



Study highlights Dayton Recovery Plan business support

-Inclusive business growth is the focus of the New School study-

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The City of Dayton's effort to support growth of Black- and Brown-owned businesses through the Dayton Recovery Plan is the focus of a case study by a research initiative of a leading university.

The New School Institute on Race and Political Economy has released "Budget Equity Project," a report examining how American cities and counties have invested their shares of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in local programs and projects designed to support equitable outcomes in their communities.

The case study ("Building Wealth and Opportunity for Black and Brown Entrepreneurs") examines Dayton's goal and game plan for supporting minority-owned businesses (one of four focus areas of the Dayton Recovery Plan, the City's strategy for transformational investment of ARPA funds).

In June of 2021, the City of Dayton (with City Commission approval) dedicated \$7.6 million of its allocated \$138 million in ARPA funds to support the growth of Black- and Brown-owned businesses. With this investment, the City aims to provide wealth-building opportunities to residents and entrepreneurs who were excluded and/or harmed by past policies such as redlining.

Dayton's three-part approach includes:

- A \$1.5 million micro-grant opportunity fund (The Resiliency Fund, administered by the Miami Valley Urban League);
- Creation of a new Inclusive Business Recovery Opportunity Center to provide capacity-building and support services to businesses (funded at \$3 million);
- Direct capital assistance to selected enterprises (\$3.12 million).

"This aspect of the Dayton Recovery Plan seeks to intentionally drive investment into areas that have long experienced disinvestment," said City Manager Shelley Dickstein.

The Dayton case study is one of four highlighted by the New School Institute on Race and Political Economy as an example of a substantive and meaningful approach to supporting inclusive business development. It can be found at daytonohio.gov/drpcasestudy. For more information on the Dayton Recovery Plan, go to daytonohio.gov/drp.

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