



For over forty years, WomenVenture has provided entrepreneurs of all ages, cultures, races, and income levels with the tools and resources to achieve economic success through small business ownership.

Our training and lending programs are structured to be accessible for all, regardless of business experience or income level. In the last year, WomenVenture has provided more than 11,000 hours of training and consulting to emerging entrepreneurs and disbursed more than \$2.1M in loans to local businesses.

Our Impact

Our two programs, childcare and food/agriculture business support, along with our access to capital initiatives have created the following impact in our last fiscal year utilizing the appropriation funds:



239

Clients Served



\$121K

In Grants



1286

Service Hours



403

Jobs Created or Sustained



\$425K

In Lending



9

Businesses Created

Our Values

Make Meaningful Change, Engage with Empathy, Persist Boldly

WomenVenture has prioritized advocacy work for women and BIPOC entrepreneurs in the fundamental and economically critical industries of child care and food entrepreneurship – including production, infrastructure, distribution, and retail and restaurant operations. These industries have traditionally leveraged the female workforce and improving economic development opportunities within these industries will have positive ripple effects throughout our economy and communities.

Tonya Paige is the owner, founder, and educator behind Tonya's Lullaby In-Home Care. WomenVenture is proud to support Tonya and share in her passion for nurturing the next generation. Her childcare journey began in 1995 when, as a new parent, she witnessed firsthand the challenges families face in accessing affordable, quality childcare. As the owner and educator of Tonya's Lullaby, Tonya has big dreams for her business, but with a unique approach. Rather than expanding in the traditional sense, she hopes to purchase another home to maintain the intimate, familiar environment that fosters better learning for children.

"The WomenVenture grant has impacted my business in such a way that it allowed me to furnish more required equipment for my program. It satisfied my Parent Aware goals and standards of my program for me to receive a Two-Star Rating for Tonya's Lullaby In-Home Care", shares Tonya.

With the grant she received, Tonya was able to invest in dynamic play equipment, winterize the play space, and implement a new sign-in communication center.



Tonya Paige
Tonya's Lullaby
In-Home Care



"The grant from WomenVenture allowed Monarch to expand our outdoor learning space providing additional learning opportunities for all of our students."



Julia Kallmes
Monarch Montessori

Tiffany Calderon, the owner of XO'Xocolati, a fair trade and organic chocolatier, is a proud graduate of WomenVenture's Launched & Growing course. With personalized 1:1 support from our Agriculture Business Development Specialist, Tiffany successfully obtained her Wholesale Retailer License. This expanded licensure will enable XO'Xocolati to sell at markets in Minneapolis and expand into grocery stores, boutiques, and other wholesale outlets, diversifying her customer base.

To further support her business growth, Tiffany has applied for a \$5,000 grant. This grant will be used to purchase supplies, enhance cohesive branding, and invest in professional development.



Tiffany Calderon
XO'Xocolati

