



Disability & Small Business Affinity Group

The Disability & Small Business Affinity group is a supportive consortium fostering and providing economic empowerment for entrepreneurs with disabilities and their families. It offers a working group for networking, peer mentoring, loan packaging guidance, and sharing best practices, while connecting members to Community Development Financial Institution (“CDFI”) funding, capital, and resources. CDFIs often aim to address unique financial challenges faced by disabled business owners and their families.

Mission Statement

To empower disabled entrepreneurs and their families with a dedicated space to connect, share experiences, and discuss small business finance.

Key Aspects of a Disabled Small Business Finance Affinity Group:

- **Networking & Support:** Provides a community for disabled entrepreneurs, caregivers, and allies to connect, share experiences, and reduce isolation.
- **Access to Capital:** Connects members to specialized small business lending and consumer lending offered through CDFIs and other community based organizations, including credit unions. Discusses financing requests and lending opportunities, providing referrals to partner lending organizations
- **Financial Inclusion:** Focuses on overcoming barriers to traditional finance, researching and developing financial products to bridge access to capital, addressing the specific financial health and economic needs of the disability community.
- **Advocacy & Education:** Promotes disability inclusion in the business ecosystem, advocates for better access to capital, and offers resources on navigating entrepreneurship with a disability.
- **Professional Development:** Offers mentorship and resources to help members navigate business growth, financial management, and workplace accommodations

Target Audience

Small business owners who are disabled, CDFIs lenders, and others looking to discuss and connect on small business disability finance.

Meeting Schedule

This group meets quarterly via zoom. In person meetings may be scheduled at Opportunity Finance Network (“OFN”) or other industry events. Registering to participate in the Affinity Groups also provides access to NDFC’s quarterly newsletter.