



OUR IMPACT

Strengthening our region one business at a time

Participating Communities



It started with an idea

Next Level Northwest (NLNW) was founded much like the businesses we help. It was first just an idea.

What if communities in Northwest Chicagoland came together to collaborate and create a regional business development ecosystem that would ignite growth for local second-stage businesses and, in the process, help grow the area economy?

That idea became reality in 2017, when five neighboring municipalities formed NLNW — Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Rolling Meadows, and Schaumburg.

We're a not-for-profit, public-private partnership committed to:

- Providing resources and capabilities that support innovation
- Connecting and fostering new relationships within the region and beyond
- Accelerating business growth
- Creating more jobs
- Distinguishing the region as a world-class business community

At the heart of NLNW is our Business Accelerator Program, which provides free coaching and ongoing development support to qualified businesses that need a boost to get to the next level.

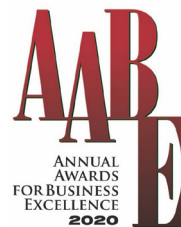
Today, NLNW attracts new businesses and retains and grows existing ones through support, wisdom, and ongoing development.

NLNW Mission

To accelerate business growth within the participating municipalities with the ultimate goal to strengthen, support and sustain the economic prosperity of the Northwest Chicagoland region.



NLNW RECOGNITION



2020 Daily Herald Business Ledger Annual Awards for Business Excellence
Economic Development category



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
(CMAP) "Onto 2050" Partner



GUIDESTAR
by **Candid.**

2019 Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile
Seal of Transparency



Starting a business takes courage, grit, optimism, focus and lots of hard work. At some point, the best way to grow is to get outside expertise.

NLNW's free Business Accelerator Program is for established businesses that are ready and committed to taking their business to the next level.

TO QUALIFY, COMPANIES MUST HAVE



2+ EMPLOYEES



**3+ YEARS
IN BUSINESS**



**REVENUES OF
AT LEAST \$200,000**

NLNW matches participants with an approved professional business coach who provides tools, support and guidance to help:

- Break down growth barriers
- Solve challenging business issues
- Increase productivity
- Gain access to a regional mentor network
- Build an actionable plan for their business
- Update marketing strategy
- Define a budget
- Assess new risks
- Expand supplier and lead networks

NLNW provides funding of \$10,000 for each company that qualifies and completes the 120-day coaching engagement.

Bringing things full circle

All graduates are encouraged to support NLNW as coaches, mentors, and through financial contributions over the three years following completion of their accelerator engagement.

"Next Level Northwest has been a phenomenal experience for us and our sales revenue has increased tremendously."

**— Min Bowler, President
Lakeshore Title**

"I've been able to increase sales, I'm adding employees, and it's just overall been a great way to grow and expand my business."

**— John Eggert, CEO and Executive Chef
Relish Catering Kitchen**

MEASURABLE IMPACT

Here are just some of the results that small businesses realized after completing the NLNW Business Accelerator Program:



100% EMPLOYEE RETENTION DURING THE PANDEMIC
ONE NEW HIRE PLANNED



TWO JOBS CREATED
70% PROJECTED REVENUE GROWTH



30% INCREASE IN HOME INSPECTIONS



TWO JOBS CREATED
23% PROJECTED REVENUE GROWTH



15% REVENUE GROWTH



1 PROPRIETARY PRODUCT CREATED



FIVE JOBS CREATED
120% REVENUE GROWTH



30% REVENUE GROWTH



DOUBLED SALES
ONE NEW CLIENT ADDED



TWO JOBS CREATED



100% EMPLOYEE RETENTION



51% GROWTH

Getting NLNW to the next level

NLNW is grateful for additional funding from these grants:



Microsoft Business Incubator Program grant winner



Cook County Small Business Assistance grant winner

To continue to grow and help more companies in our region, further support is needed. Please contact us about sponsorship opportunities or making a donation:



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Visit NextLevelNorthwest.org to learn more or to start a Business Accelerator application.