



[www.mountainbizworks.org](http://www.mountainbizworks.org)

# MOUNTAIN BIZWORKS

## Financial and Social Impact

- Entrepreneurs served: More than 6,000
- Assisted in the creation of more than 1,300 locally-owned businesses
- Loans made: more than \$4 million
- Loan loss rate: 3%

## Contact

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Mountain BizWorks is in the business of helping small businesses succeed in Western North Carolina. Through financial services, training, consulting and advocacy, the mission of Mountain BizWorks is to help entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses, and create jobs. Simultaneously, Mountain BizWorks partners with all who advocate for communities where small businesses flourish. Since its founding in 1989, Mountain BizWorks' small business programs have been critical to Western North Carolina's growing small business population, and are the backbone of success for many local businesses. Serving 12 counties, Mountain BizWorks' comprehensive and long-term assistance provides clients with the tools they need to reach success over an extended period of time. Its products and services include lending, consulting, and training services, specialized programming for women owned businesses, Latino entrepreneurs, and agricultural businesses

## Success Story: Annie's Naturally Bakery, Sylva, NC

In 1999, Joe and Annie Ritota started a wholesale bakery out of their garage, specializing in organic and natural products. Joe and Annie have taken advantage of Mountain BizWorks' consulting and loan services to help their popular business expand their wholesale operation to meet local demand. They currently have created 15 full-time jobs and 17 part-time employees. "Mountain BizWorks has provided unique learning strategies to give us the appropriate tools to better manage and improve upon our business model. We were able to change how we did things to simplify our business and improve our bottom line," Joe Ritota said.

