

Who is eligible for services?

If you are a **microentrepreneur** and you meet **all** of the following criteria, you may be eligible for free legal assistance:

- Have a new or existing business located in New York City;
- Your current yearly household gross income (before taxes) falls within our guidelines; and
- You have insufficient funds to hire your own attorney.

A **community-based organization** is eligible to host legal presentations or clinics if:

- It provides general business assistance to microentrepreneurs at no cost and would like to host a legal presentation or a clinic;
- It is interested in offering free business services to microentrepreneurs and would like the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project to provide legal presentations.

If you think you qualify for the [Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project](#) or have general questions regarding the Project's services, please email nelp@nycbar.org, or call **212-382-6633**.

*“Building Communities
One Business at a Time”*

Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project

42 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 212-382-6633
Fax: 212-382-6721
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The City Bar Justice Center is a non-profit organization committed to increasing the public's knowledge and understanding of our justice system. The City Bar Justice Center strives to facilitate and improve access to justice for low-income New Yorkers.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENTREPRENEUR LAW PROJECT



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Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project

What is the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project?

The [Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project](#) provides free quality legal assistance to low-income microentrepreneurs who are interested in starting a small business or who already have an existing business.

It is designed to provide low-income micro-entrepreneurs legal services they might otherwise go without because of the traditionally high costs associated with these services.

Burdened by the costs of space, inventory and other expenses, microentrepreneurs often have no resources left for legal assistance. Providing this assistance assures that businesses will start off on sound footing and owners will have a better chance of achieving economic self-sufficiency.

Providing a helping hand to small enterprises helps revitalize low-income neighborhoods. When empty storefronts become bustling small businesses, neighborhood residents are often hired. Local residents begin to regularly patronize these businesses and the process of building communities one business at a time begins.

Through the [Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project](#), trained volunteer attorneys are available to provide free advice and legal assistance on a number of issues relevant to low-income microentrepreneurs. Additionally, attorneys are available to give presentations at community-based organizations on topics of interest to microentrepreneurs.

What is a Microentrepreneur?

A *MICROENTREPRENEUR* is the owner of a small business that generally employs less than five people and can be based out of the home. This business is often the sole source of family income but can also act as a supplement to other forms of income.

Examples of microentrepreneurial enterprises include small retail stores, market stalls or housecleaning, delivery or childcare services.



What can the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project do for my business?

The [Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project](#) is designed to provide free legal assistance in the following areas:

- Services related to business structure, such as forming a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, LLP or LLC;
- Reviewing and negotiating commercial leases;
- Protecting trademarks and copyrights;
- Preparing sales and service contracts;

- Dealing with employment law matters, including drafting and reviewing employment agreements;
- Reviewing loan documents; and
- Obtaining necessary city, state and federal licenses and registrations.

Does the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project work with other organizations?

The [Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project](#) also offers presentations and legal clinics, at community-based organizations, to help meet the needs and interests of local micro-entrepreneurs. Through presentations and legal clinics, community-based organizations may complement the technical assistance that they already provide or are interested in providing to local residents.

