New Profit Grant Reinforces NBIC's 40-Year Role as a Catalyst for Small Business Growth in Nashville

Nonprofit selected from nearly 500 applicants for competitive national economic mobility cohort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (January 26, 2026) — NBIC, a longstanding pillar of Nashville's entrepreneurial ecosystem, has been awarded a grant through New Profit's Catalyze Economic Mobility cohort, a highly competitive national initiative supporting organizations that strengthen economic opportunity through entrepreneurship and workforce development.

The award comes as NBIC marks its 40th anniversary, underscoring four decades of sustained impact and service to small businesses across Middle Tennessee. Selected from nearly 500 eligible applicants nationwide, NBIC joins a limited group of organizations recognized for both measurable results and the ability to deliver long-term, community-rooted impact.

Since its founding in 1986, NBIC has supported thousands of entrepreneurs as they build viable, resilient businesses. The organization is known for designing programs informed by lived experience and real-world need, particularly for founders navigating limited access to capital, professional networks, and growth opportunities.

"This grant represents validation of our commitment to proximity," said Angela Crane Jones, CEO of NBIC. "We are proximate to the entrepreneurs we serve. Many of our team members have lived the challenges our business owners face. We design programs based on their needs, not assumptions. New Profit's investment affirms that community-centered approaches drive real economic mobility, and it strengthens our capacity to expand our reach across Middle Tennessee and beyond."

The grant includes $100,000 in unrestricted funding, along with access to New Profit's capacity-building resources, including leadership development, peer learning, and strategic advisory support. Together, these investments will strengthen NBIC's organizational infrastructure and position the organization for its next phase of growth.

Funding will also support expanded outreach across Middle Tennessee, allowing NBIC to connect with entrepreneurs and small business owners who may not yet be aware of the

resources available to them. The organization will work to increase enrollment across its existing programs, including business education, digital skills training, and operational readiness support, while continuing the responsive, community-informed approach that has defined its work for four decades.

"NBIC exemplifies what it looks like to drive economic mobility through consistent proximate community-rooted leadership," said Abigail Golden-Vazquez, Partner Economic Mobility, New Profit. "For 40 years, NBIC has expanded access and opportunity for underserved entrepreneurs across Middle Tennessee by pairing lived experience with effective, scalable programs. Their selection reflects both a strong track record of impact and the organization's capacity to continue advancing pathways to income generation, financial health, and long-term economic opportunity."

"We've always operated on the belief that economic mobility starts with access and opportunity," Jones added. "This partnership ensures that more entrepreneurs can build businesses that create wealth, strengthen neighborhoods, and transform outcomes for generations to come."

NBIC offers a comprehensive suite of programs supporting entrepreneurs at every stage of growth, including business education and coaching, workforce and digital skills training, founder storytelling and visibility initiatives, and targeted support focused on operational readiness, revenue growth, and sustainability.

For more information about NBIC programs or partnership opportunities, visit nbichub.org or contact Dr. Contrecia Tharpe at ctharpe@nbichub.org.

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About NBIC

NBIC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits through education, resources, and strategic support. Founded in 1986, NBIC has spent 40 years serving as a cornerstone of Nashville's entrepreneurial ecosystem with a particular focus on entrepreneurs of color, women, immigrants, and others historically excluded from access to capital and professional networks. NBIC's community-centered approach helps founders build sustainable businesses, strengthen operations, and create economic opportunity across Middle Tennessee. Learn more at nbichub.org.

About New Profit

New Profit is a venture philanthropy organization that backs social entrepreneurs advancing equity and opportunity in America. New Profit invests in visionary leaders who practice proximity—centering the expertise and lived experiences of the communities they serve—to

catalyze responsive, sustainable change. Through its Catalyze Economic Mobility cohort, New Profit provides unrestricted funding, capacity-building support, and peer learning opportunities to organizations creating pathways to income generation, financial health, and economic opportunity. Learn more at newprofit.org.