



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNITED WAY/CENTRAIDE WINDSOR-ESSEX AND THE SMALL BUSINESS CENTRE ANNOUNCES NEW
REGIONAL GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Windsor-Essex County, Ontario - Tuesday, April 11, 2017 – At a media conference today the United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County and the Small Business Centre (SBC) a department of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation announced a new regional grant program – **Neighbourhood Small Business Grant**.

The United Way/Centraide has been supporting neighbourhood engagement and revitalization activities across Windsor-Essex since 2010. A common theme that has emerged from this engagement is while there is an appreciation for the support, they recognize the gaps that a lack of small business poses to their neighbourhoods' overall vitality. Therefore, a partnership with the Small Business Centre was formed, who since 1992, has provided thousands of entrepreneurs with the training and support necessary to start and grow successful businesses, from concept through start-up and early growth stages of business.

The Neighbourhood Small Business Grant is financially supported with an equal partnership between United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County and the WindsorEssex Small Business Centre. The purpose of these grants is to encourage new and existing businesses to locate in Priority Neighbourhoods across Windsor-Essex County and is a part of a broad-based community and economic revitalization and provide training opportunities to applicants by the Small Business Centre. Through this partnership, four - \$5,000 grants will be awarded throughout 2017 and is now open to receive applications up to July 1, 2017.

To access the eligibility criteria, links to the application and more detailed information visit the websites of small business centre - windsorsexsmallbusiness.com/neighbourhoodgrant and the United Way - weareunited.com/SmallBusinessGrant

"This new and innovative Neighbourhood Small Business Grant is a perfect example of community-building through a collaboration between business, public, and non-profit sectors," says **Lorraine Goddard, CEO of United Way**. "We hope it's just the beginning of working together to build strong communities across Windsor and Essex County."

Stephen MacKenzie, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation added, "We are excited to partner with the United Way on this initiative in order to foster community and enterprise development at the neighborhood level. The Small Business Centre works with individuals across all demographics and supports business in all sectors of the economy. SBC actively promotes its programs and services through a variety of community outreach activities and has a strong history of working collaboratively. A culture of entrepreneurship and innovation is paramount as the Small Business Centre runs a number of programs to inspire youth to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities and to launch businesses of their own. As partners we will leverage the strengths of our organizations to benefit all applicants, and to benefit the community."

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