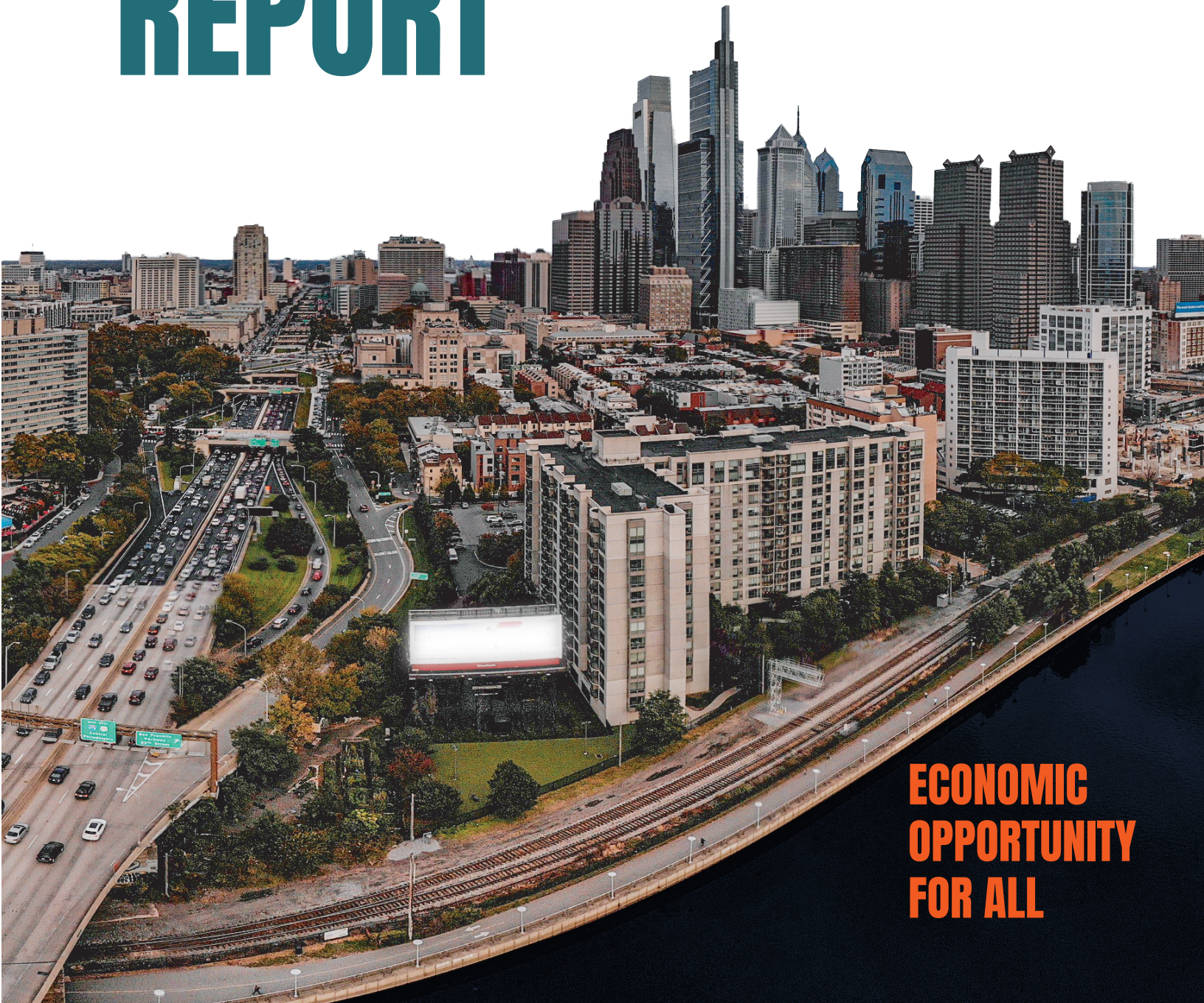




Department of
Commerce

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL**



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LETTER FROM MAYOR PARKER

Dear Philadelphia Residents,

Since day one, I made a commitment to lead City government as One Philly, a united city. My vision is clear: making Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in America with access to economic opportunity for all.

That work is already underway. Through coordinated efforts across government, we are delivering investments that are strengthening neighborhoods and supporting businesses across Philadelphia.

We have invested nearly \$40 million to expand the Department of Commerce, increasing access to capital, supporting small businesses, and helping entrepreneurs start, grow, and stay in our city.

Over the past two years, we've taken decisive steps to make our city more business-friendly by streamlining processes, improving coordination across agencies, broadening access to capital for small businesses, and revitalizing neighborhood commercial corridors that are the backbone of our local economy.

Looking ahead, we will utilize PHL PRIME to support large scale high impact projects, including the economic engine of Lower South Philadelphia. We will implement a vibrant revival of Market East, America's first commercial shopping corridor.

Our economy depends on the success of our businesses. We will continue to make it easier to do business, expand access to opportunity, and strengthen workforce pipelines that connect residents to good-paying jobs.

We're just getting started.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherrille L. Parker".

**In service,
Cherrille L. Parker
Mayor City of Philadelphia**



MESSAGE FROM

Acting Commerce Director Karen Fegely

Philadelphia is a city of firsts, and we continue to build on that momentum.

At the heart of the U.S. Northeast Corridor, the city boasts a competitive real estate market, vibrant business districts, world-class culture and cuisine, and innovation industries.

The Department of Commerce directly serves approximately 11,000 businesses annually and coordinates closely with City departments to enhance the ease of doing business.

Service excellence is core to this work.

Our Mayor's Business Action Team, which helps businesses navigate City processes and connect to resources, has a customer satisfaction rate of 96 percent.

We are working diligently with our economic development partners to build a stronger, more inclusive economy that attracts new investment while creating opportunity for the businesses and residents that call Philadelphia home.

This inaugural annual report highlights the impact of that work over the past year, as we continue to drive business growth, quality jobs, and economic mobility across Philadelphia.

Karen Fegely

Acting Director

City of Philadelphia, Department of Commerce

MAYOR PARKER'S VISION

Making Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, and greenest city with access to economic opportunity for all.

MISSION

The Department of Commerce is supporting Mayor Parker's vision by serving as a catalyst of inclusive economic growth in Philadelphia.

VALUES

Impact-focused

Human-centered

Collaborative

Service excellence

APPROACH

The Department of Commerce provides funding, education, and personalized assistance directly to local businesses, as well as those looking to enter the Philadelphia market. Commerce also contracts with local organizations as partners to strengthen inclusive economic growth efforts in Philadelphia.

STRATEGIES

- ✓ Improve the ease of doing business
- ✓ Offer business education & capacity building
- ✓ Provide financial support & direct capital to businesses
- ✓ Proactively attract & retain companies of all sizes
- ✓ Invest in neighborhood economic growth



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Commerce by the numbers

In 2025, the Department of Commerce expanded financial support programs, launched new initiatives, strengthened service excellence, and improved the ease of doing business.

2025 BIG PICTURE IMPACT

\$42.3
million

invested in 210+ community & nonprofit partners

\$16.4
million

in capital improvements across commercial districts

\$13.1
million

in grants and forgivable loans to 640+ businesses

7,000+
businesses

served by the Mayor's Business Action Team, including over 500 complex cases resolved

97
international delegations

and 1 international mission

\$3.5
million

for 2026 Ring It On! activations, beautification, and celebrations

1,100+
small businesses

received education and coaching

800+
security cameras

purchased and installed for 198 businesses

441
new jobs

created through the Quality Jobs Program

56
major business

attraction and retention wins, positioning Philadelphia as an international economic hub

10,000+
jobs

retained or created through business attraction, expansion & stabilization programs

179
commercial corridors

cleaned by the Taking Care of Business Program

PHILADELPHIA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

1.57 M
population

[+0.67%]

752.4 K
labor force

[+0.93%]

754.96 K
employment

[-0.57%]

4.8%
unemployment

[+0.3%]

1.4%
job growth

[+0.5%]

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

IMPROVE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

In April 2024, Mayor Parker signed the PHL Open for Business Executive Order 10-2024 outlining the administration's commitment to creating a business-friendly government that removes red tape, streamlines permits and licenses, expands business resources, and improves customer service.

“That’s what I call moving at the speed of business.”

Mayor Cherrille L. Parker

Chamber of Commerce Mayoral Luncheon,
February 2025



PHL Open for Business: Interdepartmental Collaborations

Philadelphia has thousands of food and hospitality businesses that drive local commerce. In 2025, the Mayor's Office of Policy Planning and Delivery and the Department of Commerce supported the following projects in close collaboration with City departments:

Department of Public Health

- Created accessible food safety inspection checklists for business owners and inspectors in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.
- Prepared culturally specific field guides and training resources for inspectors, enhancing their understanding of global ingredients and food preparation.

Office of Special Events

Created a new special events permitting system to streamline communication and approvals between departments and applicants.

Department of Licenses & Inspection and Department of Revenue

Repealed outdated regulatory requirements, including the Amusement and Scales and Scanner Licenses, reducing red tape for **more than 2,000 businesses** in partnership with City Council.

Department of Sanitation

Developed a new Commercial Waste and Recycling Portal that consolidates multiple reporting and compliance processes into one streamlined location.

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

38 businesses

became certified. The pilot was completed in Khmer (Cambodian) language.

REOPENED CENTER CITY VENDING LOTTERY

86 businesses

opened in previously vacant spots.

NEW COMMERCIAL WASTE & RECYCLING PORTAL

streamlines compliance for more than

5000 businesses

and supports Philadelphia's broader sustainability goals.

HIGHLIGHTS



Tax support

To educate businesses about changes to the City's tax structure and newly available resources, the Departments of Revenue and Commerce launched a citywide outreach campaign. Since June 2025, we have reached thousands of businesses and partner organizations. For example, Revenue sent 119,000 informational postcards to businesses impacted by the tax change.

Building on the success of a Commerce pilot that provided businesses with accounting services, Commerce launched, in December 2025, the Philadelphia Free Business Tax Preparation Program to provide businesses earning less than \$250,000 in revenue with free local, state, and federal tax preparation. Small businesses are matched with local tax professionals across the city who speak multiple languages. Services are available in person and virtually.

For more information:

visit phila.gov/businessstaxprep

“ We have taken bold steps to make Philadelphia more business-friendly by streamlining business processes, broadening access to capital, and advancing access to economic opportunity for all,” said **Mayor Cherelle L. Parker**. “From revamping the Mayor’s Business Action Team to launching the Philadelphia Small Business Catalyst Fund, the Administration has been strengthening our support of local businesses... the momentum continues by helping businesses navigate changes to the City’s tax structure through the launch of our Philadelphia Free Business Tax Preparation Program. When our small businesses succeed, our neighborhoods and our city succeed too.”

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker

Service excellence

Mayor's Business Action Team (MBAT): Provides personalized assistance in multiple languages to business owners for all aspects of doing business in Philadelphia. In 2025, MBAT supported 7,000+ businesses, including resolving over 500 complex cases.

Technology solutions

Permit Navigator: Identifies the permits, licenses, and costs required for commercial and residential projects. This digital tool is the result of a citywide collaboration led by SmartCityPHL and in close partnership with the Departments of Commerce, Licenses and Inspections, Planning and Development, Public Health, Streets, and Water, as well as the Art Commission and Landlord Gateway Program.

For more information:

<https://permits.phila.gov/>



OFFER BUSINESS EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

The Department of Commerce is dedicated to helping business owners gain practical skills, mentorship opportunities, and knowledge to grow with confidence.

“Philadelphia small businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbone of our city and we want to help them begin and grow.”

Mayor Cherrille L. Parker



Local Organizations & Chambers

The Department of Commerce funds business support organizations (BSOs) to provide skills training to entrepreneurs across the city.

Diverse Chambers of Commerce: Supports African American Chamber of Commerce of PA, NJ, and DE; Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia; Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Independence Business Alliance to assist their membership with education, networking, and access funding or contract opportunities.

Business Technical Assistance Program (BTAP): Funds BSOs to provide trainings, workshops, and one on one technical assistance to help small businesses in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods plan, start and grow.

Philadelphia Capital Access Program (PCAP): Supports non-profit lenders to provide financing and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income businesses.

Business Affinity Group Capacity Program: Supports small, business organizations with shared identities (such as ethnic chambers or trade associations) to hire Technical Assistance Coordinators that connect their network to programs and resources.



\$2.43 million

invested in 5 chambers and 11 business support organizations to provide business education \$2.43 across the city.

HIGHLIGHT

“ Due to the funding increase from the Department of Commerce, we have been able to hire two new staff members – doubling our capacity to drive cooperative development and deliver pro bono, high-touch technical assistance to Philadelphia cooperatives. We have also been able to increase our budget for contractors, which is helping us give specialty technical assistance for our cooperatives. That includes helping them learn bookkeeping and tax preparation from an experienced accountant. ”

Corey Reidy

Cooperative Development Director
Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA)



Commerce Event Series

In 2025, The Department of Commerce hosted its first three-day Business Summit and Expo attended by nearly 300 businesses and stakeholders.



Coffee and Commerce

Helps businesses discover resources, learn from industry leaders, and build meaningful connections. In 2025, these events educated almost **400 attendees** on key subjects such as bookkeeping, marketing, pricing, commercial real estate, legal structures, crime prevention, and Local Business Entity (LBE) certification.



Tech Talks

Serves as a platform to convene leaders in Philadelphia's tech community, including startups, established tech firms, investors, and ecosystem partners. In 2025, Commerce hosted two Tech Talks for **275 attendees** to discuss the state of tech employment and pitch deck preparation. Other convenings have covered critical topics such as emerging trends and digital inclusion.





Succession planning: With expertise from a FUSE Fellow, the Department of Commerce created a workshop series highlighting real-life pathways for business transitions. The series explores multiple transition paths: family succession, employee ownership, and other exit strategies that preserve neighborhood businesses and build local wealth.



Creative and Nighttime Economy

Provides creatives with free and low-cost education in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business development. In partnership with Creative Philadelphia, the annual Creative/ Nighttime Economy and Arts in Education Month celebration drew over 260 attendees to uplift creative entrepreneurs and highlight relevant resources.



Philadelphia Regional Tech Startup World Cup Pitch Competition

For the second year in a row, the Department of Commerce partnered with Temple University hosted the Philadelphia Regional Tech Startup World Cup Pitch Competition, receiving applications from tech companies to compete. The top three winners receive a monetary prize and free, six-month Innovation Nest flex membership from Temple. First place winner earned a spot to pitch at the Global Startup World Cup Competition.

2025 WINNERS

FIRST PLACE:
BioLattice

SECOND PLACE:
Vasowatch

THIRD PLACE:
UfarmX



OFFER BUSINESS EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

Commerce Program

Liberty Bell Safe Certification Program

Helps businesses create safer nighttime experiences for patrons and employees through training, certification, drink spiking test kits, and resources.

- How to prevent safety issues by recognizing early warning signs
- How to respond to safety issues when they occur
- Exploring common challenges that businesses face at night



“ We recognize the importance of ensuring the well-being of our patrons and staff. Through the Liberty Bell Safe Certification Program, we aim to strengthen our safety practices, enhance our ability to serve our community responsibly, and contribute to a more secure and inclusive city for everyone. ”

Justin Coleman Owner
Bake'n Bacon

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT & CAPITAL TO BUSINESSES

The Department of Commerce provides direct funding to businesses in multiple ways.

“ Since day one, I have expressed my commitment to strategic interventions that address economic disparities, enhance business activity, and build an equitable economy that fully leverages the talents and potential of residents across Philadelphia. ”

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker

PHL Open for Business Executive
Order signing, April 2024



Capital For Business Growth & Expansion

Philadelphia Business Lending Network (PBLN): Streamlines a process for businesses to express interest in loan financing with one form that goes to a group of more than 28 lenders. If approved for a loan from a PBLN lender, the Department of Commerce will cover up to 50% of the total PBLN funding request as an equity incentive grant of up to \$50,000 for eligible small businesses. In 2025, **46 businesses received a total of \$831,907** in grants to match their private loans – and **76% were first time borrowers.**

Quality Jobs Program: Invests in local businesses that hire Philadelphia residents for new, full-time jobs that pay Philadelphia’s 21st Century Minimum Wage and offer paid time off and health benefits. The grant amount is based on the total number of new jobs created. In 2025, this program supported the creation of **441 new quality jobs.**

“ The Quality Jobs Program helped me offset early hiring costs while allowing us to onboard and retain qualified employees who met specific criteria. This support enabled us to scale responsibly without compromising wages, hours, or training standards. When employees are supported, businesses and communities grow together.”

Brittany Hall

Director of Executive Operations, Kevin Kelley Concepts

SMALL BUSINESS CATALYST FUND
122 businesses
received **\$4.9 million**
in total investment.

Over \$359K in
grants improved 43
storefronts in 2025.

FAIR CHANCE HIRING INITIATIVE
34 businesses
received
\$98,648.

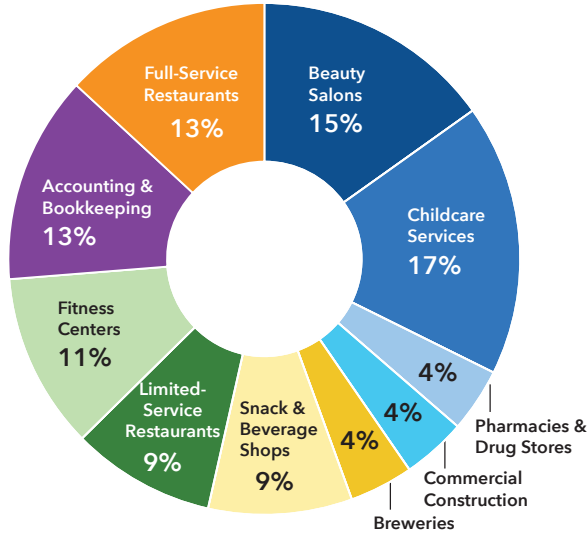
HIGHLIGHTS



Boost Your Business Program: Helps low-to-moderate income businesses grow, obtain new contracts, increase revenue, and create jobs for Philadelphians. Through the program, 20 businesses are selected to each receive a \$50,000 forgivable loan. The loan will be forgiven when the business meets its stated growth goals, with additional business support assistance from PIDC provided throughout the process.

Philadelphia Small Business Catalyst Fund: Provides grants of up to \$50,000 per business based on demonstrated need, growth potential, and economic impact. In 2025, 123 total businesses received \$4.9 million in total investment and were connected to local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) for guidance.

Catalyst Fund recipients by industry



“ This is just one way our comprehensive business support ecosystem is working. ”

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker

Grants & Loans For Storefront Upgrades

Commercial Real Estate Acquisition Loan: Supports small businesses in low- and moderate-income areas to purchase their business property. Participants can receive a mortgage loan of **up to \$350,000** and a grant of up to **\$35,000 for closing costs**.

InStore Forgivable Loan Program: Funds the attraction or expansion of retail and food businesses along targeted commercial corridors. Loans up to \$100,000 are for equipment purchases or interior improvements are forgiven after five years if the business remains open and operating at the same location.



Storefront Improvement Program:

Helps businesses make exterior storefront improvements, such as signage, windows, and painting. The program can reimburse up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements to a maximum of \$10,000 for a single commercial property, or up to \$15,000 for a multiple-address or corner property.



PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT & CAPITAL TO BUSINESSES

Safety & Emergency Grants

Business Security Camera Program: Helps businesses purchase and install exterior security cameras for commercial properties. Grants can cover up to **75% of the total cost**, for a maximum of **\$3,000 for a single commercial property**.

Through a special targeted version of the Business Security Camera Program, an additional **92 businesses** on targeted commercial corridors **received \$278,129** – with 100% of costs covered by grant funding.

As part of the City’s One Philly (SNAP) Support Plan, the Department of Commerce and The Merchants Fund launched a special application period to provide **emergency grants of up to \$10,000** to small grocers, corner stores, and bodegas that experienced revenue loss during the fall 2025 SNAP interruption.

Following the January 31, 2025 plane crash tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia, the Mayor’s Business Action Team has supported impacted businesses through direct outreach and resource coordination. To date, 25 businesses have received **\$264,205 through the Merchants Fund Emergency Grant Program**.

The Merchants Fund Emergency Grant offer grants to businesses facing hardship due to events such as fire, natural disaster, extreme acts of vandalism, utility failure, or public works projects. In 2025, 100 impacted businesses received \$1.16 million with funding from the Department of Commerce.

Ida Business Assistance Program: Helps businesses and non-profits recover from the impacts of Hurricane Ida. Businesses that existed before the disaster in 2021 and was able to reopen afterwards, may be eligible to receive a grant ranging from \$20,000 to \$150,000.

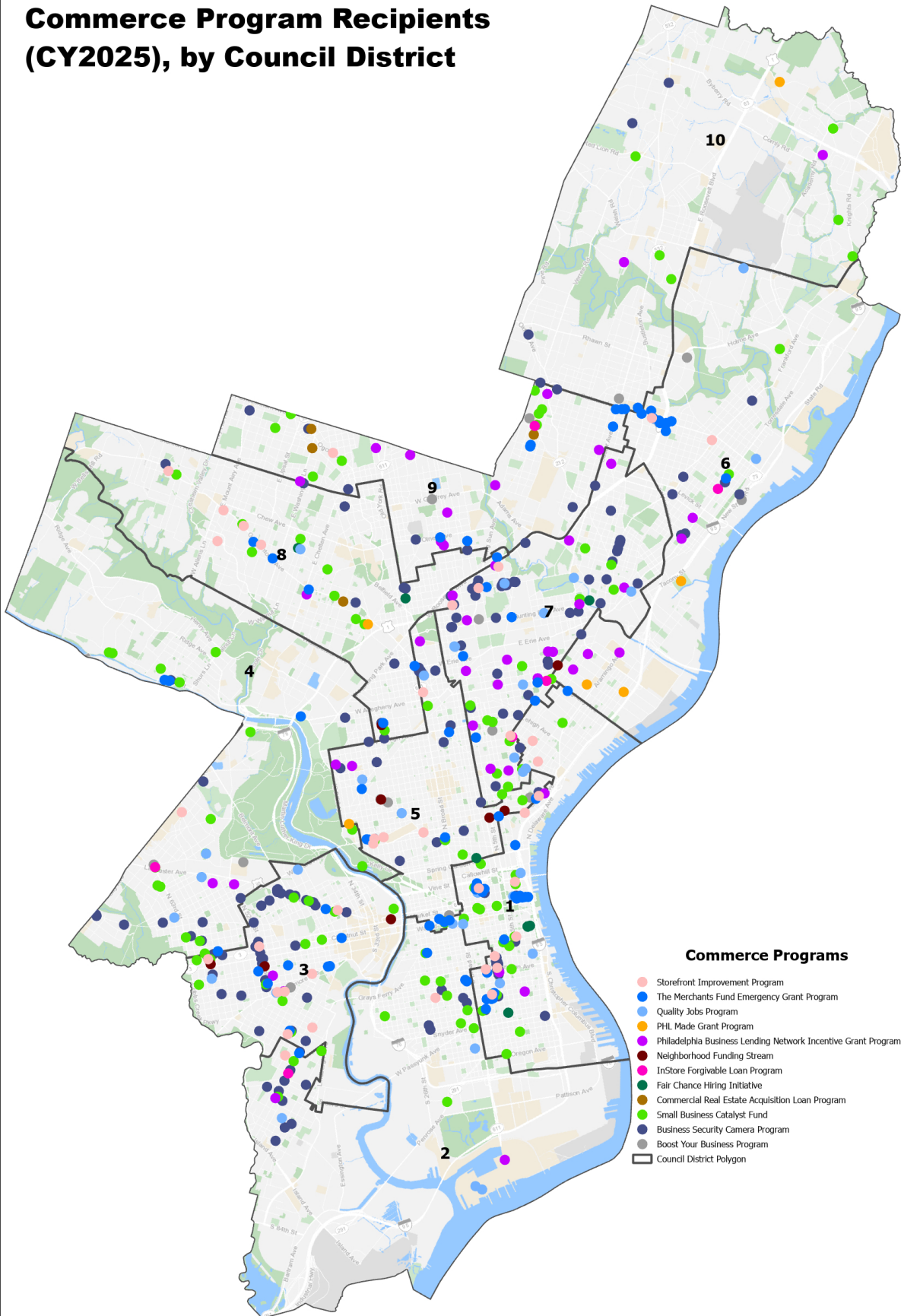
“ The Business Security Camera Program has made an important and tangible impact for the East Falls small business community. Thanks to generous funding from the Department, nine local businesses on our corridor received no-cost camera systems to keep their own storefronts safe while adding to the sense of safety of the entire neighborhood.”

Michelle Feldman
Executive Director, East Falls Development Corporation

“ The support I received from The Merchants Fund after the fire was truly transformative – it helped me stabilize my business, rebuild critical operations, and continue serving my community through art. The funding allowed me to recover faster, retain momentum, and step back into growth with hope instead of hesitation.”

Moneek Pines
Owner and Lead Artist, ARTrageous Brush & Flow

Map of Philadelphia Department of Commerce Program Recipients (CY2025), by Council District



Council District 1

\$1,859,470

Loans

119 Grants

Council District 2

\$1,290,246

Loans

45 Grants

Council District 3

\$1,058,800

Loans

80 Grants

Council District 4

\$1,563,889

Loans

50 Grants

Council District 5

\$1,273,109

Loans

61 Grants

Council District 6

\$1,285,400

Loans

50 Grants

Council District 7

\$2,260,035

Loans

117 Grants

Council District 8

\$695,779

Loans

44 Grants

Council District 9

\$975,960

Loans

43 Grants

Council District 10

\$405,894

Loans

15 Grants

HIGHLIGHTS

PROACTIVELY ATTRACT & RETAIN COMPANIES OF ALL SIZES

The Department of Commerce promotes Philadelphia as a global business destination to attract both domestic and international companies. The Department works to support business growth, encourage investment, and strengthen Philadelphia's position as a competitive location for companies to start, expand, and thrive.

“ A city that is safe, clean, and green attracts investment. We've taken steps to support growth by reducing both the business income and receipts tax and the wage tax in the same budget. That proves we are serious about being business-friendly.”

Mayor Cherrille L. Parker

Capital Analytics Associates interview,
September 2025



How we work

Engage with government: Serve as a single point of entry to City government, offering customized site visits, real estate and location guidance, coordinated access to public-sector resources, and assistance with all aspects of doing business in Philadelphia.

Gather data insights: Provide data-driven insights on real estate, talent, wages, cost of living, and industry trends to help companies evaluate Philadelphia as a place to locate, expand, or invest.

Access funding and incentives: Connect to programs that support job creation, capital investment, and long-term growth. Incentives administered by Commerce include the High Impact Forgivable Loan, Quality Jobs Program, and a new Mid Market Grant piloted in 2025 to attract investment and growth by middle-market companies across Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Connect to local networks: Coordinate access to ecosystem partners, such as industry networks, workforce systems, education and training partners, and other levels of government.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Matching Grant Program

The Department of Commerce provided **\$450,000** in local matching grants to 21 life sciences companies that received Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants from the federal government. This initiative is the only City-led SBIR/STTR matching grant program of its kind in Pennsylvania.

“The Philadelphia SBIR/STTR matching program has provided Trevarx with critical funds to move our business forward. The grant will enable us to increase our communications effectiveness with investors and other key audiences and also help us improve our IP strategy, crucial for building our business.”

Jean Cho

Co-founder & CEO, Trevarx Biomedical, Inc.

“As a company that got its first funding with SBIR grants 25 years ago, we understand how SBIR grants can help companies start and how can they strategically amplify R&D funding. The city’s SBIR matching program is an investment in helping more companies start in Philadelphia and continue to grow here. SBIRs can fund the immediate research but typically not the commercialization of that research, so the City’s matching program plays a vital role in amplifying research funding so that it translates into products, technologies, and therapeutics that are commercially self-sustaining.”

Ben Doranz

President & CEO, Integral Molecular

NOTABLE 2025 WINS

DrinkPak: the largest canned beverage contract manufacturer in North America, is expanding and investing \$350 million in the construction of a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the Bellwether District of South Philadelphia. The project is set to generate 175 full-time job opportunities in the Philadelphia region by 2028.

FS Investments: A leading financial firm recently relocated to a nearly 120,000-square-foot office at Schuylkill Yards to continue their growth in the Philadelphia market.

Hanwha Philly Shipyard: A state-of-the-art ship building and defense technology company from South Korea made a \$100 million investment at the Navy Yard, solidifying plans for a \$5 billion expansion. Hanwha aims to increase Philly Shipyard's annual production volume from less than two vessels to up to 20. This project is anticipated to create more than 7,000 jobs over the next five years.

Legend Biotech: A biotech company that opened a 31,000 sq ft facility at 2300 Market St in Center City. The site began with 35 employees and will expand to 55+ FTE. Legend Biotech is best known for creating CARVYKTI, a CAR -T cell therapy used to treat multiple myeloma.

MyMonitor.AI: A Philadelphia-based biotech company developing an AI-powered, wearable, and software platform to revolutionize dermatology. It specializes in providing objective, real-time skin lesion assessments, with a focus on closing equity gaps for skin of color, serving clinics, telehealth, and clinical trials.

Keepingly: A home management platform that helps homeowners organize, maintain, and maximize the value of their homes by providing

tools for document storage, maintenance tracking, and property valuation. Keepingly located its headquarters to Philadelphia in 2025.

Liberty Coca Cola Beverages: A major regional bottler and distributor with more than 130 years in Philadelphia committed to a \$32.8 million Phase 1 capital reinvestment to modernize its production and distribution complex, expand operations with a 146,450-square-foot facility, and retain 534 local jobs.

Rhoads Industries: A leading defense-industrial manufacturer that is growing operations and workforce training at the Navy Yard with a \$100 million investment. This project will create at least 450 new jobs and retain 541 existing full-time positions.

Stateside Brands: A Philadelphia company that has become one of the fastest-growing alcohol brands in the US will expand its operations and relocate its corporate headquarters to Center City. The new office will exceed 34,000 square feet, accommodate the relocation of 61 employees, and support an additional 37 positions as the company grows.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Advanced Therapies Collaboration Center (ATxCC): The Center opened its East Coast flagship ATxCC in partnership with Biolabs Philadelphia located in the Curtis Building. The center will provide support to local life sciences companies by providing resources and expanding their nationwide network.



Elevating Philadelphia on the global stage

The Department of Commerce actively promotes Philadelphia as a competitive business destination by participating in domestic and international trade and industry conferences. Commerce also collaborates with regional partners through the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Economic Development Collaborative** to grow quality jobs by attracting and expanding targeted industry sectors across the region.

Engaging international delegations & strategic partners

In 2025, Commerce hosted **97 delegations**. Visits included senior government, business, and civic leaders such as: The Duke of Edinburgh; The European Union Ambassador; President Lee of the Republic of Korea; President Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia; Business and civic delegations including Oslo Science City, the Association of British Healthtech Industries, a Mayoral delegation from Frankfurt, and the Akwaba African Diaspora Festival delegation.





Building a strong business attraction pipeline

Through its attraction and retention efforts, in partnership with the Commonwealth, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and PIDC, Commerce cultivates a robust pipeline of companies considering Philadelphia for market entry, expansion, or long-term retention. This pipeline:

- Spans key industry sectors including **Life Sciences, Technology, and Maritime & Defense**
- Includes projects at varying stages and timelines, driven by C-suite executives, site selectors, development teams, and acquisition partners
- **Averages more than 70 active business prospects**, reflecting sustained interest in Philadelphia as a destination for investment and growth.

These efforts leverage Philadelphia's strategic assets, including the economic hub of Lower South Philadelphia which is experiencing rapid growth in the Navy Yard, Bellwether District, PhilaPort, and the Stadium District.

PhillyDelivers.com promotes Philadelphia's world-class assets as a business destination through partnerships led by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia and supported by the Department of Commerce.

10,000+ jobs retained or created through business attraction, expansion, & stabilization programs.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

INVEST IN NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Department of Commerce invests in community organizations to build their capacity. These organizations are critical partners that provide local business assistance, job connections, and real estate development. Commerce also invests in direct physical improvements to make commercial districts clean, safe, and attractive.

“ You can’t grow the economic pie without making sure Philadelphia is safe, clean and green. You have to take care of those basics first because no companies want to do business in a city they didn’t think was safe for their employees. ”

Mayor Cherrille L. Parker

Second Chamber Mayoral Luncheon,
February 2025



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

PHL Taking Care of Business

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's signature initiative, PHL Taking Care of Business (PHL TCB), funds community-based organizations to sweep sidewalks, participate in beautification efforts, and maintain clean neighborhood commercial corridors while creating employment opportunities for local residents.

“ Thanks to PHL TCB, we have been able to hire more staff and ambassadors while also increasing their pay. Our close relationship with our ambassadors is invaluable; they are community members who live here and genuinely care about our neighborhood. Our TCB cleaning ambassadors are well-known throughout the neighborhood. TCB affords the cleaning crew with a lot of opportunities for professional training, but also to form connections with their teammates, the business owners, and the residents. I am pleased that with the additional funding we've received, our cleaning coverage and hours of service have expanded in partnership with TWB Cleaning Contractors.”

Stephanie Michel

Executive Director, Olney Community Collaborative



Expanding cleaning

- In 2025, PHL TCB expanded from **39 to 51 participating organizations**, cleaning **179 commercial corridors** and employing more than **400 Cleaning Ambassadors**. This expansion added **450 blocks** that were not served by the program previously.
- In 2025, the number of small local cleaning companies performing TCB Cleaning rose from 4 businesses to 10, and the value of their contracts increased from **\$4.2 million to \$6.2 million**.

42 vacant lots

near TCB corridors were cleaned for the first time. These sites are now part of the City's inventory of vacant lots that receive consistent, year-round maintenance.

50% reduction

in observed litter in commercial areas served by the Philadelphia Taking Care of Business Program since 2022.

In 2025, small local cleaning companies performing TCB Cleaning rose from 4 businesses to 10, and the value of their contracts increased from **\$4.2 million to \$6.2 million**.

HIGHLIGHTS



Cleaning vacant lots

In partnership with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), PHL TCB funded the cleaning and maintenance of vacant lots located on and near commercial corridors.

- An additional **3,026 vacant lots** near TCB corridors received ongoing year-round cleaning and maintenance.

Taking Care of Business: 2025 Coverage Areas



Investing in TCB Cleaning Ambassador Success

Through partnerships with PHS, the Overbrook Environmental Education Center, and PowerCorps PHL, **175 TCB Cleaning Ambassadors** from TCB organizations across Philadelphia participated in skill building and career development trainings. Topics included workplace safety, green skills and tree care training, supervisor trainings, and general professional development.



Building Capacity Of Community Organizations

Targeted Commercial Management Program: Provides funding to 15 community development corporations (CDCs) to hire staff that serve 30 commercial corridors. In 2025, these corridor managers helped **114 new businesses open**.

Neighborhood Economic Development Grants: Funds planning, pre-development, and development costs for nonprofits to renovate or construct commercial and mixed-use buildings. Grants range from **\$50,000 to \$950,000**. In 2025, 11 projects received approximately as a qualifier for the \$4 million for Neighborhood Economic Development Grant to deliver accessible goods, services, and jobs to low- and moderate-income residents.

Community Development Corporation Tax Credit: Encourages businesses to contribute to community organizations that carry out economic development efforts, supporting **40 groups that receive \$100,000 a year for 10 years**.

Corridor Enhancement Grants: Helps community organizations carry out projects that enhance the appearance, safety, and livability of commercial districts. Grants range from \$10,000 and \$40,000. In 2025, **34 organizations received \$761,823 – including 21 events** or event series, eight installations or beautifications, as well as two vacant lot and storefront activations.

The Department of Commerce, in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, provides funding for select nonprofit organizations to help low-to-moderate-income and emerging Philadelphia-based vendors participate in Christmas Village, many for the first time. This **Christmas Village Market grant program**, administered by the Department of Commerce, led to successful holiday sales for participating vendors, and some even expanded by opening a storefront in Philadelphia. In 2025, the sixth year grant cycle, 17 vendors were supported by the following selected organizations: The Welcoming Center (Immigrant Marché), Walls for Justice, and the Association of Mexican Business Owners of Philadelphia.





Expanding Neighborhood Commercial Activity

Streetscape projects: Supports the creation of vibrant public spaces by making physical improvements such as lighting, street trees, bus shelters, safety improvements at intersections, and more based on shoppers' needs. Notably, Commerce was awarded \$1 million from the state's Main Street Matters Program for the 52nd & Market streetscape project.

Vending market support: Partners with established or emerging markets and their vendors to formalize, build capacity, and access financial resources. For example, supported Christmas Village, the Southeast Asian Market at FDR Park, Parkside Container Village, and the West Philly Bizarre at Clark Park.

Tuesday Nights Live: Activates participating hotels by offering Philadelphians and visitors alike with a welcoming space to enjoy live performances, build meaningful connections and experience the vibrancy of our city's nightlife. During the 16-week pilot phase, spearheaded by the Department of Commerce, 135 artists were paid to perform at participating hotels in partnership with the Philadelphia Musicians' Union Local 77 AFM.

“ Our vendors bring a unique and essential local flavor to Christmas Village. Being part of the Department of Commerce's initiative to feature local artists in the larger booths, we're able to highlight emerging Philadelphia-based talent who might not otherwise have this kind of exposure. Many visitors have told us how much they appreciate seeing and supporting local artists, and it adds a special touch of authenticity to the market. By bringing this local, creative energy into such a large-scale holiday market, we're not just selling products — we're celebrating Philadelphia's artistic community.”

Samuel Rodriguez

Founder, Walls for Justice



Kensington Revitalization

Efforts to support Kensington: In addition to standing commercial corridor investments, the Department of Commerce just completed the first year of its multi-year BRAKE (Blight Reduction and Assisting Kensington Entrepreneurs) engagement plan in Kensington. The focus was on the 3000 and 3100 blocks of Kensington Avenue, and Impact Services Corporation is the primary neighborhood nonprofit partner. The goals are visible improvements to storefronts, small grants to “good neighbor” business owners, signature community events to bring families back to the corridor, community-led murals on high-profile vacant buildings and lots, and powerwashing five days per week.

In 2025:

26
storefronts
were improved.

4
community
events
were held, with
over 2,000
attendees.

7
businesses
received grants.

2
murals
were completed.

5
days a week
Power washing
occurred
covering four
blocks, from
Somerset Street
to Tioga Street.

HIGHLIGHTS



2026 INITIATIVES

The Department of Commerce is dedicated to strengthening Philadelphia's 24-hour economy by leading strategic initiatives that are responsive to business needs.

The Department of Commerce is working on multiple initiatives, including:

Philadelphia Business Resource Hub

The Department of Commerce will launch the Philadelphia Business Resource Hub, a user-friendly platform to give everyone across the city and anywhere in the world access to the tools and resources they need to start, operate, and grow their business in Philadelphia.

2026 Ring It On!

The Department of Commerce **received \$3.5 million** for 2026 commercial corridor activation, beautification, and celebration. In Spring 2026, the City of Philadelphia will install banners, benches, bike racks, planters, and commemorative 250th Liberty Bell statues across 20 corridors.



Market East

Short-term activations will bring new energy to Market East, America's first shopping corridor, while the Parker Administration continues to work on longer-term strategy for Market East's Revival.



PHL PRIME

The Parker Administration will launch PHL PRIME (Project Review and Infrastructure Made Easy), a new City initiative to accelerate high-impact economic development projects that generate quality jobs and drive transformative investment.



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Special acknowledgment: The Office of Innovation and Technology's Creative Services for the report design.