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ON THE COVER Clockwise from top: Seattle, Washington, Bill Breneman Photography; Hunter Cattle, Brooklet, Georgia, courtesy of the SBA; Mount Rainer, Bill Breneman Photography; Rozanne Garman, Lacey, courtesy of Rozanne Garman; Hometown Trolley, Wisconsin, courtesy of Hometown Trolley; 21 Short Stop, Georgia, courtesy of the SBA
This year the U.S. Small Business Administration marks its 65th year helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The Agency remains committed to its core missions: advocating for entrepreneurs and helping them access capital, government contracts, counseling and disaster assistance. As Administrator of the SBA, I am honored to serve as a member of President Trump’s cabinet and represent the interests of America’s 30 million small businesses.

Small businesses truly are the engines of our economy—and our communities. Over half of the U.S. workforce either owns or works for a small business, and small businesses create two out of every three net new jobs in the private sector. Small businesses may not put their names on stadiums and skyscrapers, but they likely put them on the uniforms of their local Little League and bowling teams. They are the delis and salons and retailers and manufacturers that make each community special. Across our great country, neighborhoods and families depend on the success of small business.

Since taking leadership of the SBA in February 2017, I have had the privilege of meeting with entrepreneurs all over the country. My goal is to visit small businesses in every one of the SBA’s 68 districts. So many of them tell me they simply would not exist without the help of the SBA—from the guaranteed loans that provided the capital they needed to realize their dreams of owning a small business, to the advice they got from our district offices and resource partners, to the disaster aid they received when it seemed all hope had been lost.

Throughout this issue of our resource guide, you will read stories of successful entrepreneurs who received assistance from the SBA. These successes are the motivation for the work we do.

As SBA Administrator, I am proud to lead a team of professionals dedicated to helping entrepreneurs turn their visions into viable businesses. All of us share the joy of watching an entrepreneur go from having a simple idea and a business plan to living the American Dream—and often becoming an employer that empowers the dreams of others. It’s clear that the strength of America’s communities is often determined by the economic opportunities available to its citizens. Small businesses invigorate neighborhoods and cities, making them vibrant places to live, work and raise a family. And we at the SBA are working to ensure small businesses have the tools and resources they need to make that happen at every stage, whether they are launching, expanding or getting through a tough time.

Of course, we can’t do it alone. We are honored to have the expertise of our resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers and SCORE chapters in communities nationwide.

As the President noted at an event he hosted at the White House with more than a hundred entrepreneurs from all over the country, “America is on the verge of a golden age for small business.” The SBA is working to continue to revitalize a spirit of entrepreneurship in America and help America’s small businesses compete in a global economy. Entrepreneurs find that owning a business is one of the most effective ways to secure a financial future for themselves, provide for their families, exercise their commitments to their communities, and drive our country’s economic growth. I encourage all entrepreneurs to leverage the opportunities detailed in this resource guide to propel their businesses forward.

Regards,

Linda McMahon
SBA Administrator
Evergreen Business Capital & Evergreen Business Capital
Community Finance: two local companies, two SBA programs
to meet your small business financing needs

Evergreen Business Capital is the Northwest’s leading SBA 504 expert. Since 1980 we have been helping Small Businesses by funding their dreams, growth and ideas. We partner with lenders to provide SBA 504 loans to purchase and refinance commercial real estate and equipment at a lower interest rate and with less money down.

The SBA Community Advantage program is one that supports businesses to build success in under-served communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. This is a flexible program that allows for small financing projects, up to $250,000. We specifically target new businesses, veteran owned businesses, business located in HUB Zones or low-to-moderate income areas.

www.evergreen504.com  ebccf.org  800.878.6613

Business Impact NW
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES GROW
SO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THRIVE

We invest in small businesses so that every person in our community can access their entrepreneurial dreams regardless of gender, race, class, and sexual identity.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.
In 2008, after working in the magazine business in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Mississippi for 10 years, I moved back to my home state of West Virginia to create my own media company, New South Media, Inc. It was the scariest thing I’ve ever done. I didn’t know the first thing about starting a business, and I funded it myself by ransacking my retirement funds. When I started, I had one unpaid employee—me.

I had never heard of the U.S. Small Business Administration. I had no role model or support system to walk me through the process. All I had was a stack of dog-eared how-to books and a bucketload of grit and determination.

As an entrepreneur and a small business owner, I know firsthand the challenges small companies face. I live it everyday. I know what it is like to work 100+ hours a week to pay your employees before yourself, and to need funding to grow your business, all while trying to raise educated and thoughtful children and still put dinner on the table. I know what it is like to be completely overwhelmed and to have doors slammed in your face, only to get up the next day and try, try again. I know what it feels like to fail. And I know what it feels like to succeed.

My goal when founding my company was to create publications that would be community builders, nurturing a culture that better encourages and supports small businesses by telling their stories. After all, small businesses outnumber corporations 1,162-to-one and are the lifeblood of our economy and culture.

As I look back on the past 10 years of business ownership, the thing I most wish I had known is what a valuable resource the SBA is to small businesses like my own. I can think of hundreds of mistakes I wouldn’t have made and tons of tools I could have used in those early, difficult days. And I’m pretty sure I’d also have a few less grays in my hair.

When I first saw a copy of the SBA Resource Guide, I flipped through the pages eagerly. But as you can imagine, as an editor and publisher, I always read magazines with a critical eye, and I caught myself thinking what my company would do differently with the publication.

It was four years ago when I decided to find out how to go about competing for the contract to become the publisher of the Small Business Resource Guide. I was introduced to the world of government contracting and the opportunities available for small businesses. And to be honest, it was a bit intimidating. As I navigated the process, there were many times when I almost stopped. Sometimes I thought there was no way a woman-owned small business in the rural state of West Virginia could compete and win a federal contract. But every time I had a question, someone from my SBA West Virginia district office was quick to answer it, and I kept persevering. That’s what we do as small business owners, right?

That’s why my team at New South Media and I are really excited to be the new publisher of the SBA’s Small Business Resource Guides. I’m inspired by the success stories we feature in each issue of this magazine, and it has been a pleasure to work with the SBA on redesigning and refocusing the content of these guides to better serve small businesses in all corners of the country. So, let’s use this magazine to educate everyone so all small businesses can know about the resources available to them.

Wishing you much success,

Nikki Bowman
Publisher
New South Media Inc.
Successful small businesses led by minorities, women and veterans help make our economy and our families more resilient - strengthening our communities. Contact us about certification and ways to increase your opportunities.

360.664.9750

www.omwbe.wa.gov

Advertise your company here.

Reach an unparalleled audience of small business owners with the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Small Business Resource Guide.

contact info@newsouthmediainc.com
Our team at the Seattle District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is in the business of helping the American dream come true for entrepreneurs like you. We’ve designed the 2018 Seattle District Office Small Business Resource Guide to connect you to numerous federal, state, and local resources throughout Washington and northern Idaho.

You—the small business owners—are the innovators of the world and the heart of America’s economy. You bring us cutting edge products and services across all industries while making significant contributions to job growth. You roll up your sleeves and work hard to succeed. Whether you are looking to grow your small business or start a new business, you will find the information you need in this year’s edition of the Small Business Resource Guide. With this guide, we hope you will:

- Get help with your business plan and/or connect with an expert at one of our many outreach locations where you can meet confidentially on a one-on-one basis to get the answers you need.
- Access capital through our SBA finance partners—explore the types of small business loans available including microloans, export finance products, commercial real estate loans, and working capital lines of credit. Whether you are a startup looking for your first commercial loan or a seasoned business in growth mode, SBA has a wide range of financing opportunities.
- Grow your business revenues by selling your goods and services to the federal government. We have a number of certification programs to help small businesses compete for and win federal contracts. Experts are available to help you navigate the process.
- Our work includes outreach into underserved markets. We understand the importance of business ownership in all communities and work to ensure that everyone has equal access to opportunities through entrepreneurship.
- At the Seattle District Office, we take pride in our work—particularly when it empowers you to turn your business ideas into reality. Each successful business in the Pacific Northwest contributes to our unique communities and collective prosperity.

Together with all of our partners, we wish you great success in your business endeavors.

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Message from the District Director
Small businesses power our economy.

The SBA powers small businesses.

Whether you dream of transforming your business idea into a thriving company, growing your customer base, or expanding into new markets or locations, the SBA is here for you. We offer programs, expertise, and access to capital that will empower you to take your small business to the next level of success.

Stop by your local SBA office or visit SBA.gov to learn how you can move your business forward with confidence.
Kristina Pence-Dunow did not intend to become a businesswoman, a cornerstone of her small town’s economy, and the nation’s only female owner of a transit vehicle manufacturer. In the beginning, she just wanted to keep the family business going.

Pence-Dunow was a dental assistant for the first several years of her adult life. Then, after giving birth to her son in 1988, she joined her husband’s family business. The company built fancy horse trailers as well as the occasional trackless trolley—a public transit vehicle designed to look like an old-timey streetcar but set on a bus chassis. She started out doing bookkeeping and upholstery work. It was a small shop, so everyone wore several hats.

Then, in the early 1990s, Pence-Dunow and her husband moved to Crandon, Wisconsin, so he could pursue a career in off-road racing. They took the trolley business with them. A few years later, her husband decided to devote his full attention to racing. The couple eventually divorced and Pence-Dunow became sole owner of the business. “I kept the trolleys going and raised my two children,” she says. The company made a few dozen vehicles each year, selling them through a distributor in Florida. Things were going well. At the time, all the nation’s trolley manufacturers were small, family-owned businesses. “We all just had our same customers and everybody stayed small.”

But then competition arrived. A large bus manufacturer began making trolleys, too. “They flooded the market. They had the capital behind them,” Pence-Dunow says. “I was being starved for sales.”

Other trolley companies shut their doors, but Pence-Dunow didn’t have a backup plan. She still had two kids to raise. So she did the only thing she could—she kept going.

Hometown Trolley has found success through determination, creativity, and a little help from friends at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

**A Streetcar Named Persistence**

Hometown Trolley has found success through determination, creativity, and a little help from friends at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

**Written by Zack Harold**
Still rolling
Since she knew her company could not compete with the bus manufacturer on volume, Pence-Dunow knew she would have to out-innovate them. She rebuilt the business from the ground up. She cut ties with her Florida distributor and created her own network of dealerships. She rebranded the company as Hometown Trolley.

These changes came at a cost. Pence-Dunow had to lay off all her employees. She racked up debt. “I went six months with no work,” she says. But she was able to weather the storm, thanks to assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

About the time she was rebuilding and rebranding her company, Pence-Dunow met Chuck Brys of the Small Business Development Center at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay. Brys connected her to a local bank with an in-house SBA specialist, who guided her through getting an SBA-guaranteed loan to help cover her debt.

Brys also helped Pence-Dunow develop a business plan and put together three-year projections for Hometown Trolley’s growth. He encouraged her to be aggressive with those projections. To Pence-Dunow’s surprise, her company did not just meet those projections—they exceeded them.

Slowly, Hometown Trolley’s emphasis on innovation began to take hold. The company developed a handicap-accessible, low-floor trolley. The city of Virginia Beach, Virginia, ordered 15. The big bus manufacturer didn’t have a comparable model.

Pence-Dunow began landing similar contracts around the country, slowly taking a lead in the trolley market. Then, in 2016, she was able to purchase the bus company’s trolley division.

“I just kept sending the CEO an email,” Pence-Dunow says. It took a year and a half but, finally, the company agreed to sell. As luck would have it, the company wanted out of the trolley business so it could focus on its commercial truck line.

It was a big expenditure for a small company, but Pence-Dunow knew from experience how to make it work. She took out another SBA-guaranteed loan.

Picking up speed
Hometown Trolleys can now be found everywhere from Roanoke, Virginia, to Miami, Florida, and Laguna Beach, California. The vehicles are also found on the campuses of universities, themeparks, and retirement villages.
“It’s an iconic American form of transportation,” Pence-Dunow says. “A trolley is an experience. People will let a city bus go by and wait for a trolley.”

The company is still innovating. Pence-Dunow hopes to expand her line of electric and liquefied petroleum gas–powered trolleys. Hometown Trolleys also has designed bus bodies for its existing chassis and drivetrains. It’s a way of tapping a small but profitable market. Small municipalities often wait years for buses from large manufacturers, since major cities snatch up most of the supply. Hometown Trolley can fill those small orders in much less time.

By 2020, Hometown Trolleys plans to be making more than 200 buses and trolleys a year—far more than the dozen or so it was making when Pence-Dunow took over. “I can’t believe how much we’ve grown,” she says.

In the past four years alone, the company has gone from $2 million in gross sales to $15 million. It moved from a 6,000-square-foot shop to a 32,000-square-foot factory, which is now being expanded. And, best of all, the company has grown its workforce from a dozen people to 54 full-time employees and a few part-timers, with plans to add six more employees soon.

And it’s still a family business. Pence-Dunow’s daughter Jessica does marketing and graphic design for the company. Her son Dustin helps run the production floor.

Without help from the SBA, “I would have never stepped out and known what to do,” Pence-Dunow says. “All of that, it was great learning experience that I still use today. I’m doing a lot more on my own, because I have more resources, but I can refer back to that.”

But she says the most important resource was the moral support. “Someone saying, ‘You can do this.’”

SBA Resource Partners
To help your business flourish, the SBA's Resource Partners are here to help guide you through every phase of the business cycle. They provide counseling and training, for free or low cost, nationwide. These independent organizations, funded through SBA cooperative agreements or grants, extend our reach.

There are more than
300 SCORE chapters
980 Small Business Development Centers
100 Women’s Business Centers
20 Veterans Business Outreach Centers

SCORE
Join the ranks of other business owners who have experienced higher revenues and increased growth thanks to mentoring they received from SCORE. The nation’s largest network of volunteer business mentors harnesses the passion and knowledge of real-world business executives to provide invaluable mentorship. SCORE mentors are available as often as you need, in person, via email or over video chat. Visit sba.gov/score to start working on your business goals.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
Small Business Development Center counselors can help entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership. SBDC counselors help your business remain competitive in an ever-changing global economy. You have access to free one-on-one counseling and low-cost training. Some of the counseling and training topics available: marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development and international trade. Find your local Small Business Development Center at sba.gov/sbdc.

WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS
Women interested in starting their small businesses can tap into a national network of community-based Women’s Business Centers. The centers offer training and counseling to those looking to make their entrepreneurial mark. If you're interested in starting or expanding your business, your local Women's Business Center is a good place to start. Each center tailors services to its community, offering a variety of programs in finance, management and marketing. For your nearest Women’s Business Center, visit sba.gov/women.

VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS
Veteran entrepreneurs or small business owners can receive business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals to other SBA Resource Partners at a Veterans Business Outreach Center, sba.gov/vboc. This is also the place to receive procurement guidance, which can help your business better compete for government contracts.
Our Local SBA Resource Partners

SBA’s Resource Partners are independent organizations that are funded through SBA cooperative agreements or grants.

SCORE

Visit sba.gov/score to start working on your business goals.

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Whatcom and Skagit counties
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Central Washington SCORE
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Greater Seattle SCORE
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South Sound/Tacoma SCORE
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Arthur and Sandra Johnson, owners of 21 Short Stop in Georgia, received assistance from their local Small Business Development Center and SCORE chapter.
Women’s Business Centers

For your nearest Women’s Business Center, visit sba.gov/women.

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Small Business Development Centers

Find your local Small Business Development Center at sba.gov/sbdc.

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Washington Small Business Development Centers

Find your local Small Business Development Center at sba.gov/sbdc.
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vern.jenkins@wsbdc.org
Veterans Business Outreach Center

Veteran entrepreneurs or small business owners can receive business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals to other SBA Resource Partners at a Veterans Business Outreach Center, sba.gov/vboc. This is also the place to receive procurement guidance, which can help your business better compete for government contracts.

Veterans Business Outreach Center
Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska
1437 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98144
businessimpactnw.org/vboc
(206) 324-4330, info@businessimpactnw.org
Business Organizations

**Economic development authorities/agencies**

**Washington**
- Adams County Development Council
growadamscounty.com
- Choose Whatcom
choosewhatcom.com
- Clallam County Economic Development Corporation
callam.org
- Columbia River Economic Development Council
credc.org
- Cowlitz Economic Development Council
cowlitzedc.com
- Economic Alliance of Snohomish County
  economicalliancesc.org
- Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County
  skagit.org/skagit
- Economic Development Board of Tacoma Pierce County
edbtacomapierce.org
- Economic Development Council of Mason County
  choosemason.com
- Economic Development Council of Seattle & King County
edc-seaking.org
- Grant County Economic Development Council
  grantedec.com
- Greater Grays Harbor Inc.
graysharbor.org
- Greater Spokane Inc.
adventagespokane.com
- Island County Economic Development Council
iscoedc.com
- Kitsap County Economic Development Alliance
kitsapeda.org
- Klickitat County Economic Development
  klickitatcounty.org/216/Economic-Development
- Lewis Economic Development Council
lewisedc.com
- Lincoln County Economic Development Council
lincolnedc.org
- Okanogan County Economic Alliance
  economic-alliance.com
- Pacific County Economic Development Council
pacificedc.org
- Port of Chelan County Washington
  portofchelancounty.com
- Port of Douglas County
  portofdouglas.org
- Port of Walla Walla
  portwallawalla.com
- San Juan County Economic Development Council
  sanjuansedc.org
- Skamania County Economic Development Council
  skamania-edc.org
- South East Washington Economic Development Association (SEWEDA)
  Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield,
  and Whitman counties
  seweda.org
- Thurston Economic Development Council
  thurstonedc.com
- Tri County Economic Development District, Serving Ferry, Pend Oreille,
  and Stevens counties
  tricountyedd.com

**Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC)**
tridec.org

**Yakima County Development Association**
chooseyakimavalley.com

**Idaho**
- Panhandle Area Council, Inc.
  Serving Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties
  pacni.org
- Clearwater Economic Development Association
  Serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis,
  and Nez Perce counties
  clearwater-eda.org

**Washington State Small Business Liaison Team**

**Department of Revenue**
- Janet Shimabukuro
  janets@dor.wa.gov
  Helps with: business tax registration, business & occupation tax, sales tax,
  state public utility taxes, tax incentives/credits, other excise taxes, referrals to tax
  specialists as needed.

**Department of Revenue Business Licensing Services**
- Kim Johnson
  kimberlyj@dor.wa.gov
  Helps with: online and paper filing of business license applications, city and
  state agency partnerships for one-stop business licensing.

**Department of Labor and Industries**
- Rose Gunderson & Kayla Burr
  smallbusiness@lni.wa.gov
  Helps with: worker’s compensation claims and employer accounts, wage
  and hours rules, construction contractor registration, workplace safety and health.

**Secretary of State – Division of Corporations & Charities**
- Patrick Reed
  Patrick.reed@sos.wa.gov
  Helps with: corporations, limited liability companies (LLC), limited partnerships
  (LP), trademarks, Apostilles (for documents used in foreign countries).
Department of Social & Health Services
Doug Cheney
dcheney@dshs.wa.gov
Helps with: new hire reporting assistance, conducts trainings on child support laws, assists employers with electronic payment & reporting options.

Department of Agriculture
Laura Raymond
Lraymond@arg.wa.gov
Helps with: advises farm and food businesses in regulations, advises businesses on direct, domestic, and international marketing, refers business owners to specific WSDA and USDA programs, recruits and retains food and agriculture businesses.

Liquor and Cannabis Board
Beth Lehman & Edmon Lee
Beth.lehman@lcb.wa.gov
Edmon.lee@lcb.wa.gov
Helps with: applying for liquor licenses, enforcement and education activities and resources.

Department of Licensing
Nancy Skewis
nskewis@dol.wa.gov
Helps with: point of contact for professional business licenses such as cosmetology, engineering, security guards, real estate, and other professional business licenses.

Employment Security Department
Una Wiley
smallbusiness@esd.wa.gov
Helps with: unemployment insurance taxes, paying out unemployment benefits, and employment services to workers and businesses.

Department of Ecology
Grant Pfeifer
gpfe461@ecy.wa.gov
Helps with: information, guidance and assistance on environmental requirements, environmental permitting (air, water, waste) and water rights, help with reducing pollution, managing wastes, and handling chemicals.

Department of Health
Jovi Swanson
Jovi.swanson@doh.wa.gov
Helps with: porting of contact for small businesses, researches and answers questions about the department’s regulations, leads agency small business assistance team.

Governor’s Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance
Rachel Lindstedt & Sonja Gissberg
help@oria.wa.gov
Helps with: questions about Washington’s environmental permitting requirements and assistance with completing environmental permit applications.

Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Heidi Audette & Jennifer Montgomery
heidia@dva.wa.gov or
jenniferm@dva.wa.gov
Helps with: Washington state veteran/service-member owned business directory, Washington state veteran linked deposit program (improves access to capital for certified veteran & service-member owned firms).

Department of Transportation
Edwina Martin-Arnold
martine@wsdot.wa.gov
Helps with: business development.

Department of Fish & Wildlife
Peter Vernie
Peter.vernie@dfw.wa.gov
Helps with: fish and wildlife regulations, enforcement, licensing, permitting (including hydraulic project approvals), contact for public education and outreach, information, guidance, and training on fish and wildlife conservation issues.

Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Jeff Baughmen
jeffb@oic.wa.gov
Helps with: insurance company market admittance, insurance producer licensing, insurance consumer assistance.

Department of Natural Resources
Tami Miketa
tamara.miketa@dnr.wa.gov
Helps with: forest practices and surface mining regulation, bidding on timber harvest and forest work contracts, and timber and geoduck auctions, and leasing of state lands.

Department of Commerce
Linda Alongi
linda.alongi@commerce.wa.gov
Helps with: technical assistance to help companies export in foreign markets, provides referrals for support and technical assistance to small businesses, including financial resources and tax incentives.

Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprises
Gigi Zenk & Elisa Young
gigiz@omwbe.wa.gov
elisay@omwbe.wa.gov
Helps with: small business certifications, business development, linked deposit program, and agency support.

Department of Enterprise Services
Servando Patlan
Servando.patlan@des.wa.gov
Helps with: state procurement and contracting

Washington State Lottery
Debbie Robinson
smallbusiness@walottery.com
Helps with: applications for lottery licenses, assistance/education with retailer accessibility concerns, assistance with lottery sales, marketing and accounting, enforcement of lottery requirements/loss prevention assistance.

Department of Emergency Management
Jeff Parsons
Jeff.parsons@mil.wa.gov
Helps with: business continuity tools/templates, assisting in accessing & minimizing natural and technological disaster risks, information, guidance, and training on emergency management industry issues.
How to Start a Business in Washington & Northern Idaho

Thinking of starting a business? Here are the nuts and bolts.

**The Start-Up Logistics**
Even if you’re running a home-based business, you will have to comply with many local, state, and federal regulations. Do not ignore regulatory details. You may avoid some red tape in the beginning, but your lack of compliance could become an obstacle as your business grows. Taking the time to research the applicable regulations is as important as knowing your market. Carefully investigate the laws affecting your industry. Being out of compliance could leave you unprotected legally, lead to expensive penalties, and jeopardize your business.

**Business License and Registration**
Licenses are typically administered by a variety of state and local departments. It is important to consider zoning regulations when choosing a site for your business. Contact the business license office before you locate your business. You may not be permitted to conduct business out of your home or engage in industrial activity in a retail district.
Register Your Business with the Secretary of State

Washington

If you’ve chosen one of the following legal structures: limited liability company, profit corporation, nonprofit corporation, limited partnership, you must register with the secretary of state. However, if you’re a sole proprietor, skip this step and go directly to the Washington State Business License Service.

Once you register, the secretary of state will issue a Unified Business Identifier number and send you formation documents. Use the same name and UBI number when dealing with all state agencies. For help, contact:

- **Washington Secretary of State**
  Corporations & Charities Division
  (360) 725-0377
  corps@sos.wa.gov
  sos.wa.gov/corps

- **Washington State Department of Revenue**
  Business License Service
  (800) 451-7985
  bls@dor.wa.gov
  bls.dor.wa.gov

  - **Mailing address:**
    PO Box 9034
    Olympia WA 98507-9034
    Physical address:
    6500 Linderson Way SW
    Tumwater, WA 98501

The business license application is a simplified application used to apply for many state licenses, registrations, and permits, as well as some city licenses. Receive customized licensing information online by accessing [bls.dor.wa.gov/licensing.aspx](http://bls.dor.wa.gov/licensing.aspx) and clicking on Business Licensing Wizard to get started. Applying for a license will also provide you with a Unified Business Identifier (UBI) number. A UBI number is a nine-digit number that registers you with several state agencies. It is also called a tax registration number, a business registration number, and a business license number.

Filing online is not recommended for some businesses; a list of activities that need to file by paper can be found at [bls.dor.wa.gov/specialtylicenses.aspx](http://bls.dor.wa.gov/specialtylicenses.aspx).

Del Ferguson, owner of Hunter Cattle, is a family-owned farm in Brooklet, Georgia, and was assisted by his local Small Business Development Center.
Jusak Bernhard and Jeff Manley, owners of TailsSpin, grew their business in Savannah, Georgia, with the help of an SBA microloan.

City Business License Application
bls.dor.wa.gov/citycounty.aspx
Most cities and some counties require a business license or permits if the business is located in, or does business in, the city or county limits. Some city licenses can be obtained in applying for your state license. For others, contact the local city business license office.

Washington Business Name and Record Searches
- Washington State Department of Revenue
  Business Licensing Service
  Search business licenses by visiting bls.dor.wa.gov.
- Washington Secretary of State
  Corporations & Charities Filing System Search
  cdfs.sos.wa.gov/#/AdvancedSearch

Register Your Business with the Secretary of State
Idaho
In Idaho, a business may operate as a sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, a limited liability company or a corporation. Before opening a business in Idaho, the owner should register with the Idaho secretary of state.

Idaho Secretary of State
Business Entities
sos.idaho.gov
(208) 334-2301
business@sos.idaho.gov

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0080

Physical address:
450 N. Fourth St.
Boise, ID 83702

Idaho business Entity Search
Idaho Secretary of State
accessidaho.org/public/sos/corp/search.html

Taxes
Any business with employees must register with the IRS and acquire an Employer Identification Number, also known as the Federal Tax ID Number, and pay federal withholding tax at least quarterly.

- The IRS Small Business/Self-Employed Tax Center: irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed. Here you can find the useful online tax calendar.
- For small business forms and publications, visit irs.gov/businesses small-businesses-self-employed/small-business-forms-and-publications.
Entrepreneurs receive business counseling and assistance at the Philadelphia SBA district office in King of Prussia.

**State Taxes**

Washington State Department of Revenue  
dor.wa.gov  
(800) 647-7706

**Local offices:**
- **Bellingham**  
  (360) 594-4840  
  1904 Humboldt St., suite A  
  Bellingham, WA 98225
- **Bothell**  
  19800 North Creek Parkway, suite 101  
  Bothell, WA 98011  
  (425) 984-6400
- **Kent**  
  Centerpointe Campus Cascade East Building 20819 72nd Ave. South, suite 680  
  Kent, WA 98032  
  (425) 984-6400
- **Port Angeles**  
  (360) 417-9900  
  734 E. First St., suite B  
  Port Angeles, WA 98362
- **Richland**  
  (509) 987-1201  
  1657 Fowler St.  
  Richland, WA 99352
- **Seattle**  
  (206) 727-5300

2101 Fourth Ave., suite 1400  
Seattle, WA 98121

- **Spokane**  
  (509) 327-0200  
  1330 N. Washington, suite 5600  
  Spokane, WA 99201
- **Tacoma**  
  (253) 382-2000  
  3315 S. 23rd St., suite 300  
  Tacoma, WA 98405
- **Tumwater**  
  (800) 647-7706  
  6500 Linderson Way SW  
  Tumwater, WA 98501
- **Vancouver**  
  (866) 647-7706  
  8008 NE 4 th Plain Blvd., suite 320  
  Vancouver, WA 98662
- **Wenatchee**  
  (509) 885-9825  
  630 N. Chelan Ave., suite B3  
  Wenatchee, WA 98801
- **Yakima**  
  (509) 454-5160  
  3703 River Road, suite 3  
  Yakima, WA 98902

**Internal Revenue Service – Taxpayer Assistance Centers**

All taxpayer assistance centers operate by appointment only. To make an appointment call (844) 545-5640.

**Washington Appointment locations:**
- Bellevue, Bellingham, Everett, Olympia, Richland, Seattle, Silverdale, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver, and Yakima.

**Idaho appointment locations:**
- Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello.

**Idaho State Tax Commission**

(800) 972-7660  
taxrep@tax.idaho.gov  
tax.idaho.gov/index.cfm

**Coeur d’Alene**  
1910 Northwest Blvd., suite 100  
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814-2371

**Lewiston**  
1118 F St.  
Lewiston, ID 83501-1014

**Sales and use tax rate tool:** webgis.dor.wa.gov/taxratelookup/SalesTax.aspx.

**Resellers permits:** dor.wa.gov/find-taxes-rates/retail-sales-tax/reseller-permits.

Businesses must register to obtain certain Idaho permits, including sales and/or use tax, income tax withholding, travel and convention tax and more. Learn more online at tax.idaho.gov/ibr.

**Social Security**

If you have any employees, including officers of a corporation but not the sole proprietor or partners, you must make periodic payments, and/or file quarterly reports about payroll taxes and other mandatory deductions. You can contact the IRS or the Social Security Administration for information, assistance and forms, socialsecurity.gov/employer or (800) 772-1213. You can file W-2s online or verify job seekers through the Social Security Number Verification Service.

**E-Verify: Employment Eligibility Verification**

The Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires employers to verify employment eligibility of new employees. The law obligates an employer to process Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Business Liaison offers a selection of information bulletins and live assistance through the Employer Hotline. For forms call (800) 870-3676, for the employer hotline call (800) 357-2099.

E-Verify is operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration. It’s the quickest way for employers to determine the employment eligibility of new hires. It is a secure system that electronically verifies the Social Security number and employment eligibility information reported on Form I-9. Visit dhs.gov/e-verify or call (888) 464-4218 or e-mail e-verify@dhs.gov.

**Health & Safety**

All businesses with employees are required to comply with state and federal regulations regarding the protection of employees. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides information on the specific health and safety standards used by the U.S. Department of Labor, (800) 321-6742 or visit osha.gov.
• Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
  Rose Gunderson and Kayla Burr
  (360) 902-4205
  smallbusiness@lni.wa.gov
  The office helps with worker’s compensation claims and employer
  accounts, wage and hours rules, construction contractor
  registration, workplace safety and health. For free, confidential
  consultations, visit lni.wa.gov/safety/consultation/default.asp.

• Idaho Occupational Safety & Health Consultation Program
  1113 Denver Ave.
  Boise, ID 83706
  consultation@boisestate.edu
  (208) 426-3283
  oshcon.boisestate.edu
  This program provides free occupational safety and health
  services to small businesses within the state. The program helps
  businesses understand and comply with rules and regulations
  required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Employee Insurance
• Washington Health Benefit Exchange
  (855) 923-4633
  employer@wahbexchange.org
  wahbexchange.org
• Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
  (800) 562-6900
  insurance.wa.gov/small-business-health-insurance-options-2018
• Your Health Idaho
  (855) 944-3246
  yourhealthidaho.org/employers
• Idaho Department of Insurance
  700 W. State St., 3rd floor
  Boise, ID 83720
  (208) 334-4250
  doi.idaho.gov

Disability Compliance
For assistance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, call (800)
669-3362 or visit ada.gov.

Child Support Enforcement
Employers play an important role in the enforcement process
whenever employees are required to pay child support. As valuable,
essential partners with the program, employers account for about
75 percent of child and medical support collections enforced
through payroll deductions. “A Guide to an Employer’s Role in the
Child Support Program” for employers and income withholders is
available at acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/a-guide-to-an-
employers-role-in-the-child-support-program. Email questions
to employerservices@acf.hhs.gov.

• Department of Social & Health Services
  Doug Cheney
  (360) 664-5043
  dcheney@dshs.wa.gov
  The office helps with new hire reporting assistance. It also
  conducts trainings on child support laws, assists employers
  with electronic payment, and reporting options.

• Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
  healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildSupport/
  ForEmployers/tabid/379/Default.aspx
  (800) 356-9868

Department of Labor
• Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
  (360) 902-5800
  lni.wa.gov
  Office locations: Aberdeen, Bellevue, Bellingham, East
  Wenatchee, Everett, Kelso, Kennewick, Moses Lake, Mount
  Vernon, Olympia, Pullman, Seattle, Silverdale, Sequim,
  Spokane, Tacoma, Tukwila, Tumwater, Vancouver, and Yakima.

• Idaho Department of Labor
  (208) 332-3570
  labor.idaho.gov
  Office locations: Bonners Ferry, Post Falls, St. Maries,
  Sandpoint, Silver Valley, Grangeville, Lewiston, Moscow, Orofino

Patents & Trademarks
A patent is the grant of a property right to the inventor by the
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, (800) 786-9199, or visit
uspto.gov. It provides the owner with the right to exclude others
from making, using, offering for sale or selling the patented item
in the United States.
  Trademarks or service marks are words, phrases, symbols,
designs or combinations that identify and distinguish the source
of goods. Trademarks may be registered at both the state and
federal level.
  Trademarks and service marks may be registered in a state. But
federally registered trademarks may conflict with and supersede
state registered business and product names.

Copyrights
Copyrights protect original works of authorship including literary,
dramatic, musical and artistic, and certain other intellectual
works. Copyrights do not protect facts, ideas and systems,
although it may protect the way these things are expressed.
Contact the U.S. Copyright Office at (202) 707-3000, or
copyright.gov.
Advocacy
When you need a voice within the federal government for your interests as a small business owner, the SBA’s regional advocates are here to assist. The advocates analyze the effects of proposed regulations and consider alternatives that minimize the economic burden on small businesses, governmental jurisdictions and nonprofits. Find your regional advocate at sba.gov/advocacy.

- Your advocate helps with these small business issues:
- If your business could be negatively affected by regulations proposed by the government
- If you have contracting issues with a federal agency
- When you need economic and small business statistics

The SBA’s Office of Advocacy also independently represents small business and advances its concerns before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, the federal courts and state policy makers.

Ombudsman
Entrepreneurs who have an issue with an existing federal regulation or policy can receive assistance from the SBA’s national ombudsman.

- The ombudsman’s office helps you:
- Resolve regulatory disputes with federal agencies
- Reduce unfair penalties and fines
- Seek remedies when rules are inconsistently applied
- Recover payment for services done by government contractors

Make your voice heard by participating in a Regional Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Roundtable or a public hearing hosted by the SBA’s national ombudsman. These events are posted periodically on the ombudsman website.

To submit a comment or compliant through the online form, visit sba.gov/ombudsman/comments. Your concerns will be directed to the appropriate federal agency for review. The SBA will collaborate with you and the agency to help resolve the issue.
Rozanne Garman started RHD Enterprises, Inc., an 8(a) and HUBZone-certified, woman-owned design build firm, in 2005 out of her home, incorporating in 2008. By the age of 26, Rozanne designed pre-engineered buildings across the U.S. solely with the benefit of on-the-job training. The company specializes in a broad range of construction projects primarily in the federal, commercial, and industrial sectors. RHD has specialized divisions focusing on design, general construction, metal fabrication, and welding. Its projects range from small service projects of less than $100,000 to complex projects valued at $10 million. RHD currently operates throughout Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Minnesota, and Arkansas and has 27 employees. The company received assistance and training from the Washington State Procurement Technical Assistance Center, SCORE, and the SBA's Women's Business Centers. This training helped RHD secure more than 30 projects with upwards of $9 million in bonded work and $10 million in hand with agencies, including the Veterans Administration, the General Services Administration, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. RHD recently received a contract with NOAA that serves all states west of the Mississippi and all of the Pacific Islands. The company’s revenue has increased to $12.5 million.

- **Can you talk about the experience of becoming a small business owner?** It was terrifying. I honestly had no idea what I was doing. I didn’t know what the steps were. I didn’t even know how to get your 8(a) certification. I didn’t even know how to get a bond. I had a small child and no steady income. I used the SBA’s website, and I ended up just taking one thing at a time. One of the first things I did was put together a good team—Diana Drake from the SBA, an accountant, and a bonding insurance agent. That team was critical in the beginning.

- **What are the biggest challenges you face as a small business owner?** I started my company at the beginning of recession, and the biggest challenge was finding the work. I didn’t have the past performance, so contracting officers wouldn’t even look at us. Cash flow is always hard as a small business. Lately, one of the biggest challenges has been finding quality and experienced team members. When competing against large businesses, which have more resources than small businesses do, it is often hard to retain good talent and offer a package that attracts and keeps people.

- **What advice do you have for other small businesses?** Make sure you have good people around you who believe in your vision. My team of advisers is larger now than in the beginning, but they believed in me when other people didn’t. You also need to be very clear about your vision and what you want to create. Sometimes that changes, and that’s ok. Be clear about your “why.” Sometimes when you have failures and everything is going wrong, reminding yourself of why you are doing it is the one thing that will pull you through—especially in hard times. I also advise other entrepreneurs to take advantage of every learning opportunity you can. The SBA offers workshops that are free or low-cost. They are a great resource. And networking is so important. I am the most reluctant networker, but I make myself do it, and I’m always glad I did. Every single time something great comes out of it. Another important lesson I’ve learned is, don’t be afraid to hire people who are smarter than you, who have different gifts. They are a huge asset to your team. Hire experts, celebrate them, and take your ego out of it.

- **Have you continued to utilize your local SBA district office?** If so, how? I continue to work with my local SBA office. My questions have changed as I’ve grown. They always provide advice, and I still take advantage of classes.

- **What do you find are the satisfactions of small business ownership?** The absolute best benefit has been having the ability to give back to my community. We are actively involved in our community. My personal philosophy is that of those who have been given much, much is expected, so giving back to the community is an important part of our mission. It also has been very rewarding to be invited to speak at events, giving me a platform to talk about diversity, equity, and supporting women and minorities in business. Helping other women and minorities in business has become a passion project. Another reward is my team—we are more like family than like a business. We have an incredible group of people who like to think of ourselves as disruptors in the industry.
“We are actively involved in our community. My personal philosophy is that those who have been given much, much is expected, so giving back to the community is an important part of our mission.”

Rozanne Garman
President, RHD Enterprises, Inc.
Write your Business Plan

Your business plan is the foundation of your business. Learn how to write a business plan quickly and efficiently with a business plan template.

Business plans help you run your business
A good business plan guides you through each stage of starting and managing your business. You’ll use your business plan as a roadmap for how to structure, run, and grow your new business. It’s a way to think through the key elements of your business.

Business plans can help you get funding or bring on new business partners. Investors want to feel confident they’ll see a return on their investment. Your business plan is the tool you’ll use to convince people that working with you—or investing in your company—is a smart choice.

Pick a business plan format that works for you
• There’s no right or wrong way to write a business plan. What’s important is that your plan meets your needs.
• Most business plans fall into one of two common categories: traditional or lean startup.
• Traditional business plans are more common, use a standard structure, and encourage you to go into detail in each section. They tend to require more work upfront and can be dozens of pages long.
• Lean startup business plans are less common but still use a standard structure. They focus on summarizing only the most important points of the key elements of your plan. They can take as little as one hour to make and are typically only one page.

Which business plan format is right for you?

Traditional Business Plan
• This type of plan is very detailed, takes more time to write, and is comprehensive.
• Lenders and investors commonly request this plan.

Lean Startup Plan
• This type of plan is high-level focus, fast to write, and contains key elements only.
• Some lenders and investors may ask for more information.
TRADITIONAL BUSINESS PLAN FORMAT

You might prefer a traditional business plan format if you’re very detail oriented, want a comprehensive plan, or plan to request financing from traditional sources.

When you write your business plan, you don’t have to stick to the exact business plan outline. Instead, use the sections that make the most sense for your business and your needs. Traditional business plans use some combination of these nine sections.

Executive Summary
Briefly tell your reader what your company is and why it will be successful. Include your mission statement, your product or service, and basic information about your company’s leadership team, employees, and location. You should also include financial information and high-level growth plans if you plan to ask for financing.

Company Description
Use your company description to provide detailed information about your company. Go into detail about the problems your business solves. Be specific, and list out the consumers, organization, or businesses your company plans to serve.

Explain the competitive advantages that will make your business a success. Are there experts on your team? Have you found the perfect location for your store? Your company description is the place to boast about your strengths.

Market Analysis
You’ll need a good understanding of your industry outlook and target market. Competitive research will show you what other businesses are doing and what their strengths are. In your market research, look for trends and themes. What do successful competitors do? Why does it work? Can you do it better? Now’s the time to answer these questions.

Organization and Management
Tell your reader how your company will be structured and who will run it.

Describe the legal structure of your business. State whether you have or intend to incorporate your business as a C or an S corporation, form a general or limited partnership, or if you’re a sole proprietor or LLC.

Use an organizational chart to lay out who’s in charge of what in your company. Show how each person’s unique experience will contribute to the success of your venture. Consider including resumes or CVs of key members of your team.

Service or Product Line
Describe what you sell or what service you offer. Explain how it benefits your customers and what the product lifecycle looks like. Share your plans for intellectual property, like copyright or patent filings. If you’re doing research and development for your service or product, explain it in detail.

Marketing and Sales
There’s no single way to approach a marketing strategy. Your strategy should evolve and change to fit your unique needs.

Your goal in this section is to describe how you’ll attract and retain customers. You’ll also describe how a sale will actually happen. You’ll refer to this section later when you make financial projections, so make sure to thoroughly describe your complete marketing and sales strategies.

Funding Request
If you’re asking for funding, this is where you’ll outline your funding requirements. Your goal is to clearly explain how much funding you’ll need over the next five years and what you’ll use it for.

Specify whether you want debt or equity, the terms you’d like applied, and the length of time your request will cover. Give a detailed description of how you’ll use your funds. Specify if you need funds to buy equipment or materials, pay salaries, or cover specific bills until revenue increases. Always include a description of your future strategic financial plans, like paying off debt or selling your business.

Financial Projections
Supplement your funding request with financial projections. Your goal is to convince the reader that your business is stable and will be a financial success.

If your business is already established, include income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements for the last three to five years. If you have other collateral you could put against a loan, make sure to list it now.

Provide a prospective financial outlook for the next five years. Include forecasted income statements, balance sheets, cash flow statements, and capital expenditure budgets. For the first year, be even more specific and use quarterly—or even monthly—projections. Make sure to clearly explain your projections, and match them to your funding requests.

This is a great place to use graphs and charts to tell the financial story of your business.

Appendix
Use your appendix to provide supporting documents or other materials that were specially requested. Common items to include are credit histories, resumes, product pictures, letters of reference, licenses, permits, patents, legal documents, and other contracts.

TRADITIONAL BUSINESS PLAN CHECKLIST

- Executive summary
- Company description
- Marketing and sales
- Service or product line
- Market analysis
- Funding request
- Organization and management
- Financial projections
- Appendix
LEAN STARTUP PLAN FORMAT

You might prefer a lean startup format if you want to explain or start your business quickly, your business is relatively simple, or you plan to regularly change and refine your business plan.

Lean startup formats are charts that use only a handful of elements to describe your company’s value proposition, infrastructure, customers, and finances. They’re useful for visualizing tradeoffs and fundamental facts about your company.

There are many versions of lean startup templates, but one of the oldest and most well known is the Business Model Canvas, developed by Alex Osterwalder. You can search the web to find free templates of the Business Model Canvas, or other versions, to build your business plan.

We’ll discuss the nine components of the Business Model Canvas version here.

**Key Partnerships**
Note the other businesses or services you’ll work with to run your business. Think about suppliers, manufacturers, subcontractors and similar strategic partners.

**Key Activities**
List the ways your business will gain a competitive advantage. Highlight things like selling direct to consumers or using technology to tap into the sharing economy.

**Key Resources**
List any resource you’ll leverage to create value for your customer. Your most important assets could include staff, capital, or intellectual property. Don’t forget to leverage business resources that might be available to women, veterans, Native Americans, and HUBZone–certified businesses.

**Value Proposition**
Make a clear and compelling statement about the unique value your company brings to the market.

**Customer Relationships**
Describe how customers will interact with your business. Is it automated or personal? In person or online? Think through the customer experience from start to finish.

**Customer Segments**
Be specific when you name your target market. Your business won’t be for everybody, so it’s important to have a clear sense of who your business will serve.

**Channels**
List the most important ways you’ll talk to your customers. Most businesses use a mix of channels and optimize them over time.

**Cost Structure**
Will your company focus on reducing cost or maximizing value? Define your strategy, then list the most significant costs you’ll face pursuing it.

**Revenue Streams**
Explain how your company will actually make money. Some examples are direct sales, memberships fees, and selling advertising space. If your company has multiple revenue streams, list them all.

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"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

Benjamin Franklin
Entrepreneurship training is available through the SBA’s programs for veterans, sba.gov/veterans. This includes active duty service members, those transitioning out of service, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses in the United States and at military installations around the world. Connect to other entrepreneurs and your local network of SBA Resource Partners through these services and programs. Veterans Business Outreach Centers, sba.gov/vboc, provide business training and counseling to those interested in starting or growing a small business.

Programs for Veterans

If you are a veteran or a service-disabled veteran, there are many opportunities for you and your small business.

Entrepreneurship training is available through the SBA’s programs for veterans, sba.gov/veterans. This includes active duty service members, those transitioning out of service, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses in the United States and at military installations around the world. Connect to other entrepreneurs and your local network of SBA Resource Partners through these services and programs. Veterans Business Outreach Centers, sba.gov/vboc, provide business training and counseling to those interested in starting or growing a small business.

Entrepreneurship Training Programs

Boots to Business is an entrepreneurial training program offered by the SBA as a training track within the Department of Defense’s Transition Assistance Program. The curriculum provides valuable assistance to those transitioning out of service and their spouses. You explore business ownership and other self-employment opportunities while learning key business concepts. Participants learn how to access start-up capital using SBA resources. This program provides the foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan.

Boots to Business: Reboot delivers the Boots to Business curriculum to veterans of all eras, members of the National Guard and Reserve, and military spouses in their local communities.

Veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses nationwide interested in federal contracting can receive entrepreneurship guidance from the Veteran Federal Procurement Entrepreneurship Training Program. This program is administered by the Veteran Institute for Procurement, which has three training programs to assist veterans, VIP START, VIP GROW, and VIP INTERNATIONAL.

The Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program serves women who are veterans, service members, and spouses of service members and veterans as they start or grow their business.

Loan Fee Relief

To encourage lending to veterans who want to start or grow their businesses, the SBA reduces upfront guarantee fees on select loans. That means the cost savings will be passed down to you, the eligible veteran. To learn about this loan fee relief, contact your local SBA district office or ask your SBA Lender about the Veterans Advantage program.

Interested in doing business with the government?

Learn about the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concern contracting program on page 56.

Have an employee who was called to active duty?

Ask your SBA Lender about the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. It provides loans up to $2 million to small businesses for working capital caused by the loss of an essential employee called to active duty in the National Guard or Reserve.
Programs for Entrepreneurs

SBA’s Emerging Leaders program helps grow businesses.

Business executives looking for their next challenge and the opportunity to take their business to the next level will find it with the SBA’s Emerging Leaders program, sba.gov/emergingleaders.

Graduates of Emerging Leaders, an intense seven-month entrepreneurship program, reported that they have been able to grow their businesses and drive economic development within their communities. Emerging Leaders executives are chosen through a competitive selection process. The program fosters a learning environment that accelerates the growth of high-potential small businesses, while providing training and peer networking sessions.

Emerging Leaders graduates join a network of 5,000 alumni nationwide. Since the start of the program, graduates have reported gaining more than $300 million total in new financing and securing over $2.16 billion in government contracts.

Online Resources for Entrepreneurs

Find short courses and learning tools to start and grow your small business at the sba.gov Learning Center.

The SBA’s free Online Learning Center courses help you start and grow your small business. The Learning Center is a great resource for every entrepreneur, especially rural business owners looking for easy access to vital business training. Courses available include:

- Writing your business plan
- Legal requirements for your small business
- Small business financing options
- Digital and traditional marketing to win customers
- Your options during a disaster

Access the SBA’s Learning Center at sba.gov/learning.

Aspiring entrepreneurs can learn how to launch a business with the Business Smart Toolkit. This online workshop lays the groundwork, teaching you how to build a business that is ready to take on credit.

- The three parts of the toolkit:
  - Basics of business startup
  - Building business credit
  - How to find additional small business support and educational resources

The toolkit can be presented as a class, like within a community organization, or for small group or individual at-home use. The toolkit and instructor guide are written so that a community volunteer can feel comfortable presenting the information. Find the free download at sba.gov/businesssmart.
American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians seeking entrepreneurial development training can start and grow their business with the help of these SBA-supported programs. The SBA, sba.gov/naa, also consults with tribal governments prior to finalizing SBA policies affecting tribes.

**The Cherokee Nation**
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Receive executive coaching in financial management, sales, marketing and product management. Visit cherokee.org/contact.aspx.

**Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network**
Portland, Oregon & Tulsa, Oklahoma
Develop your business on native lands and find peer mentoring that focuses on building native microenterprise throughout Oregon, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Visit onaben.org.

**Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI Oklahoma)**
Durant, Oklahoma
Do you need business counseling, 8(a) certification assistance and other training? The organization has two Native American business resource centers in Oklahoma. Visit reiok.org.

**The Native American Development Corporation**
North Billings, Montana
Receive counseling in government contracting through the SBA’s 8(a) program and other federal and state programs. Register to attend networking events, conferences and workshops at nadc.ecenterdirect.com/signup.

**Hi’ilei Aloha LLC**
Honolulu, Hawaii
Do you have an idea and want to see if it could become a successful business? For the next entrepreneurship course for Native Hawaiians, visit hilee.org.

**Indian Dispute Resolution Services, Inc.**
Plymouth, California
Tribal members in California, Nevada, and Oregon can receive computer accounting and business training through the microenterprise initiatives at idrsinc.org.
When Garrett Marrero and Melanie Oxley applied for loans to buy a brewpub in Maui in 2004, it didn’t go well. “We got laughed out of every bank in the state,” Marrero likes to say.

As it turns out, they would have been a good risk. Over the past 14 years, Marrero and Oxley have built an operation that employs hundreds, sells internationally, and enriches its community. They were recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2017 as National Small Business Persons of the Year.

A California native, Marrero grew up in a family that appreciates craft beer. He tried homebrewing in high school and had friends who brewed. “When I traveled, experiencing the local beer was always important to me,” he says. “So when I came to Hawaii, I thought the local beer was ridiculous. I knew I could put people together to make great beer.”

He and Oxley were living and working in California and, in 2004, decided to move to Hawaii and brew beer. They learned that the Fish and Game Brewing Company on Maui was for sale. Since banks wouldn’t finance the inexperienced entrepreneurs, they sold and mortgaged everything they could, plundered retirement funds, and borrowed from parents and grandparents in order to buy the seven-barrel brewpub and restaurant.
FUNDING PROGRAMS

“...I had that typical young male can’t-go-wrong kind of attitude, but I think Melanie was more nervous.” Marrero recalls. “It was a little scary. But we both took it as extra motivation to succeed—we couldn’t fail our family and our friends.”

The couple were new to entrepreneurship, but they applied a strong work ethic and good business sense to the task. They quickly set up a 25-barrel brewhouse and, in 2007, were among the earliest small breweries to distribute in cans—a move that craft breweries have since embraced as both financially and environmentally sound. And having savvily gotten a right of first refusal on adjacent units, they expanded. By 2012, they’d grown from 5,000 to 13,000 square feet. “We flat-out needed more space,” Marrero says.

This time, they approached the SBA for help. “The way it works is, you have to have the financing through an SBA lending partner—a local bank—and then the SBA guarantees part of the loan,” Marrero says. Maui Brewing took out a multimillion-dollar loan to buy land and build a building for 25- and 50-barrel brewhouses down the road in Kihei. “We would not have been approved for such a loan without the SBA.”

Maui Brewing Company’s six year-round beers include its signature Pineapple Mana Wheat and Coconut Hiwa Porter which, like many of its seasonal brews, use locally grown ingredients. “They always say small business is the backbone of America; I think farmers even more so,” Marrero says.
SBA Guaranteed Loans

For small business entrepreneurs who cannot get traditional forms of credit, an SBA-guaranteed loan can fill that need. The SBA guarantees loans made by lending institutions to small businesses that would not otherwise be able to obtain financing. The lender works with applicants to determine the best option for the small business. For those who are eligible and cannot obtain conventional financing with reasonable rates and terms, the guarantee reduces a lender’s risk of loss in the event of a default on the loan. The SBA guarantee is conditional on the lender following SBA program requirements. Just like with any other loan, you make your loan payments directly to your SBA Lender in accordance with your terms.

Visit your local SBA office for a lender referral, or use Lender Match, sba.gov/lendermatch.

The SBA’s online tool connects entrepreneurs with SBA Lenders interested in making small business loans in your area.

“We brew our seasonal POG IPA with passionfruit, orange, and guava juice, locally grown. Integrating that into a style that dates back to the 1600s, an IPA, makes it unique.”

Today the operation consists of the Kihei brewery and three restaurants: the original location, one established on the island of Oahu in 2017, and one opened at the brewery in early 2018. The company distributes in 23 states and internationally. By year-end, Marrero expects to have a fourth restaurant, employ 700 or more, and top $20 million in revenue. Later ambitions include distilled spirits and craft cocktails in cans.

In addition to supporting Hawaii growers, Maui Brewing offers a share of sales to local nonprofits. It also plays an integral role in the Maui Brewers Festival, which draws visitors and raises money for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center.

And Marrero shares his hard-won expertise with aspiring entrepreneurs. His advice? “Work with several local lenders, but definitely involve the Small Business Development Center in your area. They’ll help with feasibility studies, putting together a good loan package,” he says. “Be clear and concise with your vision, and don’t rely on others to sell your story—you are your best advocate.”
Need Financing?

Visit your local SBA office or lender to learn about these SBA loan programs.

The 7(a) Loan
The 7(a) loan is the SBA’s largest financing program because it can be used for almost any business purpose, and it offers reasonable rates and terms. If you’re unable to get conventional financing and you meet the eligibility requirements, you could use a 7(a) loan to purchase real estate, equipment, working capital, or inventory for your small business. Loan proceeds may also be used to refinance business debt or purchase a small business.

**MAX LOAN AMOUNT:** $5 million  
**INTEREST RATE:** generally prime + a reasonable rate capped at 2.75 percent  
**TERMS:** loan term varies according to the purpose of the loan, generally up to 25 years for real estate, 10 years for other fixed assets and working capital  
**GUARANTEE:** 50 to 90 percent

SBA Microlenders
Entrepreneurs can borrow from $500 to $50,000 and access free business counseling from SBA microlenders. If you need working capital or funds for supplies, equipment, fixtures and furniture, a microloan can help eligible businesses start up and grow.

**INTEREST RATE:** loans less than $10,000, lender cost + 8.5 percent; loans $10,000 and greater, lender cost + 7.75 percent  
**TERMS:** lender negotiated, no early payoff penalty

SBAExpress Loan
An SBAExpress loan is a small loan delivered by experienced lenders who are authorized to make the credit decision for the SBA. These can be term loans or revolving lines of credit.

**MAX LOAN AMOUNT:** $350,000  
**INTEREST RATE:** for loans less than $50,000, prime + 6.5 percent; for loans of $50,000 and greater, prime + 4.75 percent  
**TERMS:** loan term varies according to the purpose of the loan, generally up to 25 years for real estate, and 10 years for other fixed assets and working capital  
**GUARANTEE:** 50 percent

Community Advantage Program
Community Advantage lenders are community-based financial institutions focused on financing for women, veterans, low-income borrowers, and minority entrepreneurs just starting up or in business for a few years. The program can provide access to free business counseling at the same time you are putting together your financing.

**INTEREST RATE:** prime + 6 percent  
**TERMS:** up to 25 years for real estate, and 10 years for equipment and working capital

**GUARANTEE:** 75 to 90 percent

SPECIAL CONDITION: a minimum borrower contribution or down payment is required; amounts vary by project but are usually 10 percent
If your product has a potential for commercialization, look into the Small Business Innovation Research program. Many small businesses enter the nation’s research and development arena because of this program. The United States gains your entrepreneurial vision while meeting specific research and development needs.

Each year, federal agencies with large research and development budgets are required to allocate 3.2 percent of it to this program. You could receive funding from one of these 11 participating federal agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- NASA
- National Science Foundation

Both programs have three phases:

**Phase I** is to establish the technical merit, feasibility and commercial potential of the proposed project. Awards are often up to $150,000 for one year.

**Phase II** funding is based on the results achieved in phase I and the scientific, technical merit and commercial potential of the project. Awards are often up to $1 million for two years.

**Phase III** is for the small business to pursue commercialization. It may involve U.S. government contracts. Learn about these competitive awards-based programs at sbir.gov.
Local Funding Programs

Visit sba.gov/wa for our full list of SBA Lenders.

### Microloan Program

**Participating Nonprofit Community Lenders, Microlenders**

- **Craft3**
  409 Maynard Ave. South, suite 200
  Seattle, WA 98104
  (888) 231-2170
  Walter Acuna
  wacuna@craft3.org
  Antoinette Marasigan
  amarasigan@craft3.org

- **Business Impact NW**
  1437 S. Jackson St.
  Seattle, WA 98144
  Roland Chaiton
  (206) 324-4330 x111
  rolandc@businessimpactnw.org

- **Mercy Corps Northwest**
  240 2nd Ave. South, suite 200
  Seattle, WA 98104
  Edwin Rios
  (206) 547-5212 x103
  erios@mercycorpsnw.org

- **Panhandle Area Council**
  11100 N. Airport Rd.
  Hayden, ID 83835
  Wally Jacobson
  (208) 772-0584 x3018
  wjacobson@pacni.org

- **Community Advantage**
  **Participating Nonprofit Community Lenders**

#### SNAP Financial Access

500 S. Stone St.
Spokane, WA 99202
Cameryn Flynn, (509) 456-7106 x122
flynn@snapwa.org

#### Ventures

2100 24th Ave. South, suite 380
Seattle, WA 98144
Laura Fletcher, (206) 352-1945 x6616
lfletcher@venturesnonprofit.org

#### 504 Certified Development Company Loan Program

**Participating Certified Development Companies**

- **Ameritrust CDC**
  11050 Fifth Ave NE, suite 205
  Seattle, WA 98125
  Kim Willis, (425) 787-6100
  kimwillis@amerrustrdcdc.com

- **Evergreen Business Capital**
  13295 Interurban Ave S., suite 100
  Seattle, WA 98168
  Lori Milton, (800) 878-6613
  lori.milton@evergreen504.com

- **Northwest Business Development Association**
  11410 NE 124th St., suite 502
  Kirkland, WA 98034
  Elizabeth Rusnak
  (425) 286-6673
  erusnak@nwbusiness.org

- **Panhandle Area Council**
  11100 N. Airport Rd.
  Hayden, ID 83835
  Wally Jacobson
  (208) 772-0584 x3018
  wjacobson@pacni.org

- **Community Advantage**
  **Participating Nonprofit Community Lenders**

**Craft3**
409 Maynard Ave. South, suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104
(888) 231-2170
Walter Acuna
wacuna@craft3.org
Antoinette Marasigan
amarasigan@craft3.org

**Evergreen Business Capital**
13295 Interurban Ave. South., suite 100
Seattle, WA 98168
Lori Milton, (800) 878-6613
lori.milton@evergreen504.com
## Participating SBA Lenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Security Bank</strong></td>
<td>6100 219th Street SW, suite 400 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043</td>
<td>(800) 683-0973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sba@fsbwa.com">sba@fsbwa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker Boyer National Bank</strong></td>
<td>1149 N. Edison St., suite A Kennewick, WA 99336</td>
<td>(509) 735-5171</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roachm@bakerboyer.com">roachm@bakerboyer.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank of America Specialized Sales Department</strong></td>
<td>(866) 953-2481</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank of the Pacific</strong></td>
<td>4124 Hannegan Road Bellingham, WA 98226</td>
<td>(360) 756-9178</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alervik@bankofthepacific.com">alervik@bankofthepacific.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank of the West</strong></td>
<td>1191 Second Ave., suite 120 Seattle, WA 98101</td>
<td>(206) 496-3130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robert.barr@bankofthewest.com">robert.barr@bankofthewest.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank of the West</strong></td>
<td>1250 Pacific Ave., suite 100 Tacoma, WA 98402</td>
<td>(253) 363-7118</td>
<td><a href="mailto:taralee.muhli@bankofthewest.com">taralee.muhli@bankofthewest.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BankCDA</strong></td>
<td>912 Northwest Blvd, Couer d’Alene, ID 83814</td>
<td>(208) 292-5170</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bradr@bankcda.com">bradr@bankcda.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Banner Bank</strong></td>
<td>19909 12th Ave. NE, suite 103 Bothell, WA 98041</td>
<td>(425) 806-2881</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmclaughlin@bannerbank.com">wmclaughlin@bannerbank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank of Hope</strong></td>
<td>400 112th Ave NE, suite 150 Bellevue, WA 98004</td>
<td>(425) 921-1092</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian.kang@bankofhope.com">brian.kang@bankofhope.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BECU</strong></td>
<td>12770 Gateway Drive Tukwila, WA 98168</td>
<td>(206) 439-5876</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Anthony.scarpelli@becu.org">Anthony.scarpelli@becu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Impact NW</strong></td>
<td>1437 S. Jackson St. Seattle, WA 98144</td>
<td>(206) 324-4330 x111</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rolandc@businessimpactnw.org">rolandc@businessimpactnw.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cashmere Valley Bank</strong></td>
<td>199 Valley Mall Parkway East Wenatchee, WA 98802</td>
<td>(509) 962-0924</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pwilson@cashmerevalleybank.com">pwilson@cashmerevalleybank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal Community Bank</strong></td>
<td>2817 Colby Ave. Everett, WA 98201</td>
<td>(206) 258-5299</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gstarup@coastalbank.com">gstarup@coastalbank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Columbia Bank</strong></td>
<td>1000 SW Broadway, suite 1100 Portland, OR 97205</td>
<td>(503) 279-3184</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbossm@columbiabank.com">sbossm@columbiabank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commencement Bank</strong></td>
<td>1135 Broadway Plaza, suite 103 Tacoma, WA 98402</td>
<td>(206) 340-4753</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csullam@gbcib.com">csullam@gbcib.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community 1st Bank</strong></td>
<td>707 N. Post St. Post Falls, ID 83854</td>
<td>(208) 457-9610</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janet.rice@com1stbankid.com">janet.rice@com1stbankid.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community First Bank</strong></td>
<td>6401 Clearwater Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336</td>
<td>(209) 783-3435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East West Bank</strong></td>
<td>2090 Huntington Drive, second floor San Marino, CA 91108</td>
<td>(626) 979-5076</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wai-chun.li@eastwestbank.com">wai-chun.li@eastwestbank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Interstate Bank</strong></td>
<td>2502 196 th St. SW Lynnwood, WA 98036</td>
<td>(425) 608-4171</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosario.carroll@fib.com">rosario.carroll@fib.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Sound Bank</strong></td>
<td>925 Fourth Ave., suite 2350 Seattle, WA 98104</td>
<td>(206) 436-2040</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcleary@firstsoundbank.com">lcleary@firstsoundbank.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GBC International Bank</strong></td>
<td>16001 Aurora Ave., N Shoreline, WA 98133</td>
<td>(206) 340-4753</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csullam@gbcib.com">csullam@gbcib.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GESACredit Union</strong></td>
<td>51 Gage Blvd. Richland, WA 99352</td>
<td>(509) 942-6137</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brutledge@gesa.com">brutledge@gesa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Credit Union</strong></td>
<td>1520 W. Third St. Spokane, WA 99201</td>
<td>(509) 455-4676</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chris.simchuck@globalcu.org">chris.simchuck@globalcu.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FUNDING PROGRAMS

Hana Small Business
Lending 11900 NE First St., suite 300
Bellevue, WA 98005
Myung Joon Kim
(206) 353-8585
myungjoon.kim@hanasba.com

Hanmi Bank
928 S. Western Ave, suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90006
SBA Department
(213) 427-5722

Harborstone Credit Union
7220 Tacoma Mall Blvd.
Tacoma, WA 98409
Frank Marzano
(253) 983-7057
frank.marazno@harborstone.com

Heritage Bank
14807 Highway 99
Lynnwood, WA 98046
Christine Heckert
(425) 787-5549
christine.heckert@heritagebanknw.com

HomeStreet Bank
601 Union St.
Seattle, WA 98101
Scott Harvey
(206) 254-7280
sba@homestreet.com

Idaho Central Credit Union
850 Ironwood Drive, suite 102
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
Bart Kleng
(208) 844-7010
bklen@iccu.com

Inland Northwest Bank
421 W. Riverside Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
Mike Brunett
(509) 462-3607
mbrunett@inb.com

JP Morgan Chase Bank
1301 Second Ave, 25th floor
Seattle, WA 98101
Yana Rogers
(206) 500-6319
yana.rogers@chase.com

Key Bank National Association
1101 Pacific Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98402
Jennifer Ringenbach
(253) 305-7588
Jennifer_ringenbach@keybank.com

Key Bank National Association
1301 Fifth Ave., 24th floor
Seattle, WA 98101
Greg Williams
(206) 684-6339
gregory_d_williams@keybank.com

Kitsap Bank
11711 SE Eighth St., suite 310
Bellevue, WA 98005
Janie Sacco
(425) 455-9300
jsacco@kitsapbank.com

Liberty Bay Bank
19917 Seventh Ave NE, suite 101
Poulsbo, WA 98370
Charles Turner
(360) 394-4753
chuckt@libertybaybank.com

Live Oak Bank
Lisa Forrest
(425) 999-2042
lisa.forrest@liveoakbank.com

Mountain Pacific Bank
3732 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
Mina Lee
(425) 236-3546
mlee@mountainpacificbank.com

Mountain West Bank
101 Ironwood Drive, suite 252
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
Tom Pool
(208) 765-0285
tpool@mountainwestbank.com

NDC Grow America Fund
1218 Third Ave., suite 1403
Seattle, WA 98101
Oliver Scott
(206) 254-2800
oscott@ndconline.org

North Cascades Bank
236 Third Street SE
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Jason Underwood
(509) 888-6000
Jason.underwood@ncnb.com

Northwest Bank
925 Fourth Ave., suite 100
Seattle, WA 98104
Buck Marshall
(206) 625-8606
buck.marshall@northwest-bank.com

Numerica Credit Union
14610 E. Sprague
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
Mike Shortell
(509) 462-7376
mshortell@numericacu.com

Olympia Federal Savings Bank
412 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501
Carrie Whisler
(360) 754-3400 x1126
cwhisler@olyfed.com

Opus Bank
19900 MacArthur Blvd., 12th floor
Irvine, CA 92612
Barbara Tornquist
(714) 888-6702
btornquist@opusbank.com

People’s Bank
3100 Woburn St.
Bellingham, WA 98226
Brandon Wolfe
(360) 715-4214
brandon.wolfe@peoplesbank-wa.com

Puget Sound Bank
10500 NE Eighth St., suite 1500
Bellevue, WA 98004
Arnie Gunderson
(425) 467-2044
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202 E. Spokane Falls Blvd., suite 500
Spokane, WA 99202
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Savi Bank
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Burlington, WA 98233
Cathy Griffith
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Seacoast Commerce Bank
2018 156th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98007
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Burlington, WA 98233
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Mountlake Terrace, WA 98403
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1331 Broadway Plaza
Tacoma, WA 98402
Matthew Ashton
(253) 383-2016
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South Sound Bank
2006 Harrison Ave NW
Olympia, WA 98502
Tim Timmer
(360) 705-4200
timt@southsoundbank.com

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Gwen Schaeffer
(206) 898-9156
gwen.schaeffer@statebe.com

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Spokane Valley, WA 99216
Greg Deckard
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rickf@statebanknw.com

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1002 N. Baker St.
Canby, OR 97013
Dave Painter
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The Bank of Washington
19424 58 th Place West
Lynnwood, WA 98036
Jean Hansen
(425) 921-2427
jhansen@the-bank.com

Timberland Bank
7805 S. Hosmer St.
Tacoma, WA 98408
Carol Duris
(253) 472-0621
caduris@timberlandbank.com

Twinstar CU
4525 Intlecom Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
Dave LaValley
(360) 923-4569
dlavalley@twinstarcu.com

Umpqua Bank
10885 NE Fourth St., suite 200
Bellevue, WA 98004
Michael Esfeld
(425) 462-6166
mikeesfeld@umpquabank.com

Union Bank
332 SE Everett Mall Way, 2nd floor
Everett, WA 98204
Leslie Somes
(425) 514-0890
leslie.somes@unionbank.com

US Bank
999 Third Ave, 40th floor
Seattle, WA 98104
Daniel Rubert
(253) 720-9143
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223 Fifth Ave. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
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Spokane Valley, WA 99212
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dwolford@watrust.com

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205 108th Ave. NE, suite 200
Bellevue, WA 98004
Sam Kerley
(253) 569-7831
sam.kerley@wellsfargo.com

Whatcom Educational Credit Union
3410 Woburn St.
Bellingham, WA 98227
Wade Stringfield
(360) 714-7957
wade.stringfield@wecu.com
Why Export?

You want to increase revenue. Exporting would make you less dependent on any one market. It’s also a smart option for stabilizing sales if your product is seasonal.

Small businesses can enter and excel in the international marketplace using State Trade Expansion Program grants and training. To find out if your state is participating visit sba.gov/internationaltrade. You can:

- Learn how to export
- Participate in foreign trade missions and trade shows
- Obtain services to support foreign market entry
- Translate websites to attract foreign buyers
- Design international marketing products or campaigns

Financing for International Growth

Ask your SBA Lender about the Export Express Loan for enhancing your export development.

Max loan amount: $500,000
Interest rate: negotiated between lender and business, fixed or variable rate, typically not to exceed prime + 6.5 percent
Terms based on use of loan: for real estate, up to 25 years; for equipment, up to 10 years; for lines of credit, up to seven years
Guarantee: up to 90 percent

The International Trade Loan can position you to enter or expand into international markets. It can also help you better compete if your business has been adversely affected by unfair trade practices.

Max loan amount: $5 million
Interest rate: negotiated between lender and business, fixed or variable, not to exceed prime + 2.75 percent
Terms based on use of loan: for real estate, up to 25 years; for equipment, up to 10 years
Guarantee: up to 90 percent

Exporters looking to meet their short-term capital needs can use the Export Working Capital Program. Use this loan to purchase inventory to make the products you export or to finance receivables. You can apply for lines of credit prior to finalizing an export sale or contract.

Max loan amount: $5 million
Interest rate: negotiated between lender and business, fixed or variable rate
Terms: typically one year, cannot exceed three years
Guarantee: up to 90 percent

Benefits of Exporting

Nearly 96 percent of consumers live outside the U.S., and two-thirds of the world’s purchasing power is in foreign countries. If you’re a small business owner, here’s how to work with the SBA for your trade needs.

STEP 1 GET COUNSELING

STEP 2 FIND BUYERS

STEP 3 GET FUNDING

One-Stop Exporting Shops

Find an SBA professional in one of these 21 U.S. Export Assistance Centers located in major metro areas, sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/eac. The centers are also staffed by the U.S. Department of Commerce and, in some locations, the Export-Import Bank of the United States and other public and private organizations.

Visit your local Small Business Development Center (see page 8) for free exporting assistance from professional business counselors.

If you need assistance with international trade regulations, the SBA can be your advocate in foreign markets. Call toll free (855) 722-4877 or email international@sba.gov. Include your name, company name, mailing address, and phone number, as well as a brief description of the trade problem or challenge you are encountering.
Looking for investors? Consider a Small Business Investment Company.

If you own a U.S. small business, you could receive capital from a Small Business Investment Company that is regulated by the SBA. The agency provides guarantees to investment companies with financing expertise in certain sectors or industries. These investment companies then use private funds, along with SBA-guaranteed capital, to invest in qualifying small businesses. The small business then receives a loan, equity, or a combination of both. Equity is a share of ownership an investment company gets in a business. Mature, profitable businesses with sufficient cash flow to pay interest are more likely to receive capital from a Small Business Investment Company. Each one has its own investment profile in terms of targeted industry, geography, company maturity, the types and size of financing they provide. To search the SBIC directory, visit Investment Capital under Funding Programs at sba.gov.
What is the American dream? To many, it is the ideal that every United States citizen has an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative. Ember Industries, Inc., a family-owned company in San Marcos, Texas, exemplifies that national ethos. Established in 1986 as a small contract design firm, Ember Industries has grown into a full-service contract manufacturing business that builds, tests, and calibrates electronic devices and wire and cable assemblies. The company’s products are used to build things like above-ground tank monitors for oil fields and Lockheed military drones. In 2015, the company was on track to have one of its most profitable years, and then disaster struck.

“Things were going great. Honestly, the factory was going wonderfully. In June we were on pace for a record month,” says President Rob Leonardis.

In May 2015, the Blanco River flooded disastrously, overflowing its banks to record levels and destroying more than 1,000 homes. Ember Industries suffered catastrophic damages. “We had 32 inches of water in the entire building. Basically, it ruined all of our manufacturing equipment,” says Vice President of Finance and Administration Frank Leonardis. “It shut us down. It was pretty devastating.”

The flood destroyed about one-third of Ember’s raw-material inventory and all of the work in progress as well as office furniture, computers and servers, and all of the company’s high-tech production equipment. “A week into it, our dad came to us and asked, should we be trying to do this? Should we even be trying to rebuild this?” Rob Leonardis recalls. But instead of shutting the doors, the company was approved for a $2 million SBA disaster loan, and just six weeks after the flood, Ember Industries was back to full production.

In 2017, Ember Industries received the SBA Phoenix Award for Outstanding Small Business Disaster Recovery. “Without the SBA loan, we would not have been able to survive as a company,” Rob Leonardis says. “The Office of Disaster Assistance at the SBA looks at businesses that have suffered through a disaster, recovered, and put their employees back to work. And Rob’s story about how SBA’s disaster loan helped the business recover is one of preserving the American dream,” explains Bill Koontz, public information officer for the Disaster Field Operations Center–West.

After the flood, Ember continued to
The SBA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other organizations work together to provide assistance to those affected by a disaster. Once immediate safety and security needs are met, the SBA helps get you and your community back to where you were before the disaster. The SBA provides loans to businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners and renters to cover rebuilding costs not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance.

Small businesses and nonprofits are also eligible to apply for economic injury losses, even if they suffered no physical damages. These direct loans come with low-interest rates and long terms. Property owners can also secure additional SBA funds to help protect their business or home against a disaster. Visit sba.gov/disaster.

pay all its employees even though they were not able to resume operation immediately. “It is remarkable that Ember Industries has come back. It is remarkable they’ve been as successful in the wake of this as they have been,” says Koontz. “They haven’t just rebuilt, they’ve grown bigger and better.”

“I honestly believe we couldn’t have been able to rebuild without the SBA loan,” Rob Leonardis says. “It allowed us to continue to live the American dream.”

The President & the SBA Administrator Can Declare a Disaster

Who to contact after a disaster is declared by the President

Register with FEMA at disasterassistance.gov, or call (800) 621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585), or visit a Disaster Recovery Center. Locations can be found at fema.gov/drc.

Businesses are automatically referred to the SBA. Most homeowners and renters will be referred by FEMA to the SBA to apply for disaster loan assistance. You must complete the SBA application to be considered for assistance. If the agency cannot help you with a loan for all your needs, the SBA will, in most cases, refer you back to FEMA.

Who to contact after a disaster is declared by the SBA

Contact the SBA directly to apply for a disaster loan. Businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners and renters are eligible to apply:

• Online at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/
• Visit a federal/state Disaster Recovery Center in your area
• Call our customer service center at (800) 659-2955 (TTY: 800-877-8339) and ask for an application package to be mailed to you

FEMA grant assistance for homeowners or renters is not available under an SBA declaration.

Information needed to get started:

• Address of damaged residence or business and contact info
• Insurance information, including type of insurance, policy numbers, amount received
• Household and/or business income
• Routing and bank account numbers
• Description of disaster-caused damage and losses
How an SBA Disaster Loan Works

The SBA provides loans to businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners and renters to cover rebuilding costs not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance.

Verification & Processing
An SBA loss verifier will estimate the total loss to your property damaged by the disaster.

A loan officer determines your creditworthiness and eligibility after reviewing any insurance or other recovery funds. The SBA can approve and disburse a loan while your insurance recovery is pending. You will be advised in writing of all loan decisions.

Terms may go up to 30 years. The SBA sets terms based on each borrower’s ability to repay, no early payoff fees or penalties.

Rates are low, based on the type of loan and if you have credit available elsewhere.

For Physical Damages
A business of any size and any nonprofit may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

A homeowner may borrow up to $200,000 to repair/replace primary residence damage.

A homeowner or renter may borrow up to $40,000 to repair/replace damage to personal property, including vehicle losses.

For Economic Injury
The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans for up to $2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by a disaster.

Who are eligible: small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most nonprofits.

Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Closing & Funds Disbursement
Approval decision and disbursement of loan funds is dependent on receipt of your documentation.

Be sure to sign your closing documents. This can be done by mail or with an SBA representative at a closing center if one is open in your area.

The SBA disburses loan funds as recovery work is completed, items are replaced, and/or as funds are needed. The SBA will typically make an initial disbursement of up to $25,000, if all requirements are met, within five days of receiving your signed loan closing documents. Your case manager will schedule subsequent disbursements of the full loan amount. Your case manager will work with you to help you meet all loan conditions. Your loan may be adjusted after closing according to your changing circumstances, such as unexpected repair costs or additional insurance proceeds.

Keep in mind
An SBA disaster loan is a direct loan from the government. Other organizations may reduce or not award you a grant if you have received an SBA loan or other assistance. Be sure to check with other organizations to see how an SBA loan might affect your eligibility for their program.

In general, recovery expenses covered by insurance, FEMA or other forms of assistance may reduce the amount provided by your SBA disaster loan.
How to Prepare Your Business for an Emergency

The financial cost of rebuilding a business after a disaster can be overwhelming. However, with a business continuity plan in place, you will be able to rebound and reopen quickly. You’ll be in a better position to contribute to the economic recovery of your community. **First steps include:**

**Establish a protocol to communicate with employees** outside of the office to ensure they and their families are safe. Test the procedures regularly.

**Keep your plan and all related documents in a digital format** or in an accessible, protected, off-site location.

**Review your insurance coverage**
- Contact your insurance agent to find out if your coverage is right for your business; make sure you understand the policy limits and deductibles.
- Ask about business interruption insurance, which compensates you for lost income and covers operating expenses if your company has to temporarily shut down after a disaster.

**Establish a solid supply chain**
If your vital vendors and suppliers are local and the disaster is widespread, you will all be in the same situation—struggling to recover.
- Set yourself up to be able to get key supplies from companies outside your area, if possible.
- Create a contact list for important contractors and vendors you plan to use in an emergency.
- Make sure you know your suppliers’ recovery plans.

**Plan for an alternate location**
- Do some research in advance of the disaster for several alternative places to relocate your company in case a disaster forces you to close your business for an extended time.
- Contact a local real estate agent to get a list of available office space. You could make an agreement with a neighboring business to share office space. You could also make plans for employees to telecommute until your office reopens.

The Ready Business program, ready.gov/business, gives step-by-step guidance on how to prepare your business for a disaster. The series includes preparedness toolkits for earthquakes, hurricanes, inland flooding, power outages, and severe winds/tornadoes. Spanish materials are available.
Surety bonds help small businesses win construction, supply, and service contracts. Many contracts require surety bonds, which are offered by surety companies. The SBA guarantee provides an incentive for surety companies to work with small businesses that would normally not be able to obtain the bond. Eligible small businesses can receive the bonding assistance necessary to compete for contracting and subcontracting jobs using the Surety Bond Guarantee Program. This program is aimed at small businesses that lack the financial resources or performance track record necessary to secure bonding through regular commercial channels.

Small businesses that often come to the SBA for surety bonds:

- **Startups and firms** in business less than three years
- **Businesses with credit issues** or internally prepared financial statements
- **Subcontract trades** with a desire to establish their own bonding as a prime contractor
- **Those wishing to increase** their current bonding limits
For Public and Private Prime Contracts and all Subcontracts

The SBA guarantees: bid, payment, performance, and ancillary bonds issued by surety companies

Cost of contract: up to $6.5 million

SBA reimburses surety companies in case of default
90 percent of losses sustained for veteran and service-disabled veteran, minority, 8(a), and HUBZone-certified small businesses; all projects up to $100,000
80 percent for all other small businesses.

For Federal Contracts

The SBA guarantees: bid, payment, performance, and ancillary bonds issued by surety companies—if a guarantee would be in the best interest of the government

Cost of contract: up to $10 million

SBA reimburses surety companies in case of default
90 percent of losses sustained for veteran and service-disabled veteran, minority, 8(a), and HUBZone-certified small businesses; all projects up to $100,000
80 percent for all other small businesses.

SBA’s QuickApp Program

Typically, small businesses provide financial statements and other documentation when applying for surety bond guarantees. This process is streamlined under the SBA’s QuickApp program, which is for contracts below $400,000. The streamlined application reduces the normal paperwork to a simple two-page application, and the small business does not need to file any financials with the SBA.

The SBA partners with 31 surety companies and hundreds of bonding agents. Online applications submitted through SBA authorized agents are approved in less than two days for regular applications and within hours for QuickApps. Find authorized agents at sba.gov/osg.

Questions?

Do you want to discuss the advantages of the SBA’s Surety Bond Guarantee Program or need to locate an SBA authorized agent? Contact a bonding specialist:

Tamara E. Murray
Denver, Colo.
(303) 927-3479

Linda M. Laws
Seattle, Wash.
(206) 553-7317

Jennifer C. Bledsoe
Washington, DC
(202) 205-6153
Renée Boyce, president and CEO of My Next Career Path Staffing, LLC, knows firsthand the challenges of small business ownership. “Some of the biggest challenges are getting capital and financing to allow us to grow,” he says. “Sometimes it is hard to get a seat at the table. As a small business, we just need a fair opportunity to bid on contracts.”

Founded in 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada, My Next Career Path Staffing (MNCP Staffing) is a consulting and staffing firm that provides resources to private businesses, public sector firms, and local, state, and federal government agencies nationwide. The company offers temporary and permanent recruitment or recruitment by project in the fields of information technology; engineering; medical, clinical, and professional services; and sales and marketing, and it is known for its IT solutions. The company is a certified 8(a), Minority Business Enterprise, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), and Emerging Small Business in Nevada as well as a certified DBE in Arizona, California, Maryland, Oregon, Texas, and Utah.

“My Next Career Path saves companies time and money,” Boyce says. “Companies often receive hundreds of resumes in response to job ads, and it’s time-consuming to go through them. Reviewing resumes to locate the best candidates is another full-time job. We save time by honing in on the best matches for the firm.”

All business owners know that making a bad hire is expensive. Not only do you spend time and money training someone who isn’t a fit for the job, but then you have to start another candidate search, My Next Career Path prides itself in locating the candidates who are a great match from the start.

In 2017, Boyce was chosen as the SBA Nevada District Office Minority-owned Business of the Year. “The SBA has helped me grow my business by being a useful resource and providing guidance on working in the federal space,” says Boyce. My Next Career Path became a government contractor in 2016 and now reports more than 60 percent of the company’s business is in the federal arena.

The SBA is a resource for small businesses that are interested in working with the government. Boyce says, “It takes time and patience to work in the federal space. It’s certainly not for every business. But by establishing and

My Next Career Path

This small business has made it their business to provide quality staffing in the federal arena.

written by Nikki Bowman
How to do business with the government

1. Identify your product or service number at naics.com.

2. Search the FedBizOpps database (fbo.gov) or web.sba.gov/subnet to see if any federal agencies are looking for your product or service.

3. Attend an SBA district office workshop on contracting. Visit sba.gov/localassistance, or see pages 16-19, to find your local office.

4. Talk to a local Small Business Development Center counselor (page 8) or visit a Procurement Technical Assistance Program adviser for free counseling. Find your closest center at aptac-us.org.


6. See if you’re eligible for a contracting program and start the certification process. All required documents must be uploaded to certify.sba.gov before submitting an offer on a contract set aside for a specific program.

7. Register with the System for Award Management (sam.gov) to start doing business with the government.

The SBA has helped me grow my business by being a useful resource and providing guidance on working in the federal space.”

Renee Boyce, MNCP Staffing president and CEO

building relationships and teaming with partners, we’ve learned how to navigate the federal arena.”

Running a small business can be challenging but it is also very rewarding. Boyce advises other small businesses to use the resources available like PTAC, SBA, and local business chambers. “It is important to build a strong network of relationships,” he points out. “Do not rule out opportunities to subcontract. It will allow you to understand the process and gain experience.”

Boyce has big plans for the future. “My goal is to continue to grow and expand the company globally with even more locations nationwide, while still delivering value-added services to the government and private businesses.”
SBA Contracting Programs

Your business could earn profit and gain valuable work experience by providing goods or services to the government.

The federal government sets aside contracts for small business, and these contracting programs are designed to help you compete for and win federal contracts. Visit SBA.gov/contracting to learn more about set-asides and whether one or more of these government contracting programs is right for your business.

All Small Mentor-Protege Program
Looking for an opportunity to partner with a more experienced firm for mentorship? You may find that effort rewarded in the All Small Mentor-Protege Program, sba.gov/allsmallmpp. At the same time you’re gaining invaluable direction and experience, you and your mentor can compete for government contracts, further growing your business.

To qualify for this program:

• Proteges must have a mentor prior to applying for the program. Visit your local SBA office for guidance. Ask about the SBA’s Resource Partners and the Procurement Technical Assistance Program for help in connecting you with a mentor business.

• You must be certified as a small business within your NAICS industry classification and have experience in that field.

• Mentors and proteges must be organized for profit or as an agricultural cooperative.

• Mentors cannot own more than 40 percent equity in the protege’s business.

• An SBA determination of affiliation must not exist between the mentor and the protege. All Small-approved partnerships receive an exclusion of affiliation for contracting purposes.

8(a) Business Development Program
If you’re an entrepreneur who is socially and economically disadvantaged, you could get business training and government contracting assistance through the 8(a) Business Development Program, sba.gov/8a. The program includes free business development education, training workshops, and match-making opportunities with federal buyers. Firms owned by Alaska Native Corporations, American Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Community Development Corporations are also eligible for 8(a) business development assistance.

To be eligible for the 8(a) program, your small business must meet the following criteria:

• Qualify as a small business which is unconditionally owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged people of good character.
• Be controlled by a U.S. citizen who lives in the United States

• Demonstrate current capacity and potential for success

**Socially disadvantaged:** those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias without regard to their individual qualities because of their identity as members of certain groups. The following groups of people are assumed to be socially disadvantaged: Black Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Hispanic Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and Subcontinent Asian Americans. A person who is not a member of one of these groups must establish that it is more likely than not that they have suffered disadvantage.

**Economically disadvantaged:** those whose ability to compete in the marketplace has been impaired because the person has not had as much capital and credit opportunities compared to others in the same or similar line of business who are not socially disadvantaged.

**The benefits:**

• 8(a) businesses are assigned an SBA professional to help coordinate your business development assistance.

• You could be awarded an 8(a) sole-source contract up to $4 million for goods and services; $7 million for manufacturing, exceptions apply.

**What is an 8(a) sole-source contract?**
A direct awarding of a contract to an 8(a) small business that can provide the needed services.

**HUBZone**
Businesses located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones, also called HUBZones, sba.gov/hubzone, must be certified to gain special access to federal contracts. **To qualify for the program, a small business must:**

• Be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a U.S. citizen(s), a Community Development Corporation, an agricultural cooperative, or an Indian tribe.

• Be located within a HUBZone, which includes Indian reservations and military facilities closed by the Base Realignment and Closure Act. Enter your address in our interactive map to see if your business is located in a HUBZone, https://maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map.

• Have at least 35 percent of your employees residing in a HUBZone.

**For Service-Disabled Veterans:**
If you’re a service-disabled veteran looking to enter the federal marketplace, you may be eligible for this small business certification.

• To determine your eligibility, contact a veterans’ business development officer at your local SBA office, or the SBA’s Office of Veterans Business Development at sba.gov/ovbd.
Women-Owned Small Business Certification

If you’re a woman proprietor looking to sell to the federal government, you may be eligible for the Women-Owned Small Business certification, [sba.gov/wosb](http://sba.gov/wosb).

Here’s how to get certified:

1. **Make sure you’re eligible**
   - Your business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more women who are U.S. citizens. The ownership must be direct and unconditional.
   - A woman must hold the highest officer position and have managerial experience required to run the business.
   - One or more women must manage the daily business operations on a full-time basis and conduct long-term decision making and planning.

To qualify as an economically disadvantaged woman-owned small business, your company must meet these criteria and the business owner and/or manager must meet certain income and asset requirements.

2. **Register**
   - Register with the System for Award Management (sam.gov) to start doing business with the government.

3. **Certify**
   - Self-certify as a woman-owned small business or an economically disadvantaged woman-owned small business for free, or obtain certification from one of the SBA’s approved third-party certifiers (which costs a fee):
     - El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
     - National Women Business Owners Corporation
     - U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce
     - Women’s Business Enterprise National Council

All required documents must be uploaded to [certify.sba.gov](http://certify.sba.gov) prior to submitting an offer on a contract set aside for the program.

4. **Update your status**
   - Update your status as a woman-owned small business in [sam.gov](http://sam.gov).

5. **Search the database**
   - Search the FedBizOpps database ([fbo.gov](http://fbo.gov)) for your new business opportunity.
Local Contracting Resources
Regional/State Contracting Programs

**Procurement Technical Assistance Centers**

**Washington Procurement Technical Assistance Center – Main Office**

Chelan, Grays Harbor, Kittitas, Lewis, San Juan, Thurston, Pacific, and Wakiakhum counties

4220 Sixth Ave., Lacey, WA 98503  
(360) 754-6320

[WashingtonPTAC.org](http://WashingtonPTAC.org)  
thurston@washingtonptac.org

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**Everett**

Island, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom counties

Economic Alliance of Snohomish County  
808 134th St. SW, suite 101  
Everett, WA 98204  
(425) 248-4223

Cate Taylor  
snohomish@washingtonptac.org

**Kennewick**

Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Yakima counties

Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce  
7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., suite C  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 491-3231

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**Spokane**

Adams, Asotin, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Spokane, Whitman counties

Greater Spokane Inc.  
801 W. Riverside Ave., suite 100  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 321-3641

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Ryan Rodin  
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**Tacoma**

Pierce County

Bates Technical College  
1101 S. Yakima Ave, room M123B  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
(253) 680-7054

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pierce@washingtonptac.org

**Vancouver**

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania counties

Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce  
1101 Broadway, suite 100  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
(360) 567-7054

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**Silverdale**

Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason counties

Kitsap Economic Development Alliance  
2021 NW Myhre Road, suite 100  
Silverdale, WA 98383  
(360) 377-9499

Mary Jo Juarez or Kathy Cocus  
kitsap@washingtonptac.org

**Auburn (King county)**

Green River Community College  
1221 D. St. NE, suite C, Auburn, WA 98002  
(253) 520-6267

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**Everett (King county)**

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1221 D. St. NE, suite C, Everett, WA 98203  
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Washington State Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprises
(Washington State Certification and DoT Federal Certification)
1110 Capitol Way South, suite 150
Olympia, WA 98501
Main: (360) 664-9750
Toll Free: (866) 208-1064
omwbe.wa.gov/certification

Idaho Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program
(Idaho State Certification and DoT Federal Certification)
Office of Civil Rights
3311 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83703
(208) 334-8567
itd.idaho.gov/business
Despite recent budget cuts, the U.S. federal marketplace remains a lucrative opportunity for small businesses. The federal government typically spends approximately $500 billion in contracts every year and the law requires that 23 percent of these dollars be awarded to small businesses.

But doing business with the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world isn’t easy. One of the biggest challenges that small businesses face is uncovering the right opportunities—ones that match their capabilities and growth plans.

Here are eight tips and resources to help you find government contract opportunities that make sense for your small business.

1. **Familiarize yourself with the rules.** Before a contract opportunity comes along that excites you, be prepared. Familiarize yourself with what’s involved with selling to the federal government. It’s quite different to the private sector with much longer lead times and strict bidding and product requirements.

2. **Understand what the government is buying.** Now it’s time to get strategic. Every agency and department has unique goals. Identifying these can help you target a niche or opportunity for your products or services.

   The good news is that the government offers potential contractors something that no other sector does—an insight into its budgetary priorities.

   What the government intends to buy and how much it has to spend is all in the public domain. These budgets (actually they read more like mission strategy papers than budgets) offer sufficient context for savvy small businesses to identify opportunities and focus their contracting sales and marketing strategy. Each federal agency or department budget is listed on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) website.

3. **Zero in on agencies that aren’t meeting their small business goals.** Each year the SBA negotiates formal goals with individual agencies to ensure that small businesses get their fair share of federal contracts. For several consecutive years, many agencies have fallen short of their targets. So who made the grade and who didn’t? The Federal Procurement Data System posts scorecards for each agency. Could there be an opportunity here for your small business to lend its services and goods to help these agencies hit their targets next year?

4. **Research existing and upcoming opportunities.** Once you’ve identified agency initiatives that align with what your business has to offer, start tracking contract opportunities and solicitations that align with these on sites such as USA Spending.gov and FedBizOpps.gov. Market intelligence firms like ONVIA or ImmixGroup can also do the work for you (ImmixGroup also has a useful blog that highlights upcoming opportunities as well as contracting tips).

5. **Put boots on the ground.** Make a point of attending agency- or industry-specific government events. These are hosted by the private sector but attract the procurement community, influencers and industry experts. Useful sites to explore for upcoming events include GovWin, GovEvents, and if you’re interested in the lucrative IT government market Digital Government Institute, ACT-IAC and GovMark Council are worth checking out.

6. **Find a partner and advocate in the OSDBU.** Another excellent way of getting in front of government buyers is to take advantage of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) outreach events and expos. These serve to connect business owners to government buyers. You can view the upcoming event calendar here.

   These events also offer guidance on how small businesses can break into the contracting market and take advantage of programs like the 8(a) Business Development Program—a business development tool, which helps thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs gain a foothold in contracting with financial assistance and teaming opportunities.
Get help from SBA procurement reps. Another vital government resource are SBA’s local Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs). PCRs provide services that include training, counseling and business match-making events. Find the PCR in your area.

Don’t go it alone – partner with a government mentor.
Anyone embarking on new ventures can benefit from a mentor. The SBA operates a notable mentor-protege program that can help you get access to contracts. The All Small Mentor-Protege Program (page 55) rewards protege small businesses and experienced mentor firms with government contracting opportunities. The program’s objective is to motivate larger companies to lend their knowledge to smaller, less experienced businesses so they can together compete for government contracts.

Written by Caron Beesley, Contributor

Additional Resources
For more tips and insights on breaking into and growing your business in the government contracting marketplace, check out these resources:

- **SBA Contracting Guide**: A deep dive into getting started, available resources and more. sba.gov/contracting

- **Contracting Blogs**: Learn about the latest resources and programs, and get tips on how to succeed. sba.gov/blogs/contracting

- **SBA Government Contracting Classroom**: Self-paced online courses on all aspects of the contracting process. sba.gov/contracting/resources-small-businesses/government-contracting-classroom

Government contracting has led to new opportunities for Michael Mills, principal of Mills Group in Morgantown, West Virginia.
To further the mission of helping small businesses succeed, the SBA has regional offices across the country. Here are some fun facts about each region from sba.gov

Reasons to Love Your Region

**Region 1** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) New Hampshire was home to the first ski club in the United States. As of 2014, Region 1 had the highest number of small business skiing facilities per square mile in the country, and all six region 1 states had skiing facilities.

**Region 2** (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) Small businesses are of key importance to Puerto Rico’s economy. Four out of five Puerto Rican workers are employed at small businesses, as compared to 48% for the United States as a whole.

**Region 3** (District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia) Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia are some of the best states for women-owned businesses. Washington, D.C., and Maryland rank 1 and 3 respectively for the number of businesses owned by women. These two states and the district are in the top 10 for the amount of sales and employment from women-owned businesses.

**Region 4** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee) Region 4 is a center of minority-owned businesses. 23% of all minority-owned businesses are located in region 4, making it the second in the nation. This includes over 35% of all African American-owned businesses, the highest compared to any other region.

**Region 5** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) Region 5 has an active veteran business community. It ranks second in terms of the number of veteran-owned businesses, with Ohio and Illinois in the top 10 states.

**Region 6** (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) Region 6 leads the nation in long-term GDP growth (2009–2016) with 22% over the seven-year period. Texas and Oklahoma experienced the largest growth in the region with 28% and 22% respectively.

**Region 7** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) Region 7 has a booming small health care industry. The region has the most hospitals, general health care, and social assistance small businesses per capita than any other region.

**Region 8** (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) Region 8 is a great place for crafty entrepreneurs. Montana ranks first in the nation in the number of small breweries per capita; Colorado is third, and the region as a whole ranks second.

**Region 9** (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam) Region 9 is a diversity hub. Its 1.9 million minority-owned businesses amount to 24% of all U.S. minority owned businesses, placing it first in the United States in this category. Hawaii tops the country in diversity: 64% of Hawaiian businesses are minority-owned.

**Region 10** (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington) Region 10 leads the country in coastline, fishing, and seafood exports. The region’s maritime endowment is led by Alaska, whose 6,640-mile-long coast is longer than those of the other 49 states combined. The region has the most small fishing operations of any region, and three of its ports—Portland, Seattle, and Anchorage—account for 67% of America’s fish exports.
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