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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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SEVCA, BDCC expand Small Business Cohort program

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TEXT BODY:

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The Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) Small Business Cohort program was launched in January 2025 in collaboration with the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC). The purpose of the program is to create a peer support structure for new businesses, expanding businesses, and individuals hoping to start a new business. Meeting monthly, the cohort combines networking opportunities with access to community resources, along with

12 focused learning on topics such as social media marketing,  
13 promotion, and business operations.

14 Each session features subject matter experts — including  
15 lawyers, accountants, and other professionals — who provide an  
16 hour or more of in-depth knowledge, sharing, and facilitated  
17 discussion. Experts are drawn from the local community,  
18 strengthening both the educational value and the community-  
19 building mission of the program.

20 The Brattleboro cohort successfully completed 12 active  
21 sessions in 2025 — one per month — and continues to grow in  
22 2026. Organizers say this success has led to new collaborations  
23 and the expansion of the program into additional Vermont  
24 communities.

25 In 2026, cohorts are scheduled to launch in  
26 Wilmington/Dover, Bellows Falls, and Springfield. The  
27 Wilmington/Dover cohort is sponsored by Wilmington Works and  
28 will take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 School  
29 Street, in the meeting room.

30 In addition to BDCC, professional partners supporting  
31 the cohort include the Richards Group and Community Capital of  
32 Vermont, providing participants with valuable expertise,  
33 guidance, and resources to support their business goals.

34 For more information, contact Samantha Kondracki from  
35 Wilmington Works at [wilmingtonworks@gmail.com](mailto:wilmingtonworks@gmail.com) or Chris  
36 Meyer from SEVCA at [cmeyer@sevca.org](mailto:cmeyer@sevca.org).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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