

# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

## About the CED Clinic

The Community Economic Development Clinic (CED Clinic) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law **provides free transactional legal services to small businesses, under-resourced entrepreneurs, community-based enterprises and nonprofit organizations.** Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, student attorneys assist clients with business law and community development legal needs. The clinic is **designed to support grassroots organizations and promote community-based neighborhood transformations** such as revitalization, economic development, and small business growth.

In addition to representing clients, student attorneys may also provide **free community education workshops on issues related to community economic development and small business operations.** The CED Clinic is particularly committed to working with clients who seek to **enhance the social fabric, physical infrastructure, and economic health of urban, working class, and underserved communities in the Denver metropolitan area.** Clients receive free legal services but are responsible for all administrative fees and other expenses associated with the representation (such as state filing or license fees).



## Legal Services and Practice Areas

- New business formation and legal structure
- Formation of nonprofit corporations
- Governance advice for nonprofit corporations and for-profit entities (including trainings for boards of directors)
- Review, drafting, and negotiation of contracts, commercial leases, and other documents
- Applications for tax exemption and maintenance of tax-exempt status
- Legal audits (organizational check-ups)
- Business licensing, permitting, regulatory and zoning advice
- Community-oriented real estate and commercial finance transactions for compatible redevelopment activities
- Economic development programs

*Please note that the CED Clinic does not write business plans, prepare income tax returns, or provide assistance initiating or defending litigation.*

## Client Selection Criteria

CED Clinic faculty members determine whether the requested services are appropriate for student representation. Priority is given to potential clients with projects that:

- do not have access to discretionary funds for legal advice;
- are community-based, assist underserved communities, or are owned/operated by women, minorities, or economically disadvantaged individuals;
- have a written business or strategic plan or can otherwise demonstrate the capacity for ongoing operations;
- are located within the Denver metropolitan area; and
- complement the CED Clinic's educational goals.

***Please note that the CED Clinic cannot currently accept projects that must be resolved within a short time frame.***

Potential clients must submit a *Request for Legal Services Form*. To obtain this form or for more information, please contact the CED Clinic at 303-871-6140 or visit us online at [www.law.du.edu/clinics/cedc](http://www.law.du.edu/clinics/cedc).

