

## SEEKING LAWYERS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY.

The Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce is seeking lawyers to assist LGBTQ-owned businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis. If you can offer pro bono advisory services to our chamber members, please email Carly Davis at [carly.davis@malgbtcc.org](mailto:carly.davis@malgbtcc.org) for more information.





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### LGBTQ Business Resilience Fund

#### Our Mission

The Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce cultivates inclusive relationships between LGBT-owned businesses and the corporate sector to drive economic impact throughout the Commonwealth.

#### Our Community's Need

COVID-19 poses an unprecedented threat to the stability of small businesses, the impact of which is compounded for businesses already experiencing discrimination on the basis of their LGBTQ+ identities. In a recent [survey](#) of Chamber membership, the overwhelming majority of respondents (89%) expected to feel a negative financial impact as a result of the crisis, as customers curbed spending, contracts were postponed or cancelled, sources of merchandise and inventory slowed, and the general economy took a downturn. Business owners that have spent years building their businesses are seeing their work crumble in a matter of weeks.

#### Program Overview

The LGBTQ Business Resilience Fund is aimed at sustaining LGBTQ-owned businesses that may not qualify for existing loan programs by providing immediate relief in the form of small capital grants. In addition to monetary support, grantees will also gain access to a network of volunteer professional support and advisory services to help strengthen their businesses and emerge from the COVID-19 crisis ready to represent themselves effectively in the marketplace.

#### Comprehensive Professional Support

With monetary support structures in place, this temporary standstill in workflow affords business owners the unique opportunity to dedicate time to developing their businesses. Recipients of the LGBTQ Business Resilience Fund Grant will undergo a holistic business evaluation, from which Chamber staff will be able to assess a business' pain points and match owners with the appropriate resources and mentorship connections. This comprehensive network includes LGBTQ and ally-identified attorneys, accountants, banking staff, executive coaches, branding experts, SCORE mentors, and more - all of whom have agreed to donate their time and volunteer their services to offer support to members of the community in need.

#### Your Involvement

The Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking support professionals across industries to act as consultants for impacted LGBTQ-owned businesses. If you are interested in contributing to the LGBTQ Business Resilience Fund or would like to offer pro bono advisory or mentorship services in response to COVID-19, please reach out to [carly.davis@malgbtcc.org](mailto:carly.davis@malgbtcc.org) for more information and how to get involved.