



June 16, 2025

The Ohio Metro Chambers Coalition (OMCC) is dedicated to fostering a vibrant, interconnected, and prosperous economy across Ohio. Our mission is to champion economic development, to advocate for policies that support the growth of our regions, and to serve as a unified voice for the businesses we collectively represent.

OMCC is supportive of a pro-growth economic environment in Ohio. We encourage state leaders to focus on legislation that will boost our economy, bring jobs and people to our state, increase housing opportunities, and allow our residents to prosper.

That is why we write today to respectfully urge the committee to fully restore funding to the House passed version for Ohio's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and Minority Business Development programming (ALI 195454 and ALI 195405) in the final version of the biennial state budget.

Small businesses are the backbone of Ohio's economy and our communities. They account for **more than 98% of all businesses in the state** and employ **nearly half of Ohio's private-sector workforce**. These enterprises generate local jobs, create community wealth, and serve as critical drivers of innovation and economic stability in both urban and rural areas.

Ohio's SBDCs and Minority Business Development programs are essential infrastructure for these businesses. They provide entrepreneurs with the tools, mentorship, and technical assistance needed to start, scale, and sustain their operations. Whether it's navigating regulatory challenges, accessing capital, developing business plans, or expanding into new markets, these services help small business owners turn ideas into engines of economic growth. General Revenue Funds are critical in helping bring back federal dollars to Ohio as a source of match – meaning state dollars go even further to supporting our small businesses.

These support systems are **strategic investments**. Every dollar invested in these programs returns multiple dollars to Ohio's economy through business formation, job creation, and increased tax revenues. Moreover, these centers are **key to ensuring Ohio remains competitive** in attracting and retaining a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. This investment has resulted in tens of millions of dollars increased capital, tens of millions in increased sales, and thousands of jobs created and retained.

We urge you to consider the voices of the thousands of small business owners who rely on these resources, and to act in support of **economic growth** across our state.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the restoration of these critical funds in the final budget.