

Black Business Association of Amherst Area (BBAAA)

Microgrant Fund Project Guidelines

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

The BBAAA Microgrant Fund Project is a short-term funding opportunity to support eligible members for operating expenses and business startup costs. Examples of eligible expenses include rent, utilities, supplies, postage/shipping, telephone, internet, advertising/marketing, auto repairs and maintenance, equipment purchase, rental and repair, technology and software, business licenses, permits, regulatory fees, membership fees, and professional service fees.

Grant awards range from \$500 to \$2,000. Application period opens on August 15, 2026, and closes on September 30, 2026. Completed applications may be emailed to bbaamherst@gmail.com or regular mail to Black Business Association of Amherst Area, PO BOX 3064, Amherst, MA 01002.

Applications received after the closing date or incomplete applications will not be considered. Questions, or comments regarding the microgrant fund project including technical support and language translation service may be directed to the Board President, Pat Ononibaku by email at: bbaamherst@gmail.com.

All applicants will be notified of the funding decision within two weeks following the application deadline. Funds will be disbursed upon receipt and verification of submitted invoices. As a condition of accepting the microgrant funding, recipients agree to submit payment receipts of expenses by October 30, 2026.

ABOUT BBAAA

A group of Black business owners formed an organization in 2016 with the goal of fostering support, networking, and empowerment among peers for business development and growth. Initially named the Black Business Association of Pioneer Valley, members convened monthly. In 2020 members maintained informal connections during the pandemic. In 2021, the organization was renamed the Black Business Association of Amherst Area (BBAAA). Membership is open to Black and non-Black business owners, organizations, and professionals with one-time membership fee of \$25.00. Youth Membership (under age 30) is free.

Membership application is available online at www.bbaamherst.org.

BBAAA operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity. Our Mission BBAAA is dedicated to the collective interests of its members to develop and grow their businesses through education, networking, marketing, advocacy, leadership, mentorship, and access to resources. BBAAA provides a supportive community for its members who share similar goals and aspirations to grow personally and professionally.

Our Board of Directors

*Pat Ononibaku, President | Kathleen Anderson, Vice President | Amilcar Shabazz, Treasurer
Monica Cage, Secretary | Khayyam Mahdi, Board Member | Alysia Bryant, Board Member*