



Corry Small Business Jump Start Program Description

The Small Business Jump Start (SBJS) program was started in Venango County in 2004 utilizing a national group developed business curriculum. Since this time the entrepreneurship training program has proven successful in the greater Erie/Crawford County region, with over 760 participants producing an 85% success rate for business startup or expansion. Approximately 69 programs have previously run providing local access to entrepreneurship training for new/experienced owners, veterans, and dislocated workers. Since 2020, approximately 30 entrepreneurs have graduated from the program held at the Corry Higher Education Council. Over half of the business owners participating in the Corry program have been women.

Small Business Jump Start is a nine-week, 18-hour program designed to train new and experienced owners in business plan startup, record keeping, financial statements, marketing, business loans, time/goal management, sales skills and much more. Previous program benefits have included thousands of dollars in discounted services, local association memberships, and access to in-depth professional advisory groups. Since its inception, the program has created an alumni network of business owners to further strengthen the local business community through advocacy and industry knowledge.

Small Business Jump Start is specifically designed to be unique and tailored to the community in which it serves. City leaders, established business owners, and local organizations are offered an opportunity to support the program through various contributions to participant benefit packages, which previously have exceeded \$2,500 in free/discounted services and memberships. Participants will apply to the program and pay a small entry fee (\$200), which will include access to program instruction, resource manuals, professional coaching, personal business skills development profiles, session refreshments, and final program recognition.

Small Business Jump Start is instructed by Gary Svetz (Svetz Consulting Services, LLC – Meadville, PA), who has over 30 years experience as a local leader in organizational resource management, supervision, coaching development, and entrepreneurship. Gary has notably assisted several Corry startups that include Your Daily Serving (Betsy Grinder) and Dragonwood Ranch (Victoria and Kyle Boehmer) launch their businesses through the SBJS program. Established businesses, such as Demeter Premier Landscaping, LLC (Stephen and Michelle Demeter) and Deluxe Barber Co. (Matt Richards) have directly benefited from the SBJS program.

Corry Small Business Jump Start 2023 is scheduled to be held at the Corry Higher Education Council on Mondays, March 20 – May 15, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.