



July 1, 2025

Congressman Lloyd Smucker
2270 Erin Court
Lancaster, PA 17601

RE: Support for FY26 Funding for Small Business Resource Programs

Dear Congressman Smucker,

The Lancaster Chamber is a staunch advocate for our local business community, and we urge you to support FY2026 funding for essential small business support programs, including SCORE, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), and the Small Business Administration (SBA). These programs not only help entrepreneurs, but are engines of job creation, economic mobility, and long-term fiscal health. Cutting their funding would be a short-sighted move that would undermine small business growth, stall local economic development, and ultimately exacerbate the national debt by reducing tax revenue generated by thriving businesses.

Currently, FY2026 aims to shrink entrepreneurial development programs, with cuts in funding expected to total over 50%. This would eliminate nearly all of SCORE's funding, which is a proven mechanism for small business success. For 61 years, the program has offered free mentoring and education to entrepreneurs in every U.S. state and territory. SCORE's impact is indisputable, with 99.9% of all U.S. businesses deemed small. In FY2024 alone, SCORE aided in the creation of 59,447 new small businesses and established 143,623 new jobs. SCORE's clients propel local economies, returning an astounding \$45.42 in new federal tax revenue for every \$1 appropriated, virtually unmatched by other federal programs. Over 10,000 volunteers contribute their time and total over 4 million hours of free mentorship. Annually, the SCORE program bolsters more than 300,000 entrepreneurs as they start and grow their business. This entrepreneurial program is directly reflected in the success of local communities and demonstrates the essentiality of investing in entrepreneurial programs.

The budget cuts, along with the elimination of technical assistance and contracting support, make doing or starting a business that much harder. America's small businesses are fueled by these critical investments, and economic growth is contingent on smart investments. Thank you for your ongoing leadership on behalf of entrepreneurs in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and across the country.

Sincerely,

Heather Valudes
President and CEO
Lancaster Chamber



July 1, 2025

Senator Dave McCormick
200 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Support for FY26 Funding for Small Business Resource Programs

Dear Senator McCormick,

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Heather Valudes
President and CEO
Lancaster Chamber



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July 1, 2025

Senator John Fetterman
320 Market Street, Suite 475E
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Dear Senator Fetterman,

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