



## **Making Matters NH**

### **Community. Creativity. Innovation.**

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Making Matters NH (MMNH) is an 8,500 square foot maker and shared workspace whose vision is to spur creativity and innovation and support entrepreneurs and small businesses in the Capital Region. The makerspace offers the Capital Region access to a woodshop, machine shop, prototyping and electronics lab, fiber arts and textiles studio, and a finishing lab to learn new skills and prototype and grow new ideas. The makerspace also has a classroom, meeting spaces, and private and shared workspace to artists, entrepreneurs, and emerging businesses.

MMNH leveraged funding from the US Department of Agriculture, NH Community Development Finance Authority, NH Charitable Foundation, and Capital Regional Developing Council to revitalize a previously vacant portion of the former Beede Electric Building, purchase tools and equipment, and build out a maker and shared workspace. MMNH is currently home to eleven artists and small businesses and has approximately forty users of its makerspace.

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant**

MMNH is seeking support from the City of Concord to apply for a CDBG Planning Grant. MMNH will use the Planning Grant to hire an external consultant that will assess the current resources and support systems available to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the Capital Region and evaluate the current resource gaps. MMNH will then work with the consultant to develop a plan for MMNH to develop additional entrepreneur and small business-focused resources and programming that will best support existing businesses and will result in an increase in new business creation and growth in the region.

MMNH will also use this assessment and plan to apply to become a recipient of CDBG Microenterprise Funding. Organizations throughout New Hampshire currently receive Microenterprise Funding to provide support and resources to low- and middle-income entrepreneurs and small businesses, but there is currently no organization in the Capital Region receiving it. MMNH will leverage Microenterprise Funding to grow its existing programming and develop new resources that will support entrepreneurs and result in the development and growth of new and existing businesses.

MMNH is the ideal organization to leverage this funding to organize and provide entrepreneurs and small business support and programming. MMNH currently organizes entrepreneur-focused programming, such as 1 Million Cups Central NH, that's served over 50 local entrepreneurs and resulted in both new business creation and growth. MMNH has a history of working with partner organizations like SCORE and the Center for Women and Enterprise to implement a range of workshops on marketing, business planning, fundraising, and numerous other topics. Lastly, current MMNH leadership has experience developing business incubation and acceleration programming at the national level that can serve as a model for what the organization can create in the Capital Region.