Established in 1990, the mission of Common Capital—a nonprofit community development financial institution—is to strengthen communities by creating economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income people in western and central Massachusetts. As an economic development agency, Common Capital works to foster job growth, eliminate blight, leverage capital, and support all of the region’s businesses and entrepreneurs.

Common Capital seeks to build strong and vibrant communities through all of its economic development efforts. The organization focuses on developing tailored financing and technical assistance to microenterprises, small businesses, and nonprofits that do not qualify for traditional loans. In addition to offering its own loans and technical resources, Common Capital partners with a wide variety of organizations, including local banks, to provide funding solutions to meet economic development needs. Its products and services include term loans, lines of credit, technical assistance, and other specialized programs.

Success Story: Cubit Wire, Holyoke, MA

In 2004, Raul Hernandez purchased a struggling wire manufacturing company, changed its name to Cubit Wire, and, drawing upon his 25 years of experience in the industry, brought the company back to life. A $200,000 loan from Common Capital in 2006 enabled him to triple the number of his employees, boost revenues, and continue growing his thriving company. “Common Capital has helped our minority-owned wire and cable business with the additional capital needed for growth,” Raul Hernandez said.