

- The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) is a \$10 billion federal program that helps states support small businesses and startups that are creditworthy but unable to access the capital they need to grow or establish their businesses and create jobs within the Commonwealth.
- **SSBCI is not a government grant program.** It is a post-pandemic economic stimulus program that uses federal dollars to leverage private sector investments in existing and start-up small businesses through lending and equity programs.
- SSBCI is intended to increase access to capital and promote entrepreneurship, especially in traditionally underserved communities as they emerge from the pandemic. The program emphasizes assistance for very small businesses (VSBs) with fewer than 10 employees and no more than 250 employees, and small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDIs).
- Virginia received approval for up to \$230.4 million in SSBCI funding on November 9, 2022. Access to the full \$230.4 million is dependent on Virginia meeting certain federal funding benchmarks including those related to VSBs and SEDIs.
- The Virginia Small Business Financing Authority (VSBFA) administers the SSBCI program statewide, as well as providing SSBCI funded collateral support and direct loan programs. These lending programs make it easier for Virginia small businesses to access the small business financing they need to grow and succeed.
- VSBFA's partner in SSBCI is the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPC), which operates both direct and indirect equity programs using SSBCI funding. VIPC equity programs connect eligible start-ups, early-stage and expanding Virginia small businesses with equity capital needed to grow.
- VSBFA is also administering the Virginia SSBCI Technical Assistance Grant Program which provides funding to four (4) technical assistance providers statewide. Virginia's technical assistance providers are offering legal, accounting and financial advisory services to eligible VSB and SEDI Virginia small businesses.
- Application processes for Virginia SSBCI programs vary by program and provider. A high-level description of each program is below. For more information about eligibility requirements, program rules, application process, participating providers please email SSBCI administrators delineated below.



Program Type	Overview	Details
Collateral Support Program	Provides supplemental collateral support to participating lending institutions which enhances collateral for loans to Virginia businesses where a collateral shortfall exists.	Up to \$1 million collateral support
Direct Loan Program	Provides a direct loan to eligible small businesses in conjunction with private sector financing, to assist Virginia businesses with business development or expansion needs.	Up to \$1 million direct loan
Venture Capital Program	Equity investments to assist in the expansion of newly established Virginia small businesses. Target industries include advanced manufacturing, aerospace, life/health science, energy, autonomous systems, cybersecurity, and others.	Pre-Seed, Seed, and Early-Stage equity investments
CDFI Microlending Program	SSBCI funded microloans available to eligible small businesses through participating Virginia Community Development Financing Institutions (CDFI)	Up to \$250,000
Technical Assistance Programs	Legal, accounting, and financial advisory services to Virginia VSB and SEDIs	1:1 mentoring, workshops, and classes