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M&F Bank Grants \$10,000 to Winston-Salem Behavioral Health Business

Bank Grants \$50,000 to Small Businesses Across N.C. in 2024

DURHAM, N.C. – April 30, 2024 – [M&F Bank](#), the only Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and minority-owned bank in North Carolina, in partnership with the [Fiserv Back2Business Program](#), granted \$10,000 to [HOPE Counseling and Consulting Services \(HOPE\)](#) during a reception at its Winston-Salem branch April 23.

The grant is part of the bank's new [Empowering Growth Small Business Grant program](#), which will distribute a total of \$50,000 to small businesses across North Carolina throughout 2024. The inaugural \$10,000 grant was distributed in Durham earlier this year, and future awards of the same amount will be given to small businesses in Raleigh, Greensboro, and Charlotte.

Surrounded by community and business leaders, board members, and friends and family, owner Dr. Linda McRae received a giant check to recognize the company's outstanding contributions to Winston-Salem. HOPE, which stands for Healing Our People & Environment, provides programs and supportive services in a respectful manner to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and the community. HOPE's mission is to provide programs and services that seek to address the whole person.

"I am honored to receive the Winston-Salem Empowering Growth Small Business Grant," said Dr. Linda McRae, owner of HOPE. "It means so much to have the support of like-minded businesses like M&F Bank who truly care and desire to make a difference in the community. This money will support a variety of administrative and training needs as we continue to promote and enhance health and recovery for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, and behavior problems."

In an effort to create an ecosystem of support for small businesses, M&F coordinates supplemental resources for grant recipients. In addition to the grant, HOPE will receive a dedicated business banker to provide personalized guidance, expert advice, and tailored financial solutions as well as complimentary merchant processing equipment, provided by Clover. Plus, Greater Winston-Salem, Inc. and the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce will provide networking opportunities, resources, and support through a complimentary membership.

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“Owning and operating a small business is difficult work, and we know first-hand that \$10,000 will go a long way in supporting the small businesses in markets where our bank operates. M&F Bank has a rich history of supporting our local communities, and we’re honored to continue that noble work throughout the state with the Empowering Growth Small Business Grant,” says Travis Rouse, senior vice president and chief sales officer for M&F Bank.

M&F Bank is the second oldest minority-owned bank in the country and is dedicated to enhancing the wealth and well-being of underserved populations and communities. As part of its mission to enhance financial prosperity and close the wealth gap for minorities, the bank recently revealed an updated brand look and feel with the theme of “Empowering Growth” at its forefront. The theme reflects its mission and strong relational ties with the communities it serves.

These grants are just a part of the bank’s Empowering Growth rebrand. On November 13, 2023, M&F Bank became a designated participant in the Small Business Administration’s Preferred Lender Program (PLP), which enables the bank to provide small businesses with faster turnaround times on their loan applications.

“M&F Bank’s mission to serve underserved people and communities aligns perfectly with our Back2Business Program,” said Neil Wilcox, executive vice president of corporate social responsibility at Fiserv. “It’s not just about money for them, it’s about trust, relationships and about making sure everyone receives the support and services they deserve. We’re delighted to partner with such an upstanding company to honor the hardworking teams who run these small businesses.”

Fiserv, a leading global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions, has been supporting small businesses since 2020 through its Back2Business Program. The company has distributed more than 1,600 small grants as part of its \$50 million commitment to diverse businesses across the United States and the United Kingdom.

To learn more about the Empowering Growth Small Business Grant program criteria and how to apply for remaining grants, visit M&F Bank’s [website](#).

About M&F Bank

Founded in 1907 in North Carolina, M&F Bank is the second-oldest African American owned bank in the United States. With \$453.0 million in total assets, M&F Bank is the eighth-largest African American owned financial institution in the United States and is the only Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and minority-owned bank in North Carolina. The bank’s mission is to promote personal and community development by providing capital to small- and medium-sized businesses in its local communities. M&F Bank serves thousands of customers and operates eight [locations](#) throughout Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte. To learn more, visit www.mfbonline.com.

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