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Montgomery County Businesses Awarded \$200,000 to Support Local COVID-19 Needs and PPE Manufacturing

25 Local Production Fund Recipients Include Tailors, Artisans, Tech Companies, and Commercial Printers

Rockville, Md.— The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) has selected 25 local recipients to receive maker and manufacturing grant awards totaling \$200,000 from the newly created Local Production Fund.

The Local Production Fund was created to provide local small and medium-sized manufacturers/producers with the working capital necessary to make and provide essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19 related products. The grants range in size from \$2,500 to \$25,000 and will produce face shields, face masks, hand sanitizers, home cleansers, gowns, and COVID-19 testing kits, among others.

“In these difficult times, local businesses want to step up and offer their services to support Montgomery County’s PPE supply,” said Benjamin H. Wu, President and CEO of MCEDC. “The Local Production Fund is allowing homegrown innovators to pivot their operations and be creative to meet our COVID-19 needs. We’re excited to see the final products and applaud these companies.”

Juan Carlos Castillo, owner of Tierra Floral Design and Tierra Events, has pivoted from creating elaborate floral arrangements and planning events to a new role making PPE. “Thanks to the Local Production Fund grant, we have been able to access all the materials we need to produce face shields for first responders,” said Castillo, whose company received a \$20,000 grant.

Aisha Khadar of Sha’s Creations, a maker of organic body products, also expressed gratitude for the infusion of funds. “This grant allows our company to manufacture hand sanitizer and liquid disinfecting soaps for our community,” said Khadar.

The 25 grant recipients are a diverse group with 73% of the funding awarded to companies led by women or minority entrepreneurs. They work in a variety of fields, including IT/educational consulting, robotics, tech production, automotive electronic/lighting, embroidery/screen printing, biotech, commercial printing, farming, artisan manufacturing/retail, alterations/tailors, nonprofits, and farming. The awardees are located in Silver Spring, Germantown, Bethesda/North Bethesda, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Olney, Potomac, Dickerson and Clarksburg.

The \$200,000 Local Production Fund was funded by \$100,000 from MCEDC and by a \$100,000 special appropriation from the County Council enacted on April 21, 2020. MCEDC accepted applications for the Local Production Fund from April 22-May 1, 2020. Existing Montgomery County companies, sole proprietors and non-profits were eligible to apply for the funding. MCEDC received 51 submittals. As part of their grant agreement, by the end of August, awardees will submit a report to MCEDC detailing their progress and how the funds have been used.

List of Local Production Fund Recipients

Awardee	Amount (\$)	Product	Location
African Diaspora United, Inc.	5,000	Masks	N. Bethesda
Biitech, LLC	2,500	Masks	Germantown
Bonsai Technology Co.	7,500	Masks	N. Bethesda
CN of Germantown, LLC (Code Ninjas)	2,500	Face Shields	Germantown
FAsMarketPlace, Inc.	7,500	Masks	Silver Spring
Flowers Designs, LLC	7,500	Masks	Silver Spring
Germode Dream, LLC	5,000	Masks	Silver Spring
Ghozt Lighting, LLC	2,500	Face Shields	Germantown
Joyful Bath Co., LLC	7,500	Cleaning Supplies	Bethesda
Linda Blackburn Jewelry, LLC	2,500	Masks	Silver Spring
Line Dot Corp.	12,500	Masks & Gowns	Gaithersburg
Margaret Lynch	2,500	Masks	Olney
NDN International, LLC	4,000	Hand Washing Device	Potomac
Olive & Loom	7,500	Sanitizer, Cleanser	N. Bethesda
One Acre Farm, LLC	6,000	Food Co-Op	Dickerson
Best Impressions, Inc.	10,000	Face Shields	Bethesda
Robotic Research	20,000	Face Shields	Clarksburg
Rockville Robotics, Inc.	2,500	Face Shields	Rockville
Ruth Chavez	5,000	Masks	Silver Spring
Sha's Creation, Inc.	7,500	Sanitizer, Cleanser	Silver Spring
Strategic College Advising & Planning Solutions, LLC	20,000	Face Shields	Germantown
Takemori Consulting, LLC	2,500	Masks	Germantown
Tierra Floral Design, LTD	20,000	Face Shields	Rockville
Vietnamese American Services, Inc.	5,000	Masks	Silver Spring
Zalgen Labs, LLC	25,000	Testing	Germantown

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About MCEDC

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) is the official public-private economic development organization representing Montgomery County, Maryland. Created in 2016, MCEDC is led by a Board of Directors of business executives. Its mission is to help businesses start, grow and relocate in Montgomery County by helping them gain access to top talent, business and market intelligence and prime locations. For more information, visit our [website](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).