VMEC and Northfield Savings Bank 2024 - 2027 Maker's Fund Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Maker's Fund; this opportunity, a partnership between VMEC and NSB, was created for manufacturers that have **20 or fewer employees**. This group of makers can help drive the Vermont economy, sustain and create jobs and with financial and industry expertise, grow to become larger employers and contributors in Vermont.

There are several reasons you may be interested in seeking financial support through the Maker's Fund - expanding your manufacturing capacity, growing your business, improving productivity, cost reduction and employee retention are just a few examples. VMEC's entire suite of services will be available through the Maker's Fund contribution.

As you're considering pursuing this opportunity, please note a few guidelines below:

1) Your company must have 20 or fewer employees; companies over 20 employees are not eligible for this funding opportunity.
2) Your company must have or meet the criteria for a valid manufacturing NAICS code*.
3) If awarded funding, your company must agree that VMEC and its sponsors may use this project as a case study and publish information about VMEC's involvement in said project. All information about the company and its project to be presented in a case study will be prepared by VMEC with a final review and approval by the company.
4) Vermont Training Program funding cannot be pursued or secured simultaneously for the same intent and purpose/ project as the 2024 - 2027 Maker's Fund opportunity you are seeking.
5) Your company is eligible to apply for the Maker's Fund once per year.
6) Projects valued up to $5,000 will be considered through the Maker's Fund.

If you would like to be considered for the Maker's Fund program, please visit the VMEC Contact Us page; in the "Service Interested In" field, please select Maker's Fund.

*** What is a NAICS Code?** A North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code is a 2–6 digit number that classifies businesses by industry. The U.S. Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies use NAICS codes to collect, analyze, and publish statistical data on the U.S. business economy. Our national partner, NIST MEP, requires all manufacturing companies we work with to have at least one valid manufacturing NAICS number listed in the Dun & Bradstreet database in order to use NIST federal funds.

The manufacturing NAICS code does not have to be the primary code; it just has to be listed as one of the codes on your account. If the NAICS code/s listed for your company record do not include the proper manufacturing NAICS code and you are a manufacturer, VMEC can initiate an "investigation" on your behalf through Dun & Bradstreet to add a manufacturing code through your DUNS Account.