

Small loans Big ideas

Volunteer Opportunities at ACCESS Community Capital Fund

ACCESS is a registered charitable organization that helps people facing financial barriers in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to obtain low-interest loans of up to \$5,000 for small business and professional development. Economic barriers include; low-income, poor or limited credit history and lack of collateral (few or no assets). Most of our clients have difficulty obtaining loans from banks. Individual loans are evaluated using a character-based lending model, where the abilities, plans, skills and commitment of the applicant are key decision criteria.

Our clients encompass under-served and marginalized communities such as visible minorities, newcomers, women and others that face barriers to realizing their goals of self-employment and meaningful employment.

ACCESS supports individuals through the application process and after receiving loans, by providing consultation, coaching, referrals and resources.

Business Coach

ACCESS Business Coaches play an important role in supporting clients who may need help in refining a business plan or developing specific skills to run their business more effectively. They offer a wide range of expertise and guidance and work one-to-one with clients on an agreed upon schedule. Business Coaches may work with clients from the very early, pre-application stages of their business planning to ongoing support as a client develops and grows their business after receiving a loan.

Related Skills & Experience:

- You bring unique strengths, experience or strong practical knowledge in a range of business related areas which may include planning, operations, marketing, finance, accounting, social media, sales and technology gained from entrepreneurial, small business or intreprenurial roles
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Knowledge of local community resources for entrepreneurs.
- Community experience (or an interest in) working with low-income, culturally diverse communities.
- Second language an asset

Commitment: Six months to one year depending on the coaching assignment. Business Coaches are expected to meet with clients on an agreed upon schedule and provide feedback on the progress of the partnership. Depending on client needs and availability of the coach, meetings may be weekly, bi-weekly or monthly during the coaching period. A customized schedule is developed in collaboration with the client to meet their goals. Although there is a defined time frame for each partnership, there may be an opportunity to arrange occasional meetings beyond the initial commitment to support the ongoing success of the client's business.

For further information, please contact Michael Fliess, Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement at volunteers@accessccf.com or 416-462-0496.