



CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

SEED Program Evaluation

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) conducted an evaluation of the Small Enterprise Economic Development (SEED) program.

The SEED program was a “character-based” lending program with the goal of supporting and financing entrepreneurs who had been unable to obtain the resources necessary to start or expand a small business through traditional sources. The program operated as a partnership between Empire State Development, the University at Albany, and the State Employees Federal Credit Union (SEFCU). The program offered entrepreneurs support and mentorship, as well as loans of up to \$35,000 that were approved using a character-based criteria system.

EVALUATION & RESEARCH

CHSR focused on a formative evaluation approach that focused on identification of process strengths and continuous improvement. CHSR sought to examine how SEED impacted several stakeholders with potential to benefit from the program: fledgling entrepreneurs, economic developers, and lenders.