

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Innovative Bethlehem Startups Secure Highest Tax Credit Total Since 2013

Bethlehem, PA – A total of \$13+ Million in KIZ Tax Credits have been awarded to KIZ Companies across the Commonwealth. The comprehensive list of awardees can be found [here](#). 12 Bethlehem start-up companies have managed to secure \$711,842 in tax credits according to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. These companies are all located within the [Southside Bethlehem Keystone Innovation Zone \(SBKIZ\)](#), which is administered by the Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation.

“We are excited to hear about the tax credits awarded to our startup companies. The award indicates that revenue has increased and the companies are growing” said Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds. “The twelve startups receiving tax credits is the most that we have seen, at any one time, in the history of the program.”

Companies that received tax credits include:

Year 18 (2022)	Mezzimatic LLC	\$100,000
	UBMe, Inc.	\$34,571
	ProspectGen AI	\$85,843
	Optamo LLC	\$100,000
	Celebr8 Life, Inc.	\$15,000
	Bonn Place Brewing, Inc.	\$24,060
	Lord & Lily	\$16,200
	Soltech Solutions	\$100,000
	ProdHealth	\$10,030
	FLX Solutions	\$50,000
	Logic 54 LLC	\$58,015
	Five Maidens	\$18,123
	Rocket Cloud	\$100,000
	Total	\$711,842

Since 2004, the KIZ has helped to foster innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities by aligning the combined resources of educational institutions, governmental agencies, and the private sector. While \$100,000 in annual tax credits is a significant incentive to locate in one of Pennsylvania’s 28 KIZs, the SBKIZ is unique in that eligible companies can apply for \$15,000/\$25,000 Technology Transfer Grants, \$2,500 - \$3,750 Student Internship Grants, and other benefits through the program, including access to resources through Lehigh University and Northampton Community College. The active grant program is supported by [community partners](#) who invest in these startup companies and economic development in the region. Since 2004, the SBKIZ has seen over \$10 million dollars in investments made to over 110 KIZ Companies.

“Fostering innovation is one of the top priorities of the Shapiro Administration, and we’re happy that DCED can provide support through these KIZ tax credits,” said Neil Fowler, Acting Deputy Secretary of Technology & Innovation at the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) “These are the kinds of companies that will push Pennsylvania’s tech sector forward, and these tax credits help reduce the burden on them as they are just starting out.”

ProdHealth, Inc. (dba [Terra Health Coaching](#)) received their first tax credit this year. CEO John Dieser explained that "every startup grinds until they find a window of opportunity, then they have to act. The KIZ tax credits are helping us act in a time that we found a window of opportunity"

[Optamo](#) is a software development and consulting firm focusing on optimizing decision making in correctional systems. "The KIZ tax credit will enable Optamo to further invest in business development and expand its market" says CIO Anshul Sharma. "It will also assist Optamo in developing new products and solutions through hiring new employees and investing on the necessary infrastructure."

Eligible companies are for-profit business entities that: 1) are located within the SBKIZ, 2) have been in operation for less than 8 years, 3) operate within one of the KIZ targeted industry clusters, and 4) are developing innovative technologies.

For more information, please visit the Southside Bethlehem KIZ's [website](#) or contact the City's Economic Development Coordinator, Asher Schiavone via [email](#) or phone (610) 865-4347.

[BEDCO](#)

The Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO) was established in 1982 for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the City of Bethlehem. BEDCO works closely with the City of Bethlehem's Department of Community & Economic Development to ensure a unified economic development strategy.

[Southside Bethlehem KIZ](#)

The mission of the Southside Bethlehem KIZ is to foster innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities by aligning the combined resources of educational institutions, the public sector, and the private sector. The Southside Bethlehem KIZ was established in 2004 and is now in its 19th year of operation. The KIZ has had a profound impact on innovation and entrepreneurship in Bethlehem by offering critical financial resources and assistance to early-stage startup companies. To date, the KIZ has invested over \$10 million dollars in 110 companies since the program's inception.

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