

Advice and Business Loans for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities (ABLED) Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

SUMMARY

The ABLED and Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Programs are designed to help western Canadians with disabilities gain easier access to business training and development; mentoring and one-on-one counselling services; and, financial assistance in their pursuit of self-employment and entrepreneurship.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ABLED – 1/Vancity or Coast Capital Savings member in good standing. 2/ Have a self-declared long-term disability. 3/ Operate or intend to operate a business in BC Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley or Greater Victoria area 4/ A viable business plan. 5/ Commitment

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities - Eligible applicants must be living in a rural community and have a disability that impairs their ability to perform at least one of the basic activities of self-employment or entrepreneurship.

DESCRIPTION

What does the program offer?

Entrepreneurs with disabilities can pursue their business goals and contribute to the economic growth of their rural communities in Western Canada by accessing business services, such as:

- help developing customized business plans;
- mentoring and counselling services;
- training in business development;
- help identifying needs for specialized equipment and assistance acquiring it;
- access to capital.

The program provides entrepreneurs with disabilities, who are unable to obtain financing from a traditional financial institution, access to business loans up to \$125 000. The terms of the loans are:

- designed to be patient and flexible;
- specifically tailored to address each individual entrepreneur's needs; and
- repayable at competitive rates.

Types of projects supported by this program include:

- starting or expanding a business;
- purchasing and applying new technology to a business;
- upgrading facilities and equipment;
- establishing working capital for anticipated sales increases.

CONTACT

ABLED:

Vancouver - Vancity Credit Union <http://www.vancity.ca>

Victoria - Coast Capital Savings <http://www.coastcapitalsavings.ca>

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities:

(Rural Western Canada): The Community Futures Office in your area:

<http://www.communityfutures.ca/provincial>