

Grant from TD Charitable Foundation to support Scale Up Miami program

By **Allison Horton** - February 15, 2021

Once again, The Idea Center at Miami Dade College (MDC) has been awarded a grant from the TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, as part of its commitment to giving back to the community.

The grant, for \$85,000 to support The Idea Center's transformative Scale Up Miami program, will enable The Idea Center to provide ongoing business training and one-on-one coaching to 50 small business owners with a primary focus on women and minority-owned small business in Miami-Dade County.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding and renewed support for the Scale Up Miami program from our partners at the TD Charitable Foundation," said Romi Bhatia, The Idea Center's executive director. "The pandemic has disrupted our vibrant small business community, but some businesses have been hit much harder than others. We want to encourage our early-stage business owners to take advantage of this opportunity to build that entrepreneurial mindset to thrive in times of adversity."

Scale Up Miami will target small business owners, particularly African American and female business owners, who do not have the same access to financial assistance, financial savings, or the knowledge and tools to be equipped to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 118 small business owners have participated in the program with an 85 percent completion rate. Each program is cohort-based, 16 weeks in length and provides business training combined with business coaching.

"We know that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on Black communities, as well as small businesses," said Pablo Pino, South Florida Commercial Market president for TD Bank. "That's why we are proud to support innovative programs like Scale Up Miami, as they help create an equitable economy where all can achieve financial stability and recover from the pandemic."

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, and the TD Charitable Foundation provide support to affordable housing, financial literacy and education, and environmental initiatives, many of which focus on improving the welfare of children and families.

This contribution supports the bank's longstanding commitment to community enrichment through its corporate citizenship platform, the TD Ready Commitment. The TD Ready Commitment actively promotes inclusivity, economic vitality, environmental wellbeing and health, enabling people of all backgrounds to succeed in a rapidly changing world. As part of The TD Ready Commitment, TD targets \$775 million in total by 2030 towards community giving in four critical areas: Financial Security, a more Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health. Through this platform, TD aspires to create a more inclusive tomorrow — helping people of all backgrounds feel more confident, not just about their finances, but about their ability to achieve their goals.

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