302 Buchtel Common, Akron, Ohio 44325-4807  
William Hauser, Director  
330-972-7111, [whauser@uakron.edu](mailto:whauser@uakron.edu)  
[www.uakron.edu/colleges/cba/taylor](http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/cba/taylor)  
With dedicated faculty and staff and a state of the art facility featuring laboratories in telecommunications, TV infomercials, direct response, eMarketing, and marketing analytics, the Taylor Institute works closely with a number of industry associations and companies to advance both research and new practices in the field.

## **New Business Legal Clinic**

Buchtel Commons, Room 302, Akron, Ohio 44325-2901  
Steve Cook, J.D., Director  
330-972-2358, [scook@uakron.edu](mailto:scook@uakron.edu)  
[www.uakron.edu/law/nblc](http://www.uakron.edu/law/nblc)  
Under the supervision of a licensed attorney, second- and third-year law students at the New Business Legal Clinic provide low cost non-litigation, transactional legal and business advice, including business formation, employment, contract/lease, tax and entity information.

## **ARCH Angel Network**

411 Wolf Ledges Pkwy., Akron, Ohio 44311  
John Myers, University of Akron Research Foundation Executive-in-Residence, Greater Akron Chamber Entrepreneurial Outreach Specialist  
330-972-2144, [jmyers2@uakron.edu](mailto:jmyers2@uakron.edu)  
[www.akronarchangels.com](http://www.akronarchangels.com)  
The ARCHAngel Network brings together promising technology companies and Angel investors with a particular focus on businesses that leverage the region's strengths in health care, information technologies, polymers and other advanced materials.

## **Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise (GLIDE)**

Lorain County Community College  
1005 Abbe Rd., Elyria, Ohio 44035-1691  
Cliff Reynolds, Director  
800-995-LCCC (5222), [info@lorainccc.edu](mailto:info@lorainccc.edu)  
[www.lorainccc.edu/Business+and+Industry/Entrepreneurial+Support/glide](http://www.lorainccc.edu/Business+and+Industry/Entrepreneurial+Support/glide)  
GLIDE is a comprehensive regional innovation center, resource hub and business incubator that supports all facets of the start-up, development and growth of enterprises for Northeast Ohio entrepreneurs.

## **Innovation Fund of the LCCC Foundation**

Tracy Green, Director  
440-366-4121  
[www.lorainccc.edu/if](http://www.lorainccc.edu/if)  
The Innovation Fund was created to support technology-based entrepreneurial endeavors and emerging technology-based businesses in Northeast Ohio. The fund is designed to fill a widely recognized funding gap for early stage businesses. Qualifying grants of up to \$25,000 are available for technology validation and grants of up to \$100,000 are available for validating a business.

**To register your special status small business, visit [www.odod.state.oh.us/dmba/minoritysmallbusinesscert.htm](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/dmba/minoritysmallbusinesscert.htm). Registered businesses increase their likelihood of receiving government contracts and funding. A minority business in the State of Ohio is defined as a business whose ownership is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a minority; that is African-American, Asian, Hispanic or Native American.**

**International Institute of Akron (IIA)**

207 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, Ohio 44310  
 Lee Williams, Executive Director  
 330-376-5106, info@iiaakron.org  
 www.iiaakron.org

The IIA creates and implements programs and services to assist the foreign born in integrating into Akron society and promotes public awareness of the value of ethnic diversity. Services offered include education, employment counseling, immigration counseling, interpreting and translation and refugee resettlement.

**Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA)**

730 Carroll St., Akron, Ohio 44304  
 May Chen, Executive Director  
 330-535-3263, asia@asiainc-ohio.org  
 http://www.asiainc-ohio.org

A partner in the University Park Alliance, ASIA is a leader in community outreach, literacy, mentorship and newcomers assistance programs.

**Kent Regional Business Alliance**

Business Administration Building, Room 300, Kent, Ohio 44242  
 330-672-1275  
 www.krba.biz

KRBA is a team of Northeast Ohio organizations dedicated to promoting small business in Ohio. KRBA provides services, business consulting and products for growing businesses and entrepreneurs. The center offers small loans, technical assistance, small business development and the Kent Business Incubator.

**Kent State University**

Ohio Employee Ownership Program  
 113 McGilvrey Hall, Kent, Ohio 44242  
 Chris Cooper, Program Coordinator  
 330-672-3028, ccooper@kent.edu  
 www.dept.kent.edu/oeoc

The OEOC provides free preliminary technical assistance to companies and unions interested in exploring employee ownership.

**Center for Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation**

P.O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio 44242  
 Julie Messing, Director  
 330-672-9430, jmessing@kent.edu  
 www.business.kent.edu/cebi

The center aims to create business growth in Northeast Ohio and is recognized for inter-disciplinary activities, sustained collaborative relationships with other organizations, entrepreneurial research and graduates with entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial spirit, drive and accomplishments.

**Liquid Crystal Institute**

201 Liquid Crystals & Materials, Kent, Ohio 44242  
 Oleg Lavrentovich, Director  
 330-672-2654, ODL@ici.kent.edu  
 www.ici.kent.edu

LCI collaborates with scientific and industrial partners in the discovery and characterization of new liquid crystalline phases and devices.

**Cuyahoga County New Product Development and Entrepreneurship Program**

4600 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103-4314  
 Barbara Paul  
 216-432-5322, 877-GROW-MFG  
 www.magnetwork.org/programs/cuyahoga-loan-fund.htm

A partnership between Cuyahoga County and MAGNET, the New Product Development and Entrepreneurship Program offers ten-year, 3.5 percent interest deferred loans to entrepreneurs and companies with annual sales of less than \$50 million.

**Greater Akron Chamber Economic Development Partners:****Akron SCORE**

1 Cascade Plaza, 18th Floor, Akron, Ohio 44308  
 330-379-3163, Akronscore81@aol.com  
 www.akronscore.com

SCORE's staff of experienced and successful executives, managers and business owners offers free individual counseling, mentoring, workshops and seminars.

**City of Akron, Economic Development Department**

166 S. High St., Akron, Ohio 44308  
 Robert Bowman, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development  
 330-375-2133, rbowman@akronohio.gov  
 www.akronohio.gov

The Mayor's Office of Economic Development serves as the direct liaison for the City of Akron to the business community.

**Medina County Economic Development Corporation**

144 N. Broadway St., Medina, Ohio 44256  
 Bethany Dentler, Executive Director  
 330-722-9215, bdentler@medinacounty.org  
 www.medinacounty.org

MCEDC offers a facilities and site selection database, workforce and training development, transportation infrastructure and shipping resources information and market information and demographics.

**Portage Development Board**

217 South Chestnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
 Diane Fierle, Executive Assistant  
 330-297-3470, dfierle@portagedevbd.org  
 www.portageworkforce.org/pcoed

The Portage Development Board offers confidential assistance locating, industrial sites and buildings, financing, property tax incentives and the Ohio Incentive Programs to companies in Portage County.

**Summit County Department of Community & Economic Development**

175 S. Main St., Akron, Ohio 44308  
 Connie Krauss, Director, Community and Economic Development  
 330-643-2893, ckrauss@summitoh.net  
 www.co.summit.oh.us/executive

The department has assisted hundreds of businesses with tax incentives and offers a technology-training grant to fund programs through which employees will learn skills to better compete in today's economy.

**Summit Medina Business Alliance & Small Business Development Center**

526 S. Main St., Suite 813, Akron, Ohio 44311  
 Mary Ann Jasionowski, Director  
 330-375-2111, info@akronsbdc.org  
 www.akronsbdc.org

Ohio's SBDCs strive to provide high-quality, customer-driven business consulting, education and information, including general and specialty counseling, business plan development, financial analysis, capital resource information, business workshops and seminars, management training and strategic planning.

**Akron Global Business Accelerator**

526 S. Main St., Akron, Ohio 44311  
 Michael LeHere, Chief Executive Officer  
 330-375-2173, asabo@akronincubator.com  
 www.ci.akron.oh.us/aii

The Akron Global Business Accelerator offers 200,000 square feet of upscale office, lab and manufacturing space with state of the art conferencing facilities and IT services. The accelerator offers support and counseling services, including cash flow management, financing, marketing and sales, and business plan development.