

*Business Support. Entrepreneurial Opportunities.
Technical Assistance.*



**SKOWHEGAN CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



2023 Impact Report

Skowhegan Center for Entrepreneurship

Home base for entrepreneurial and business support in Skowhegan



50+ local businesses supported



100+ hours advising businesses



346 rental hours at the center



\$16,000 awarded in grants to businesses



\$394,000 in fundraising for Kitchen at 185

"We've used the Center for Entrepreneurship for several team meetings. We're a small business with limited space at our location to hold team meetings in a private setting. The Center for Entrepreneurship offers us great flexibility to meet with our entire team of 25 employees in the Somerset room or have a smaller meeting with just our management team in the Kennebec room. The rates are reasonable and we love the technology that is available to assist making our meetings as productive as possible." - Chad Partridge, Al's Pizza, Cappza's Pizza

The Skowhegan Center for Entrepreneurship serves as the hub of entrepreneurial activity in Somerset County, fostering innovation and cultivating collaboration and risk-taking in a supportive environment. Business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs of all ages can seek resources and assistance with starting and growing a business. Filling an unmet need in Skowhegan, the Center also offers space for coworking (with 24/7 access), meetings, and community gatherings.



Patric Moore, Main Street Skowhegan's Director of Entrepreneurship

2023 Programming

Start Summit in Skowhegan



Use YouTube to Grow Your Business



Spring Business Lab

Using Google Analytics



Technical Assistance Grants



Fall Business Lab

Small Business Meet Ups



First Friday - FREE Coworking Day



Better Maine Conference 2023



Somerset Room



Kennebec Room

2024 Programs

Startup Bootcamp

Weekend training for aspiring entrepreneurs

Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

Collaboration with Skowhegan Area High School to pilot a youth business lab and pitch competition during the 2024 spring semester

Technical Assistance Grants

Mini-grant program that helps grow Skowhegan-based businesses

Business Lab & Pitch Competition

Seven-week program for early-stage businesses and startups with a chance to win \$5,000

Start Summit

Idea hackathon in partnership with the Roux Institute that features a cash prize for the team with the winning business idea



The Kitchen at 185

We are developing a shared commercial kitchen and food incubator in downtown Skowhegan that will offer low-barrier-to-entry production space and expand value-add and retail opportunities for niche local food producers, aspiring culinary entrepreneurs, and farmers that are creating unique quality products.

Providing access to a shared-use commercial kitchen along with ongoing business development and support services will significantly reduce upfront startup costs and risk associated with launching a food business, while making small food businesses more sustainable, and ultimately strengthening the local, regional, and state food economies.

Technical Education Partnerships

Expanded opportunities for culinary students at KVCC & regional CTE program

Culinary Career Pathways

Tailored training & skills development for aspiring culinary professionals

Kitchen Incubator Program

Six-month program that offers support and business basics to make food startups financially sustainable

"I have been looking for a rentable space to expand my small business for some time now. It is exciting to consider the potential and possibilities of Kitchen at 185 and how we can work together. This is so needed in the area!" - Kristin Wallaker, Precessional Apothecary, New Portland, ME



Draft rendering of the Kitchen at 185, which will be located at 185 Water Street in downtown Skowhegan



Spring Business Lab Cohort

Casey Morgan of Morgan Camp Care took home the \$5,000 prize during our 2023 Spring Cohort Pitch Contest that featured 9 entrepreneurs!

T-Mobile Hometown Grant

T-Mobile awarded Main Street Skowhegan \$50,000 to help us build The Kitchen at 185, a shared commercial kitchen and food business incubator.



Fall Business Lab Cohort

During a night of networking, community building, and entrepreneurship, our four participants pitched for a chance to win \$5,000 and a runner-up prize of \$1,000!
 Winner: "Lights Up" Productions, a soon-to-be-formed non-profit focused on revitalizing the Skowhegan Opera House.
 Runner-up: Bytesum Technologies, a local IT company focused on providing IT support to residential homes and small and medium-sized businesses.

USDA Grant

USDA State Director Rhiannon Hampson presented Main Street Skowhegan with a \$99,000 grant award to develop our future food incubator.

