



CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR ACCELERATOR (CEA) PROGRAM

Overview

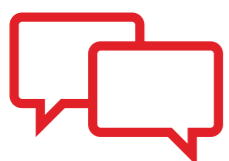
The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator (CEA) Program is designed to:

- Pair creative entrepreneurs with existing small business consulting services.
- Help creative entrepreneurs grow their business, audience, and revenue.
- Provides access to the Impact Management System (IMS) / Business Growth Ladder (BGL) to track business growth and engagement over time.

The Process



Connect with creative entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing a business.



Creative entrepreneur reaches out to PPA Partner for referral coordinator information.



Creative entrepreneur & referral coordinator consult and review business plan.



Referral coordinator works with and refers creative entrepreneur to PPA regional partner.



Creative entrepreneur completes and submits client information form & application to PPA Partner.



Upon receipt of eligible and complete application, PPA Partner enters into grant award agreement with creative entrepreneur.



Entrepreneur self-reports business data into IMS/BGL System, at which point grant funds are dispersed.



A year after funds are received, Entrepreneur submits final report into IMS/BGL and submits proof of eligible purchases to PPA Partner.

Roles & Responsibilities

Pennsylvania Creative Industries

A state agency under the Office of the Governor with the mission to empower, connect and amplify creatives and creative industries and their contributions to Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and workforce.

Responsibilities:

- Program funder
- Act as a liaison between PPA Partners and referral coordinators
- Provide funding to the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program

Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA)

Regional re-granting organization that assists Pennsylvania Creative Industries in allocating state arts funds to support local and community arts projects and programs.

Responsibilities:

- Accept the referral form provided by the referral coordinator
- Review the client information form provided by the creative entrepreneur for eligibility
- Provide the application form to the creative entrepreneur
- Review and accept the application
- Provide funding check to creative entrepreneur

Referral Coordinators

A local small business development organization (i.e. local Small Business Development Centers).

Responsibilities:

- Provide free consultation services and a business plan review for the creative entrepreneur
- Complete the referral form and submit it to the PPA Partner

Creative Entrepreneurs

Creative entrepreneurs must operate in the creative industry, be at least 18 years old, a current resident of PA for one year, and (if applicable) manage a business with gross revenue of less than \$200,000.

Responsibilities:

- Complete one consultation with a referral coordinator
- Complete and submit client information form to the PPA Partner
- Complete and submit application to the PPA Partner and self-report data into IMS/BGL
- If eligible and receive grant, submit all required IMS/BGL reporting and proof of eligible purchases.

PPA PARTNERS

Region 1

Erie Arts & Culture

Serves: Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer,
Venango, Warren

www.erieartsandculture.org

Region 2

Elk County Council on the Arts

Serves: Cameron, Elk, Forest, McKean, Potter

www.eccota.com

Region 3

Community Giving Foundation

Serves: Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming,
Sullivan, Tioga

www.csgiving.org

Region 4

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Serves: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna,
Wayne, Wyoming

www.armaturenepa.org

Region 5

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation Serves:

Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton

www.lvcfoundation.org

Region 6

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

Serves: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery,
Philadelphia

www.philaculture.org

Region 7

Partnership Unavailable for 2025-2026

Region 8

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities

Serves: Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon

www.tfec.org

Region 9

Cultural Alliance of York County

Serves: Adams, Franklin, Fulton, York

www.culturalyork.org

Region 10

Community Partnerships RC&D Serves:

Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland,
Perry, Snyder, Union

www.cpartnerships.com

Region 11

Centre Foundation

Serves: Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon

www.centre-foundation.org

Region 12

Community Foundation for the Alleghenies

Serves: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette,
Somerset, Westmoreland

www.cfalleghenies.org

Region 13

United Way of Clarion County

Serves: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Indiana,
Jefferson

www.uwclarionco.org

Region 14

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

Serves: Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, Washington

www.pittsburghartscouncil.org

For general questions contact:
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