

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.

