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## Bloomberg awards \$4.2M to small businesses

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The Department of Small Business Services said Thursday that it awarded more than \$4.2 million to small businesses that have created training programs to increase the skills and salaries of the working poor.

The money is part of the city's Business Solutions Training Funding, which aims to provide an alternative approach toward combating poverty.

"We should spend our money helping those that have committed to job creation and promotion to train their entry level workers, instead of simply training New Yorkers with the hopes that jobs that match those skills will be available," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement.

Five training fund recipients were awarded over \$700,000 to train more than 300 employees in various industries in New York City. The money was granted based on their ability to provide entry-level and incumbent works with career advancement opportunities and increased wages.

Among these recipients was Hendrickson Custom Cabinetry, a custom cabinetry and architectural millwork manufacturing firm located in the South Bronx, which will be training New Yorkers in an effort to stem a shortage of skilled labor in their industry. Lisa Hendrickson, a co-owner of Custom Cabinetry applauded the program saying "this training award will allow us to grow our company and increase our market share in New York City while creating jobs and building long-term career skills for New Yorkers in our community."

There is currently \$1 million in funding is available for employers in healthcare, retail, financial service, manufacturing, food services, information services and transportation fields. Pre-applications for funding must be submitted by Oct. 15th.

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