



THE INPOWER PROJECT





THE INPOWER PROJECT

OVERVIEW

The INpower Project is a community business activation initiative designed to empower inner-city micro entrepreneurs in The Bahamas. Recognizing that micro enterprises are a vital source of income, economic resilience, and community identity, the programme addresses the unique challenges these entrepreneurs face, including limited access to guidance, digital tools, and formal support systems.

Through a holistic and cohort-based approach, INpower combines practical business support with confidence-building, mentorship, and community engagement.

INpower is designed as a collaborative, ecosystem-based initiative that recognizes that no single organization can address the complex challenges faced by inner-city entrepreneurs. As such, by partnering with the Urban Renewal Authority, Department of Inland Revenue, Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture and Aliv Business, SBDC Bahamas seeks to reduce barriers, provide trusted access points within communities, and deliver practical, on-the-ground support aligned with the programme's objectives.

INpower meets participants where they are, reduces friction in accessing resources, and reinforces the internal power—self-belief, agency, and resilience—needed to take meaningful action.

Participants engage in a series of interconnected activities, including:

- **In-Person Information Sessions** to provide clarity on programme elements, eligibility, and registration support.
- **Business License Drive** (“Fix Ya Business”) that centralizes essential government services, allowing participants to formalize or advance their business licenses in a supportive environment.
- **Official Guides** (OGs) embedded in community centres to assist with registration, documentation, and initial guidance, serving as the first point of contact.
- **Business Fundamentals Training** through “Hustle Smarter: A Business Crash Course,” delivering practical tools and mindset support for immediate application.
- **Empowerment Campaigns** to celebrate participants’ resilience and progress while reinforcing programme values.
- **Grant Advisory Office Hours** for practical, structured guidance on grant utilization, procurement, and business activation strategies.
- **Micro Grant Support of up to \$5,000** awarded to best applicants upon meeting programme milestones.



The INpower Project is more than funding or training—it is a journey of empowerment, practical skill-building, and community activation. By equipping micro entrepreneurs with tools, confidence, and guidance, INpower strengthens not only individual businesses but also the economic and social fabric of inner-city communities.

IN-PERSON INFORMATION SESSION



To make getting started easier, the programme kicks off with an in-person information session at a local inner-city community centre.

At this session, you'll get a clear overview of the programme, learn about eligibility requirements, and understand all the steps to apply. Staff will be on-site to provide one-on-one support with registration, ensuring you have the guidance you need to get started confidently.

BUSINESS LICENSE DRIVE

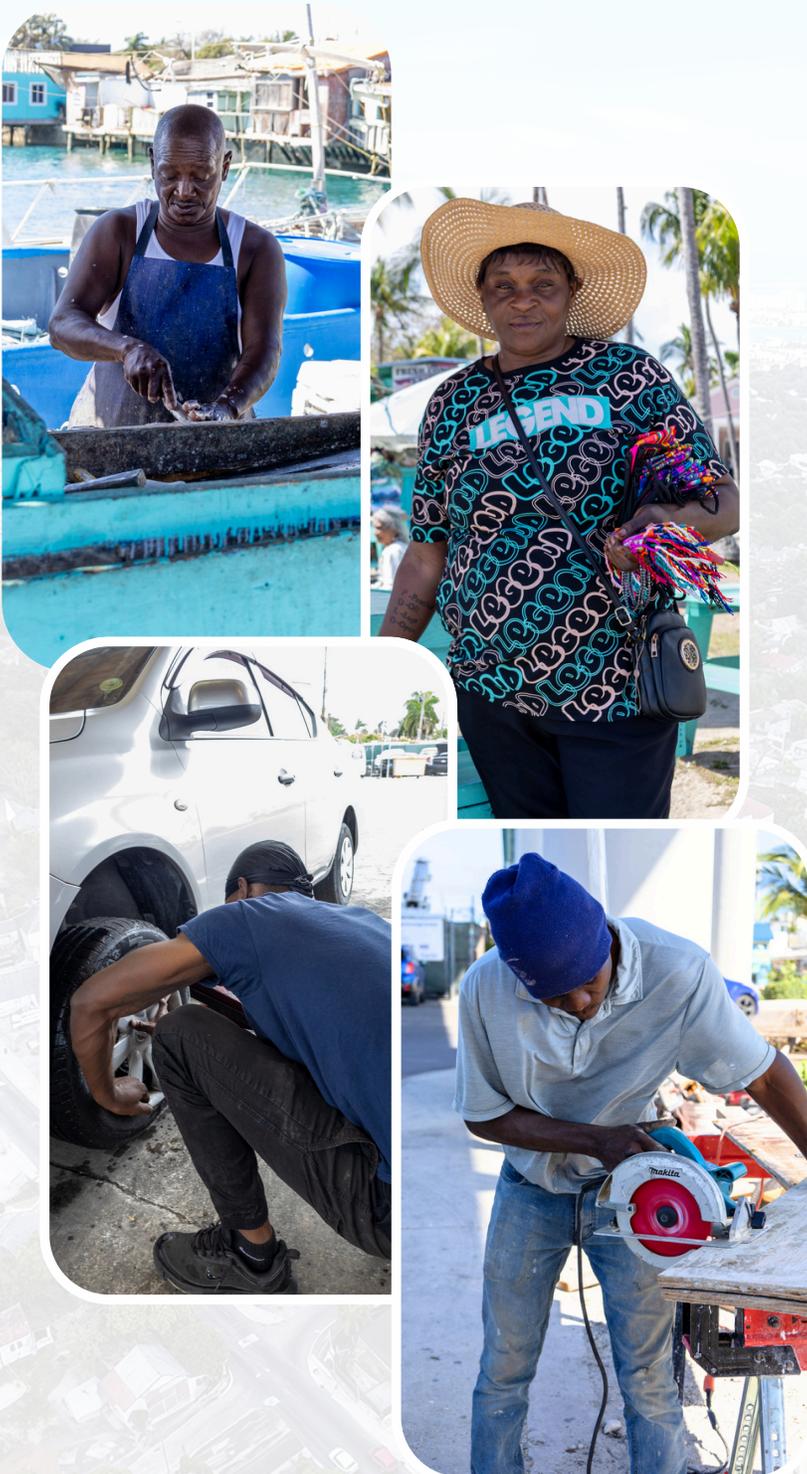


The “Fix Ya Business” License Drive brings together multiple government services in one convenient location.

This hands-on event helps participants take the next step toward formalizing their businesses. You can complete or advance your business licence applications on-site, with direct guidance from staff in a supportive, approachable environment. The goal is to reduce barriers, save time, and make the process simple and efficient.

HANDS ON SUPPORT

Starting or growing a business can feel overwhelming, especially when it comes to applications, documents, and funding requirements. That's why the programme provides hands-on support every step of the way.



Official Guides (OGs), based at community centres under the Urban Renewal Authority, are your first point of contact. They help with applications, document preparation, and basic questions, giving you guidance and confidence throughout the process.

Grant Advisory Office Hours offer practical guidance on how to use your potential grant funds wisely. Led by experienced consultants, these sessions cover compliant spending, navigating procurement requirements, and making decisions that truly support your business growth.

Our goal is to remove barriers, reduce confusion, and provide the guidance you need — from registration through funding — so you can focus on building your business.



THE INPOWER PROJECT

STANDALONE GRANT

Accessing funding can be tough for inner-city micro entrepreneurs. That's why the SBDC is proud to offer the INpower Micro Grant — up to \$5,000 to help turn your business ideas into action. Use it for brand development, equipment, inventory, and other practical business needs. Apply between March 19 and April 10, 2026, and take the next step in growing your business!

To be considered for the INpower Micro Grant, follow these steps to ensure your eligibility:

- Submit a grant application
- Provide a current (2026) Business License or proof of application/renewal
- Attend a Business Fundamentals Training session
- Describe your business, including mission, vision, and goals in a short Executive Summary or Pitch Video
- Provide vendor invoices and wire instructions with a clear explanation of fund use



ELIGIBILITY

We've designed the INpower Programme to support entrepreneurs who are ready to take their business to the next level. To make sure participants get the most out of the experience, the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Must be a micro-sized business, i.e. generating less than \$250,000 in annual revenue and having less than 5 employees.
- Must be a resident of and/or have a business located in one of the following areas: Bain & Grants Town, Centreville, Englerston, Fox Hill Freetown, Marathon, Nassau Village or St. Barnabas.
- Must be majority Bahamian-owned (i.e. 51% or greater)
- Must provide a current Voter's Card or Passport & Utility Bill for verification of Bahamian ownership & location eligibility.
- Must have a business idea ready to start or have an already established business.

YOUR INPOWER JOURNEY

STEP BY STEP

1

Discover The INpower Project



A community business activation initiative designed to empower inner-city micro entrepreneurs in The Bahamas.

2

Attend an Info Session



Have your questions answered and attend to understand expectations, commitments, and programme structure.

3

Register for the Journey



Register with help from our team, and join our WhatsApp group for updates.

4

Train to Unlock the Next Step



Attend and participate in the business fundamentals training and motivational sessions, willing to learn.

5

Fix Ya Business



Attend the business license drive with the required documents, and meet agencies that are a part of it.

6

Plan for Growth



Identify your business priorities and goals, participate in grant advisory office hours, and submit your spend plan.

7

Move Forward



Submit a Vendor invoice, receive grant (if eligible) and refresh your brand or business.

INITIATIVE SCHEDULE

THE DATES BELOW ARE ILLUSTRATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
DATE CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO PROGRAMME REGISTRANTS.

Date	Event
March 4	Registration Opens
March 10	In-Person Information Session
March 15	Registration Closes
March 19	Training Session: Location 1
March 21	Training Session: Location 2
March 25	Training Session: Location 3
March 28	Business License Drive Event
March 19	Grant Application Opens
April 10	Grant Application Closes
May 5	Grant Announcement



BEYOND SEED FUNDING: ACCESS MORE FUNDING FOR GROWTH

Choose a funding pathway that fits your business

We believe in long-term growth, not just short-term support.

Eligible MSMEs can access further funding through our extended financing pathways:

- Up to \$20,000 in matching grant funding
- Up to \$80,000 in micro loan funding
- Up to \$500,000 in guaranteed loan funding

The Microloan and Guaranteed Loan Programmes also provide training and advisory support to eligible MSMEs, including guidance on business plans and financial statements.

How It Works

After applying and confirming eligibility, the SBDC's Investment Committee may approve you for a matching grant, microloan and a government-backed loan guarantee. With this approval, our team will help you apply directly to trusted financial partners.

READY TO GROW?

Fill out our Service Request Form and get connected with an advisor today!

Scan the QR code, or visit <https://zurl.co/dbjTb>

