



Services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Individuals with disabilities can be accommodated upon advance notice.

901 S. Highland Street
Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: (703) 685-0510
Fax: (703) 685-4200
edloan@entdevgroup.org
www.entdev.group.org

To schedule an appointment, contact us at:



EDG

ECDC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT GROUP



Providing business and consumer loans, small business assistance, savings, and asset-building services for refugees, immigrants and low-income people throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



“Your bridge to a brighter future.”

www.entdev.group.org

ABOUT EDG

Utilizing the experience gleaned by helping refugee newcomers adjust to a new homeland and take their first steps toward independence and self-sufficiency, the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)—in partnership with the Office of Refugee Resettlement—established a Microenterprise Program in 1992 that has grown into the multi-service subsidiary titled the Enterprise Development Group (EDG).

As one of ten voluntary organizations authorized by the Department of State to resettle refugees in America, ECDC recognized that most newcomers need more help

in achieving their goals than what was provided through federally-funded initial reception and placement support. They needed help in understanding the American financial system; the importance of establishing bank accounts; how the tax system works; and how to develop budgets and savings plans. For those with entrepreneurial skills, the most critical—yet least available—need was access to credit.

With support from a growing community of cooperating partners, funders and other supporters, EDG has developed the support programs and services briefly described below.

Small Business Loans

Using criteria that most banks are either unable or unwilling to consider, we offer qualified clients microfinance loans of from \$500 up to \$35,000 to help start or expand a small business.

Financial Literacy Training

To help clients develop effective strategies for success, we offer training on such topics as business plan development, risk management, budgeting, banking, saving and other topics, including financial and legal issues involved in home ownership.

Computer Learning

Our Computer Learning Center offers information technology training from basic keyboarding skills and word processing to account software and graphic design.

Enterprise Business Incubator

Conveniently located in EDG's Arlington, VA headquarters building, our Enterprise Business Incubator offers professional office space with flexible leases and enhanced services.



EDG/NOVA Entrepreneurial Partnership

For working adults interested in starting and growing a small business, our partnership with the Northern Virginia Community College offers a Career Studies Certificate Program in Entrepreneurship. Evening classes are taught by NOVA faculty with supplemental on-line instruction methods.

Low Income Tax Clinics

Designed especially for refugees, immigrants and asylees for whom English is a secondary language, our Low Income Tax Clinics help clients resolve issues, controversies and problems with IRS. They are free and open to all who are dealing with controversies not exceeding \$50,000.

Vehicle Loans

For qualified clients needing a vehicle to succeed in their work or business, we offer loans of up to \$8,000 for two years. Affordable interest rates vary according to market conditions.

Individual Development Accounts

To help clients acquire needed assets, advance education or vocational training and develop regular savings habits, we offer Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) that include matched savings up to a certain amount. The program is supported by ORR and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VIDA).

Tax Preparation Service

Utilizing volunteers trained through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), we help clients with incomes of \$50,000 or below understand the U.S. tax system, utilize available tax credits and maximize potential refunds.

