



Electrician Michael Watkins wires switches and recessed lights on a new addition at Christ International Community Church. [Adam Cairns/Dispatch]

Plugging into the renewable-energy trend has helped his business, said Watkins, who estimates that he has done about 20 solar installations over the past three years and another 20 electric-vehicle-charging installations.

“I wanted to separate myself from other electrical contractors,” he said.

Helping business, neighborhoods

Watkins is among the small-business owners at the heart of a collaboration between the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Columbus City Council. The C-Biz project is being developed to provide technical assistance to small, minority-owned businesses located in six central-city neighborhoods that could use some commercial revitalization.

The City Council has approved \$120,000 so far to