



Programs Resources and Grants for Pontiac Business Owners and Residents
Updated: December 1, 2020

Hello Pontiac Business Owners and Residents,

The following are resources, grants and programs that may be of interest to you:

[Pure Michigan Small Business Relief Initiative to provide \\$10 million in grants for COVID-19 recovery efforts | Michigan Business](#)

[Small Business | MiPlace](#)

[Entrepreneur Pitch | Michigan Business](#)

FREE EVENT: Design Your Product for Manufacturability Webinar

December 2, 2020 – 9am-10am

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehdfiscf8569126a&oseq=&c=&ch>

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NEW SERVICE: Design for Manufacturability Assessment

Centrepolis Accelerator at Lawrence Technological University, in partnership with Munro & Associates, offers Design for Manufacturability (DFM) assessments that seek to reduce the complexity and cost of products.

https://www.centrepolisaccelerator.com/user_area/content_media/raw/DesignforManufacturabilityAssessment.pdf

Business Accelerator to Improve Recycling and Recycled-Content Manufacturing

December 15, 2020 – 11am-12pm

https://recycle.zoom.us/webinar/register/8616063142209/WN_8jEfUHgbTImIGv4LEfYeQQ

NextCycle Michigan

NextCycle Michigan is a State of Michigan initiative with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), managed and facilitated by Resource Recycling Systems (RRS), in collaboration with the Centrepolis Accelerator at Lawrence Technological University, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition. NextCycle Michigan provides an opportunity for businesses, investors, NGOs, trade organizations, and others to contribute significantly to the growth of recycling and the circular economy in Michigan. Entities can contribute to the program design, team recruitment and review, and investment award pool. The program utilizes Innovation Challenges to globally crowd source the best technologies and ideas to improve the repurposing of waste streams that are difficult to recycle or reuse. We are looking for industry partners who have a problematic waste stream that are not easily recycled as well as innovators that have technology solutions to solve these challenges. If interested please contact Dan Radomski dradomski@ltu.edu

<https://www.nextcyclemichigan.com/>

VOTE for Inaugural Centrepolis Accelerator Client Awards

Centrepolis Accelerator is recognizing their clients accomplishments and product commercialization over the past year. We need your [VOTE here](#) and see client profiles and categories [here](#) to determine awardees! We will be recognizing awardees on Dec 16 9am-10am, to register please go to the following link

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e1u2cl28965942&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Need help with Product Design or Prototyping?

Centrepolis Accelerator has many experts that can support product design (CAD), engineering (CAE) and prototyping. If you need help in this area, please reach out to Dan Radomski at dradomski@ltu.edu

Industry 4.0 Accelerator program

Centrepolis, in partnership with Automation Alley and Lean Rocket Labs, has recently launched the Nation's First Industry 4.0 Accelerator that globally crowdsources the best in class Industry 4.0 manufacturing and energy related efficiency technologies to participate and partner with Michigan based manufacturing and energy firms. See website for more info <https://www.i40accelerator.com/>. We have support from a number of industry partners, investors, foundations. The program will utilize a \$1.3 million fund provided by Automation Alley to support client funding and industry demo or product development partnership projects. Our current List of I4.0 Accelerator Corporate Partners include Magna, Faurecia, Denso, Bosch Rexroth, Lear, Siemens, Comau, Electro-Matic, Design Systems, ITR Solutions, Mirari, Ambe Engineering, Maintenance Technologies Consulting, Orbitform, TAC, Nippon Piston Ring, Melling. Applications are open now on a rolling basis. To apply for I4.0 Accelerator Program on F6S:

<https://www.f6s.com/automationalleyindustry4.0accelerator/apply>

Michigan Cleantech Hardware Accelerator program

The Michigan Cleantech Hardware Accelerator program supports Michigan-based entrepreneurs and small businesses who are developing Cleantech hardware products or processes that provide an energy efficiency or energy waste reduction benefit. Funding support can be applied for to support product development and demonstration activities.

<https://www.centrepolisaccelerator.com/Programs/CleanTech>

Recorded Centrepolis Webinar | Cleantech Funding Opportunity

Presented by: Robert Jackson, *EGLE*; Conner Prochaska; *U.S. DOE*; and Dan Radomski, *Centrepolis Accelerator*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQF5MggQB74&t=34s>

NEW SERVICE: Supply Chain Support Program

Supply chain operations are critical to the ongoing success of your business. But managing it yourself can be expensive, time consuming, and downright stressful. Doing it right requires deep insight and skilled talent, which is why Centrepolis Accelerator, in partnership with IndustryStar, offers a Supply Chain Partner Program to help reduce the time and effort of supply chain development and management.

https://www.centrepolisaccelerator.com/user_area/content_media/raw/SupplyChainSupportProgramOverview08-07-20R5.pdf

Interested to Do Business with the State of Michigan?

Pure Michigan Business Connect (PMBC) and State of Michigan Procurement are hosting a webinar educating suppliers on procurement opportunities with the state. Register now:

<https://puremi.ch/3kSwGcc> December 3rd at 9 am.

Maker Challenge Grant and Pitch Competition

The Veterans Health Administration Innovation Ecosystem is launching a grant competition to support Maker teams from the COVID-19 Maker Challenge and CAMVETS programs in preparation for their participation in a shark tank-style pitch competition in early 2021. Challenge America will be the grant administrator. Submission deadline is November 30 at 5 pm ET. Pitch competition TBD (February 2021). Grants up to \$10,000 are available to support creative and actionable plans to further prototype

development efforts for teams who participated in the COVID-19 Maker Challenge and CAMVETS programs. Teams selected for further investment must also compete in the pitch competition in February of 2021. If teams participated in multiple programs, they may enter one submission for each program prototype developed.

https://mcusercontent.com/a6266e2ce67090bb748739e96/files/aa078ea2-4f79-4329-a0a8-4ae84c58548e/Maker_Challenge_Grant_and_Pitch_Competition_Submission_Guide.pdf

Pure Michigan Business Connect Access and Certification Grant

Pure Michigan Business Connect (PMBC) is excited to announce a new Access and Certification Grant program designed to break down barriers preventing Michigan businesses from winning purchase orders. The program has three objectives:

- Increase supplier access to local and global procurement opportunities
- Improve competitiveness in advanced manufacturing for Michigan small businesses
- Enhance supplier capabilities and open doors to new industry verticals

Eligible companies may qualify for up to \$15,000 in assistance to offset 50 percent of pre-approved expenses per fiscal year.

https://pmbc.connect.space/pmbc-grant-2020/details?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWkRJMUM5HUmtZVEppTWpVeilsInQiOiJHNFhwME4wMDBpRWJFSIB4N2INbVlXeGw0cTdSdlloaVVdaE1wUUdncHVfdeVidWpRb09OSzA3THRIU3dlbWdRbzFXTkcrSkZEcXVTaG5EM1hoM0J5UG9BXC9UWU9tUXAyeFcyK0VvcisraVFMd1BuY0ZrWVB4ZGZINEFhVfFo5emoifQ%3D%3D

A Place for Detroit's Small Manufacturers to Call Home

Are you an entrepreneur with a need for manufacturing space but can't afford to buy or lease an entire building? Detroiters First is a new social enterprise working to develop affordable, secure and practical workspaces and secure parking for small non-food manufacturers and contractors owned by Detroiters — residents of Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck. Detroiters First is currently looking at a building on Greenfield, north of I-96, to renovate in order to provide an accessible working space for small manufacturers, and wants to better understand the workspace market and the needs of manufacturers and contractors. The building will be a flexible manufacturing space where your company can lease only the floor space that you need, furnish your space with necessary equipment, and take advantage of low overhead operating cost to begin to scale your business. If you are interested in learning more about the space, Detroiters First asks that you complete the survey form at the link below.

<https://pmbc.connect.space/detroiters-first/details>

The space is open to small, non-food manufacturing businesses located in Southeast Michigan. Detroiters First will follow up with all survey respondents by mid-December to let them know what has been learned from the survey and where the project stands. All manufacturers that are interested in

moving into the space once it is opened are encouraged to fill out the form so that Detroiters First can provide further information on the process of securing space. Please contact pmbc@michigan.org with any questions.

PPE Resilience Grant Funding for Oakland and Macomb County Manufacturers:

There is grant money available until the end of 2020 to help your manufacturing company become more agile and part of the Industry 4.0 age. It's a unique program available to the first 300 qualified manufacturers. There are also opportunities for manufacturing adjacent companies (e.g., distributors, installers, service and support, and light fabricators) in a related program.

Working with Automation Alley, Oakland and Macomb Counties is funding consultations, training and equipment that can help your company change and adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Manufacturers accepted into the program will receive:

- **Strategic Guidance** on how to transform from legacy operations to digital manufacturing
- **An Industry 4.0 Assessment** outlining where your business stands today and what digital opportunities best fit your needs
- **Connections and Introductions** to state-of-the art vendors and applied research that can help you along your path to Industry 4.0
- **A Financial Investment**, including grant money to purchase Industry 4.0 and state-of-the art digital technologies like a production part capable 3D printer—valued at more than \$20,000, at no cost to you—or an Augmented Reality (AR) manufacturing system
- **Essential Business Designation** for those manufacturers continuing to produce PPE

To qualify, companies must be a small or medium sized manufacturer residing in Oakland or Macomb County. To apply, visit <https://automationalley.com/PPEgrant> If you have questions on this program, please contact Automation Alley (Troy):

info@automationalley.com | (800) 427-5100

Huntington Lift Local Business - Super small loans to give start-up businesses a lift

A new program called Huntington Lift Local Business will target entrepreneurs who have been hard hit by the pandemic by offering loans to small businesses owned by minorities, women and veterans. What's different about this program is that the loans may be very small, possibly \$1,000 or \$5,000 — the kind of loans that a big bank like Huntington would never have found economically feasible to make in the past. The \$25 million program will provide Small Business Administration guaranteed loans for as little as \$1,000 and up to \$150,000. The SBA fees would be paid by Huntington.

The program also will have no origination fees and offer flexible, longer-term repayment options.

<https://www.huntington.com/SmallBusiness/loans/lift-local>

DOE Smart Manufacturing Institute Announces New \$4M Project Call to Address Manufacturing Challenges

CESMII is pleased to announce an open request-for-proposals (RFP2-4.2) for the next round of Smart Manufacturing (SM) Innovation Projects - agile projects supporting interdisciplinary, manufacturer-led teams to rapidly solve real-world manufacturing challenges. Project teams will collaborate and develop a solution that includes information models (SM Profiles) and applications necessary to solve the proposed use case. This is the 2nd round of SM Innovation Projects, following the initial round released in May 2020. For this RFP, CESMII anticipates making awards with periods of performance of up to six months. Project team organizations must provide at least 50% of the total project funding. Projects may range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 (federal + cost share). Full proposal submission deadline is December 31, 2020 by 11:59pm PDT. Proposals must be submitted to roadmapprojects.info@cesmii.org in order to be accepted.

<https://www.cesmii.org/resources-rfp2-wave-4-rd2>

Virtual Industrial Pitch Competition for Hardtech Startups Founded by Women and People of Color
\$8,000+ in Cash Prizes. mHUB, the nation's leading center for hardtech innovation is hosting a virtual pitch competition designed to create more visibility for underrepresented physical product startups by connecting female founders and entrepreneurs of color with investors and industry leaders from across the country. Five startup finalists will pitch live to the mHUB community and an esteemed judging panel for recognition and cash prizes.

1st Prize - \$5,000 2nd Prize - \$2,500 3rd Prize - \$1,000

Date of Pitch: Thursday, December 3rd

Time: 4:30 – 6:00pm

Location: Virtual

To be eligible to pitch, at least one founder on the team must be a woman or person of color, the startup must be pre-seed or seed, and the technology must be in Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)/smart manufacturing.

<https://mhubchicago.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d6a49a4afa2ff98dc5755e526&id=5fccd00f4a&e=0ebbf4dc4c>

mHub Accelerated Incubation for physical product startups

mHUB's new hand-on [accelerator](#) for early stage hardtech startups, is a six-month long program focused on the rapid prototyping, product development and commercialization of high-potential physical product startups. The first cohort of the program will focus on Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) technologies and is supported by industry partners including Avnet and Panduit. We have begun accepting applications from startups teams who are interested in applying for the first cohort, which will begin in late Q1/early Q2 2021.

<https://mhubaccelerator.com/>

Wells Fargo IN² Program for Cleantech and AgTech

The Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator (IN²) is the proven model for assisting clean technology and agriculture companies to accelerate their paths to market. These start-up companies create products with tremendous potential to positively impact energy use and the environment, but need technology validation to attract the investment community. Enter IN². Funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation, IN² harnesses the world-class expertise and facilities of the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (Danforth Center). IN²-selected companies receive \$250,000 non-dilutive grants to validate their technologies at NREL or the Danforth Center and secure the priceless benefit of business connections across the entire IN² network. To apply you must be recommended by an approved IN² Channel Partner, Centrepolis Accelerator, is one, you can contact Dan Radomski at dradomski@ltu.edu.

13th Global Automotive & Mobility Innovation Challenge (GAMIC) 2020-2021 Competitions

Calling Mobility Innovator To Apply

Applications Due December 1, 2020

Open to innovation companies focusing on the North American Mobility space, GAMIC entrants compete for over \$350,000 in total prizes.

<https://www.f6s.com/GAMIC13th>

AMERICAN MADE PRIZE COMPETITION

The American-Made Challenges incentivize the nation's entrepreneurs to strengthen American leadership in energy innovation and domestic manufacturing. These new challenges seek to lower the barriers U.S.-based innovators face in reaching manufacturing scale by accelerating the cycles of learning from years to weeks, while helping to create partnerships that connect entrepreneurs to the private sector and the network of DOE's National Laboratories across the nation.

- Waves to Water Prize: \$3.3 million in prizes - concepts before November 30, 2020
- Powering the Blue Economy™: Ocean Observing Prize - concepts before January 31, 2021
- Groundbreaking Hydro Prize - concepts before January 31, 2021

<https://americanmadechallenges.org/>

NASA Needs Your Ideas for Energy Storage on the Moon

This time, NASA is asking for help through a crowdsourcing partnership with HeroX, offering up a kitty of \$5 million dollars to be divided among teams who can develop viable solutions related to energy distribution, management, or storage. Winners of the aptly titled "Watts on the Moon Challenge" could also receive an opportunity to actually fly their solution to the moon.

Christian Cotichini, CEO of HeroX, says that the campaign won't just help with space exploration needs; it may also generate some innovative ideas that could be used on earth as well "as it pertains to energy use and storage." To participate, you must be 18 years or older, a U.S. resident or citizen, and submit your concept design by the Phase 1 deadline of March 25th, 2021.

https://www.herox.com/WattsOnTheMoon?utm_source=prnewswire&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=WattsOnTheMoon

National Lab Partnering Program

Access to Experts, Innovations and Labs

The LPS enables rapid discovery of expertise and serves as a conduit between the investor and the innovator by providing multi-faceted search capability across numerous technology areas and across the national laboratories.

<http://labpartnering.org/>

Technology Commercialization Fund

The TCF is a nearly \$30 million funding opportunity that leverages the R&D funding in the applied energy programs to mature promising energy technologies with the potential for high impact. It uses 0.9 percent of the funding for the Department's applied energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application budget for each fiscal year from the Office of Electricity, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, and Office of Nuclear Energy. These funds are matched with funds from private partners to promote promising energy technologies for commercial purposes.

<https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/services/technology-commercialization-fund>

Webinar Series: Funding and Partnering Opportunities with the DOE

Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) is excited to launch a stimulating summer webinar series, Funding and Partnering Opportunities with the U.S. Department of Energy. All programs are recorded for view at any time.

<https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/articles/ott-summer-2020-webinar-series-funding-and-partnering-opportunities>

Free Business Webinars

SCORE has been hosting free, LIVE webinars every week on small business tips and strategies. [See their upcoming offerings on their website.](#)

The Michigan SBDC has been hosting informational webinars. [Watch past recordings](#) and [register for upcoming small business support webinars](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Many of the programs and incentives are offered by the MEDC and Oakland County and you are directed to their websites to apply. However, for additional information, contact the City of Pontiac Economic Development Department at (248) 758.3324 and we will provide assistance.

City of Pontiac Contacts:

- Linnette Phillips, Director of Economic and Community Development, lphillips@pontiac.mi.us
- Matthew Gibb, Special Legal Counsel for Economic Development, gibblaw@hotmail.com
- Miriam Cox, Economic and Community Development Customer Service Representative, mcox@pontiac.mi.us
- You may also send questions to: economicdevelopment@pontiac.mi.us