



**For Immediate Release**  
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## Helping Ohio Entrepreneurs Turn Ideas into Small Businesses

For many start-up companies, the Ohio Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide a helping hand in turning an entrepreneur's idea into a profitable business. For CALM, LLC, a therapist-owned company in Cincinnati, Ohio, it was bringing a new product, the MIT-E Spoon, to market.

MIT-E Spoon pronounced "mighty" for Mixed Texture Eating, is a product that helps individuals who have trouble swallowing mixed textures by separating solids from liquids. Founders of CALM, LLC and designers of MIT-E Spoon, Megan Ordway, Sara Bouchard and Miranda Wilhelm are all speech pathologists who wanted to create a product that could change the lives of their customers.

When they decided to develop a business plan, they looked to the Ohio SBDC at the Entrepreneurs Center for help. "As a start-up company we had a lean budget," said Sara Bouchard, Co-Founder of CALM, LLC. "We needed to understand our business structure along with the services and products we offered."

Patricia Newcomb, SBDC Director at the Entrepreneurs Center helped CALM, LLC with growth development, strategic marketing and patent processes. From business development to product development, Patricia then referred CALM, LLC to FASTLANE, a state manufacturing partner, to help further develop their product.

Josh Kemplin, Manufacturing Growth Specialist at FASTLANE helped improve their manufacturing techniques and recommended materials they would need to manufacture the MIT-E Spoon. As CALM, LLC prepared their product for market, the SBDC assisted them with trade-marketing, a product logo, packaging, brochures and convention displays.

MIT-E Spoon debuted at the 70th Annual Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association State Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Through the state services provided, CALM, LLC was able to expand their business and engage with future customers about their product.

"The SBDC at the Entrepreneurs Center and FASTLANE helped us position our product both financially and strategically," said Bouchard. "This, coupled with the knowledge-base and professional connections has been vital to the success of our business."

For information about small business resources, visit:  
[https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs\\_sbdc.htm](https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_sbdc.htm).

For information about manufacturing services, visit:  
[https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs\\_mep.htm](https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_mep.htm)

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