

STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS

## America's favorite businesses

From a science camp for girls to a kombucha brewer, communities around the country voted on their favorite small businesses. These 12 came out on top, each scoring a \$250,000 grant from Chase and a trip to Google's headquarters.

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### Catering on wheels

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**Business:** Rolling in Dough Pizza

**Location:** Greenport, N.Y.

Matthew Michel started his catering company, Rolling in Dough Pizza, about five years ago.

He caters out of his truck and receives about 95% of his business from referrals. "We offer a high-quality product and we're not gouging people with outrageous prices," Michel said.

**Biggest business challenge:** "Getting funding," Michel said. "In the beginning, I couldn't go to a bank because I had no credit to speak of," In fact, his first \$150,000 came from his great-grandfather.

**Best advice:** "Offer the highest-quality product from the start. The first thing they'll see is what they'll remember," Michel said.

**What he plans to do with the grant money:** Open a small retail location with his own kitchen. He'll do a lot of prep work out of the new kitchen, but will continue catering out of his truck.

**NEXT: Home-brewed kombucha**



COURTESY: ROLLING IN DOUGH

Matthew Michel, left, with one of his employees.

Nearly 35,000 small businesses from all 50 states submitted applications for consideration to receive a \$250,000 grant from Chase and a trip to Google headquarters. More than 1.7 million people voted; businesses that received at least 250 votes continued onto the judging phase, where a panel of 12 judges selected these 12 businesses.

BY [PARIJA KAVILANZ](#), [KATIE LOBOSCO](#), [AIMEE RAWLINS](#) @CNNMONEY - LAST UPDATED JANUARY 21 2014 10:31 AM ET

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