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# We see the big picture when it comes to small business in Amherst.

Day in and day out, businesses open and close, expand, contract...even relocate. And in the process, jobs are created and eliminated. In the Buffalo/Niagara region, 99% of all businesses are small, with over 50% employing less than 5 people\*. Entrepreneurs and innovators start these companies, and the hard fact of life is that some will meet the test of the marketplace and flourish; some won't.

Six out of ten of these new start ups will be out of business within five years. With these kinds of numbers and the pressure to succeed, a supportive business-friendly atmosphere is essential to give our local firms a competitive edge and the chance to grow and prosper. That's what the AmherstIDA provides.

The AmherstIDA is assisting small business entrepreneurs right now. We've helped many of these firms such as FiServ, ATTO Technology, IIMAK, Amherst Systems/Northrup Grumman, ASG, and NCO succeed in our area. All started as one and two-person operations that have grown into thriving firms, employing thousands.

Through a seamless network of economic development partners including the University of Buffalo, the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, BNE and the other local industrial development agencies, a strong base of support is not only available but essential to our local firms. By remaining true to our mission\*\* over the last decade, 75% of the job growth for the entire region is attributable to the AmherstIDA's efforts. In fact, 75,000 jobs have been created in Amherst alone! Small businesses are of special interest to all of us because they drive the economy in a big way and make a definite impact on our community today and tomorrow.

Sometimes to see the big picture you need to think small - investing in small business is smart business for Amherst!

*Resourceful.  
Dedicated.  
Professional.*

