Women face extra challenges finding financing to start and grow small businesses. The Athens Area Women’s Business Loan Fund was created by the Athens County Foundation, Appalachian Growth Capital and Sugarbush Valley Impact Investments to help.

“Women building a business shouldn’t have to rely on high interest credit cards or predatory online lenders to get the credit they need. The Athens Women’s Business Loan Fund offers loans at rates and terms that can help your business succeed.”

- John Molinaro
**LOAN ELIGIBILITY**

Funds are available to new or expanding businesses. They can help small businesses that have a hard time qualifying for conventional financing due to bank concerns about credit history, collateral, business experience or financial ratios. Financing from this fund can help with:

- Purchase of equipment, machinery or inventory
- Start-up operating costs
- Working capital
- Leasehold improvements

Loan funds cannot be used to support publishers, firearms dealers, adult entertainment, or businesses selling alcohol for onsite consumption, marijuana or tobacco. Other restrictions may apply.

**LOAN TERMS**

The fund can spread your loan payments over a longer time term than most banks, which lowers monthly loan payments and improves your company’s cash flow. Generally, terms include:

- Loans of $2,500 to $10,000 – other AGC programs and other lenders may be available to help with larger amounts
- Down-payment is generally 10% and may be reduced due to prior investment in the business or value of collateral offered
- Payment term of up to 5 years
- Flexible terms based on your business needs
- Interest rates and fees depend on current market conditions

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

The applying business and owner must:

- Be located in Athens or a neighboring Ohio county (Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton or Washington County)
- Have a relationship and a business account with a commercial bank
- Agree to automatic withdrawal of payments from a bank account
- Maintain a relationship with a business assistance organization (SBDC, business incubator, etc.)

**BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS:**

ACENet  
94 Columbus Rd.  
Athens, OH 45701  
740.592.3854  
info@acenetworks.org

Athens County Economic Development Council  
340 West States Street  
Athens, OH 45701  
740-597-1420  
admin@athenscountyohedc.com

Athens Chamber of Commerce  
340 West State Street, Unit 48  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
Phone: 740-593-9353  
michelle@athenschamber.com

Buckeye Hills Regional Council  
1400 Pike Street  
Marietta, Ohio 45750  
740.374.9436  
info@buckeyehills.org

Innovation Center  
340 West State St  
Athens, OH, 45701  
innovation@ohio.edu  
740.593.1818

LIGHTS Regional Innovation  
340 West State St  
Athens, OH, 45701  
lights@ohio.edu  
740.593-2439

Rural Action  
9030 Hocking Hills Drive  
The Plains, Ohio 45780  
740.677.4047  
brianv@ruralaction.org

Social Enterprise Ecosystem  
Voinovich School – Bldg. 22  
Ridges Building #19 243 Athens, OH 45701  
740.593.0830  
knutsenf@ohio.edu

TechGROWTH Ohio  
Voinovich School – Bldg. 20  
Ridges Building #19 256 Athens, OH 45701  
740.593.9723  
glazerj@ohio.edu

Small Business Development Center  
19 E. Circle Drive, The Ridges, Suite 110  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
740.593.1797  
jolicki@ohio.edu