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Who We Are

The Toolbox is the go-to resource for everything small business in Wyandotte County, Kansas. All of our services are offered at no cost to local residents and businesses. We provide free support with planning, registering, funding, operating, and growing your business.

Mission statement

Vision Statement

To help entrepreneurs start, maintain or expand their business by offering coaching, workshops, and networking opportunities.

To Empower the Community to own their economic future!

Our Team and Board Our Team



Gabriel Munoz

Executive Director



Norma Loya

Small Business Navigator & Facilitaor



Megan Dorantes

AmeriCorps Vista Program
Marketing Coordinator

Our Team and Board Our Board



Edgar Galicia



Jessica Johnson



Alex Ruybalid



Liley Villazan



Carlos Gomez



Ana Nubia Duin



Evette Cosby



Luis Magana

Our Story

The idea to start the Toolbox originally began in 2019 when the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation met with some of Kansas City's Entrepreneurial Support Organization's (ESO) to discuss and brainstorm a solution to the following four barriers that blocked BIPOC business owners from starting their business in Kansas City.

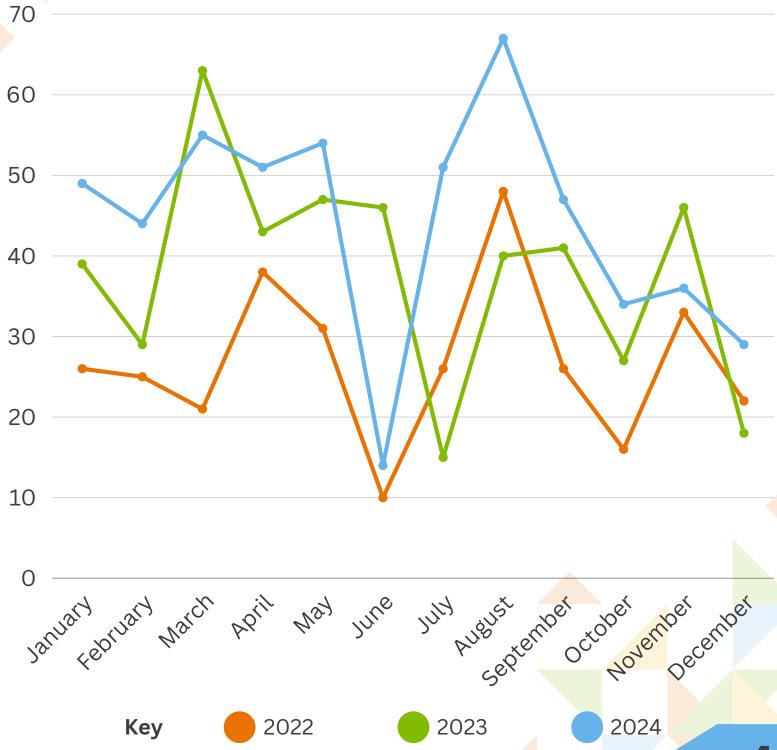
- 1. Trust issues amongst entrepreneurs and service providers
- 2. Cultural Competency issues within existing EOS's
- 3. Lack of Multilingual programs or workshops
- 4. Lack of a "One-Stop-Shop" organization for entrepreneurs to become aware of existing resources

To address these issues, The Toolbox was formed! Originally The Toolbox started as a series of events and one-on-one meetings but because of the success of these events and meetings, it was decided that the Toolbox needed to become an official organization. Despite this success, in March 2020 the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the United States and The Toolbox's programming and services moved to an online format.

A year later, The Toolbox launched in May 2021 at The Stables Co-Working Space in Kansas City, Kansas. Now in 2025 the Toolbox continues to provide its one-on-one meetings, programs, and workshops.

Throughout The Toolbox's inception, Gabriel Munoz has served as the Local Director and is now the current Executive Director. Gabriel Munoz has spent the majority of his life in the small business atmosphere. From working in his family's business in Topeka, Kansas to experiencing the issues that come with maintaining that business; Gabriel has made it his mission to provide the support and stability entrepreneurs and businesses owners need to be successful.

Since our inception we have worked with over 500 Individuals and have had over 750 individuals attend our Workshops and Programs. We have helped over 200 businesses launch, maintain or grow their business and have held 75 workshops, classes, and events to support our clients in their business endeavors.



What we Do

Our Popular Services

One-on-One Meetings

Programs

Workshops

Our Programs

Programs are where participants have the opportunity to spend five to six weeks with us and learn about the topic. If participants attended 80% or more by the end of the program they would receive a completion certificate, celebrating their commitment to education.

In 2024, The Toolbox held five programs:



Our Workshops

Unlike Programs, Workshops typically happen once a month with no large commitment. Some workshops are a part of a singular program, and happen throughout the year or a series of months. In 2024 the Toolbox held 9 workshops, four of which had a longer program length.

The six workshops that happened once a month were:













Our Workshops

The three workshops that had a longer program length were:













Our Calendar



In 2024 the Toolbox's schedule was filled with 24 different types of events. Events varied between programs, workshops, networking events, vendor events, and other events.

Networking and Community Events

The Toolbox is apart of the Kansas City, Kansas Urban E-Community
Committee. This committee is funded through Network Kansas and is
filled with members from the Kansas City, Kansas Community;
Businesses, Banks, and other Entrepreneurial Service Organizations
(ESO's). This is the first year the KCK Urban E-Community hosted
Networking events with the goal of building a stronger sense of
community for Wyandotte County Businesses and Organizations. 2024's
networking events were:

April

Small Business Resource Providers

June

Marketing Your
Business

September

Kansas city, Kansas Downtown Shareholders

The Toolbox continues its outreach efforts by tabling at different fairs and showcases or by participating in community events. Three of our community events for 2024 were:

March

5th Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

March

Food Business
Conference

September

913 Day

Our Impact in Numbers

Program and Workshops Data

625 Students

In 2024, The Toolbox had 362 participants in our programs with 114 graduates, and 263 participants in our workshops educating a total of 625 individuals.

Our program average graduation rate is 34.6 %

Graduation Rates

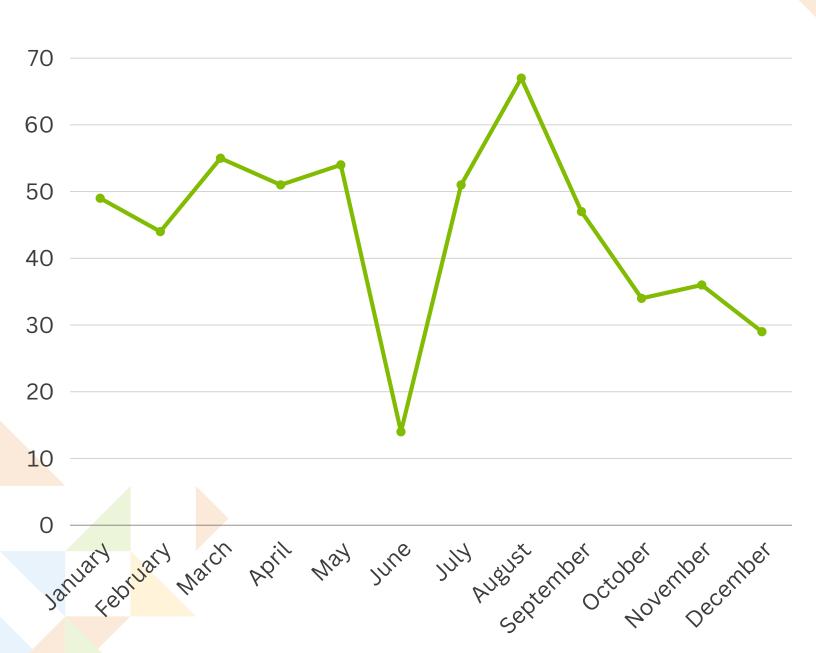
Women are

5 X's

More Likely to Graduate than men

68.6 % of our students are women and 25.4 % are Men. Throughout our programs, women are the most popular graduates.

531 Meetings in 2024



Top 3 Reasons for meeting

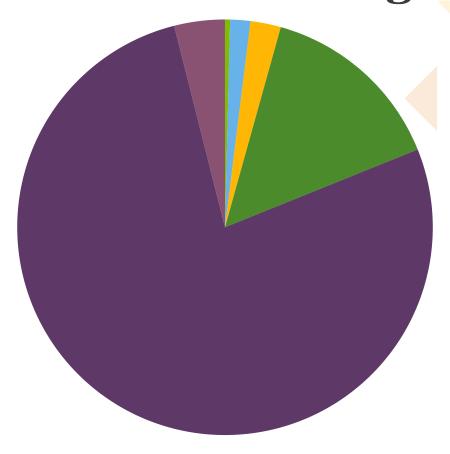
- They are starting a business and have questions
- They are looking for more resources or funding.
- They want to connect with other organizations and businesses.

- 1. Construction Businesses
- 2. Food Related Businesses
- 3. Retail Businesses

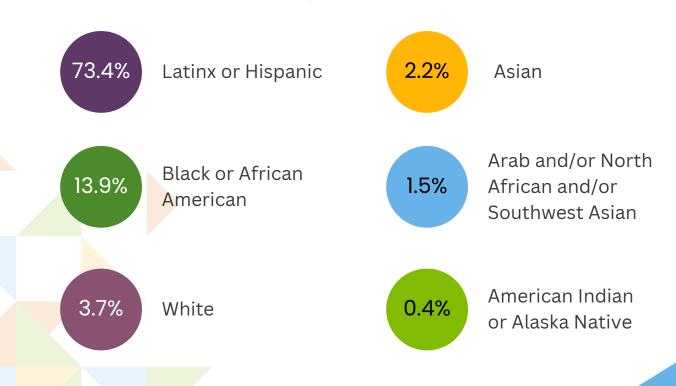
Top 3 Industries

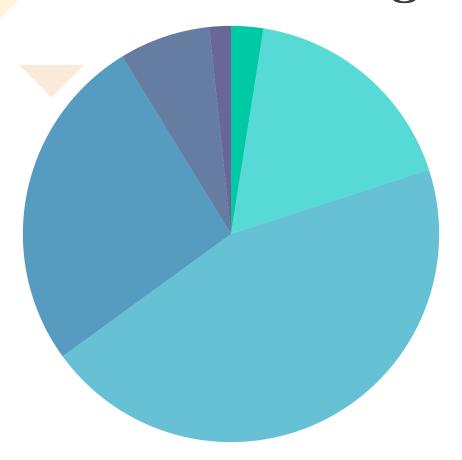
Majority Women Clients

56.8 % of our clients are Women with 43.2% of our clients being Men.

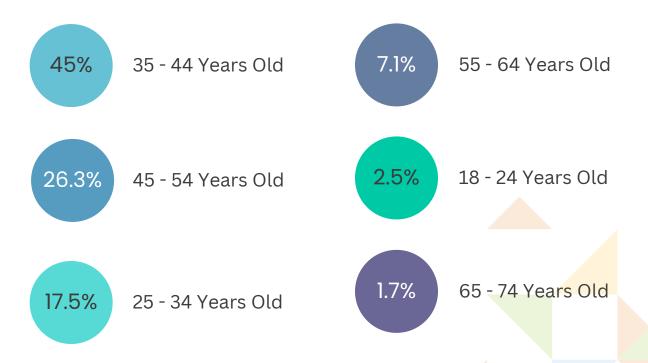


Client Racial Demographics - The Toolbox 2024





Client Age Demographics - The Toolbox 2024



Goals for 2025

As The Toolbox enters it's fifth year in business, we are excited to see what 2025 will bring to the organization. We have also taken the time to focus on goals that we have for the organization that we hope to accomplish or start this year.

Gabriel Munoz

Norma Loya

"A goal that we have for the Toolbox is to revamp our fundraising platform and diversify our funding pool."

To Empower the Community to own their economic future!

Contact Information Website thetoolboxkc.com

Email Address

info@thetoolboxkc.com

Phone Number

913-386-5020



