

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

New Small Business Funding Certification Announced To Assist Entrepreneurs In Accessing Capital

ST. LOUIS, MO (March 11, 2019) – Business Credit Literacy Initiative (BCLI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, recently announced a new educational program, the Small Business Capital Ready Certification, to increase access to capital for entrepreneurs, especially minority-, veteran- and women-owned businesses incorporating the award-winning Money Smart for Small Business (MSSB) curriculum developed by the FDIC and promoted by the SBA.

Most entrepreneurs do not qualify for affordable bank and SBA business financing as they are not properly prepared to meet the underwriting requirements. Furthermore, few small business owners understand the proven process of accessing capital under their EIN without the use of personal credit, commonly referred to as “business credit”.

This grant-subsidized curriculum addresses guaranteed access to business credit and SBA loans. Developed with the input from current and former business bankers, SBA lenders, SBDC advisors, SCORE mentors, and others to provide a core foundation required to access capital for pre-launch, start-up, and existing businesses of all industries including non-profits.

While there are many small business training programs, workshops, and classes, this is the **ONLY** one with a:

1. Laser-focused curriculum on accessing capital versus general education topics;
2. Hands-on workshop versus a lecture; and
3. \$100,000 capital raise guarantee for attendees who complete the programming.

The one day, in-person workshop is a practical, hands-on experience covering the following:

1. Increasing awareness of the 27 most common mistakes that keep small businesses from accessing capital.
2. Understanding and optimizing personal and business credit scores to meet the 165 FICO SBSS requirement to qualify for up to a \$150,000 SBA loan.
3. Developing a lender-compliant business plan, financial projections, uses of funds, and personal financial statement.
 - NOTE: participants will actually create these crucial documents during the one day class.
4. Comprehending the importance of having a solid bank rating to qualify for funding.
5. Learning the secrets of building business credit under an EIN without the use of personal credit.

The non-profit is actively seeking hosts like churches, business associations/organizations, chambers, etc. to host each class and individuals to help facilitate the class. Both the host and facilitator receive a \$1,000 grant-stipend per class.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information is available for prospective hosts, participants, and facilitators on <https://www.businesscreditliteracy.org/small-business-capital-ready-certification/>.