2025 was a year of transitions for the Business & Credit team, but that did not stop them from having a banner year.

Workshops Offered: In 2025, the CDP offered a six-workshop series focusing on Marketing, QuickBooks, Food Entrepreneurs, and Creatives as Small Business. Over the course of 20 workshops, the CDP and its collaborators, including The 204, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Delude Communications, Provincetown Commons, and SCORE, trained 437 small business owners and entrepreneurs. In addition, several of our workshop presenters were CDP clients.

1:1 Business Help: In 2025, the CDP met with 301 clients to offer technical assistance on creating business plans and financial documents, marketing, record keeping, and more! The B&C team met with clients in our office, virtually, and in office space generously donated by our friends at the Brewster Chamber of Commerce, ChathamWorks, Provincetown Commons, and The 204.

Microloan Program: In 2025 we celebrated 30 years of our Microloan program which has loaned over $4.6M to 260 small businesses. This year, 30 small businesses inquired about the CDP microloan program. Some we believed were eligible for a traditional bank loan, and so we worked with the clients to successfully obtain funds that way. Other inquiries did not proceed through application for a variety of reasons, including uncertainty about the global, national, and local economies. Ultimately, we issued five loans totaling $93,500 to small businesses located in Harwich (2), Orleans (1), and Provincetown (2).

Cape Cod Fisheries Trust: This year marked the 15th anniversary of the CDP's partnership with the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance. During that time, we have leased 2,370,969 pounds of scallop quota at a discounted rate to 10-13 local, small boat fisherman each year. While program participants appreciate the discounted rate, they actually rank access to the quota as a greater benefit of the program. In 2025, the Trust leased 61,933 pounds to ten local fishermen.

Northeast Transition Initiative Fellowship: Pam Andersen, Director of Business & Credit Programs, and Tricia Murray, formerly Business & Credit Program Manager, participated in a nine-month fellowship focused on Exit Planning for Small Businesses, with an emphasis on employee ownership options. As part of the curriculum, they attended a two-day in-person conference then participated in monthly virtual classes, with assigned reading and homework. Pam and Tricia look forward to sharing their new knowledge this Winter through a workshop on Exit Planning.

Home-Based Childcare Businesses: Thanks to a generous grant from the Kelley Foundation, the CDP is pleased to expand its training to include "how to start a home-based childcare business". Partnering with Clarendon Early Education Service, the CDP is offering a cohort-based learning experience for people on the Cape looking to start this much-needed business. We are pleased to offer this program with language options, advertising and offering the information sessions in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Transitions: In July, Tricia transitioned to the Director of Communications role with the CDP, although she continued to work with Pam in this Department pending the hiring of her replacement. We are thrilled to share that Pelinda Deegan is going to join Pam in the Business & Credit Department. As part of Pelinda's existing work with the Homeowner Education Program, Pelinda offers technical assistance to clients on financial matters, including building credit. She is also a small business owner. We can't wait to see what this new dynamic duo will bring to the business community in 2026!