

Businesses and Job Growth

Small Business Assistance | Economic and Workforce Development | Commercial and Industrial Jobs

Gowanus serves as a local economic hub with a diverse mix of commercial and industrial jobs, a characteristic that’s woven into the canal’s history. As the neighborhood’s economy changes, a central topic is how to support the base of local businesses and allow new businesses to thrive through available tools, programs and services. Portions of southern Gowanus are also located in the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone, which provides access to tax credits and services for industrial and manufacturing businesses.

Among the organizations and agencies involved in this effort, the **New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** acts as the primary engine for economic development, charged with the leveraging the City’s assets to drive growth, create jobs and improve quality of life. Meanwhile, the **Department of Small Business Services (SBS)** provides direct training and assistance to businesses and entrepreneurs.

What do YOU want to see? Give us your thoughts and suggestions!



9th St Loading and Warehouses



Mix of small businesses (view of 3rd Ave)



Adaptive Reuse of 68 Third St for Offices



9th Street Corridor (looking west)

Key Priorities or Initiatives

- Identify the needs of existing businesses and specific industrial sectors
- Connect existing businesses to the full range of services and programs offered by the city and its partners
- Promote job-generating uses, including industrial, arts, cultural and creative sectors
- Advance equity by improving access to jobs at a variety of skill levels

Sample projects and initiatives:

- Hire NYC and the M/W/DBE Program
- Futureworks NYC Growth Initiative
- Tax credit and loan programs for industrial and commercial businesses

About the Department of Small Business Services (SBS)

Good Jobs

Through our network of Workforce1 Career Centers, SBS prepares and connects qualified candidates to job opportunities in New York City. Workforce1 identifies strong matches for both candidates and employers by using a unique combination of recruitment expertise, industry knowledge, and skill-building workshops to strengthen candidates' employment prospects.



Stronger Businesses

SBS serves businesses through our network of NYC Business Solutions Centers and Industrial Business Service Providers. NYC Business Solutions connects businesses to the resources they need to start, operate, and expand, with services that include free business courses, legal services, and accessing financing. SBS also certifies Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprises and helps them compete for government contracts.



SBS helps industrial and manufacturing firms access free, expert business assistance through the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp. Services include help accessing City and State incentive programs, relocating or expanding, accessing financing, business to business networking, and navigating government regulations.

Thriving Neighborhoods

SBS supports more than 100 community-based economic development organizations, including the City's network of Business Improvement Districts, to ensure the success of commercial corridors by investing in merchant organizing, streetscape improvements, and business attraction.

Commercial Revitalization Grants

SBS offers a number of competitive grant programs, including Avenue NYC and Neighborhood Challenge, for local economic development and non-profit community-based organizations to strengthen retail corridors and strategically address commercial needs.

