

ASSESSMENT & DISCOVERY

Ready to Start a Business or become an Entrepreneur?

- Small Business Administration (SBA)'s [Small Business Readiness Assessment Guide - 25 questions](#) will give a better understand of how prepared an entrepreneur is to start a business
- [Entrepreneurship Test](#) - based on a list of qualities it takes to be an entrepreneur
- [Gale Business: Plan Builder](#) - Module 1. ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE - questions allow users to explore their ability to be an entrepreneur and reflect on how prepared they are to start a business

Business Ideas

- [Business Ideas](#) provides a [Business Idea Generator](#) tool that lets users select interests and parameters then generates business ideas that fit the criteria. Each business idea section provides a business overview, legal considerations, earning potential, and useful links for businesses

START-UP & ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT: NATIONAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY

[U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) - federal government agency provides:

- [Business Guide](#) - modules for planning, launching, managing and growing a business
- [10 Steps to Start Your Business](#) - learn more about each step in the start-up business journey
- [Funding Programs](#) - financing and SBA loan information
- [Local Assistance](#) - enter a zip code to find local partners for counseling, mentoring, and training
- [Federal Contracting](#) - learn how to find and win federal government contracts
- [Business Licenses and Permits Search Tool](#) - get a list of federal, state and local permits, licenses, and registrations

[Illinois Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) - provides business resources and news

- [Illinois District Office: Chicago](#) - National, Illinois, and Chicagoland business resources, small business events, contracting resources, counseling, capital access, success stories, and [Illinois District Resource Guide](#)

SCORE

- Free help and advice from a network of volunteer small business professionals
- Find a [mentor](#) to help start, grow, or transition a business
- Free business workshops, templates, e-guides, checklists, blogs, infographics, videos, tools

[Illinois: Fox Valley](#) - serves DuPage County

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

- Assists small businesses and entrepreneurs with business plans, franchising, demographics, industry information, tutorials
- [Small Business Research Reports](#) - popular small business ideas, data, trends, associations, related sources of information and links to other small business web resources
- [Market Research Links](#) - research a specific industry
- [Small Business Help Topics](#) - links for starting, growing and managing a small business
- [Cybersecurity](#) - collection of information, resources and tools for small business cybersecurity

[Illinois: Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) at College of DuPage](#)

- One-on-one advising, workshops in management, marketing, finance and operations
- [Top 10 Need to Know Questions When Launching a Business in Illinois](#) - identifies and answers the most important questions when starting a business in Illinois

Small Business | USAGov

- U.S. Government's official website for small businesses provides a wealth of information on all small business topics

Illinois

[State of Illinois Business Website](#)

- Information on managing a business and employees, services, agencies, [Registration, Licenses, and Permits](#)

[Office of the Secretary of State - Services for Business](#)

- Information on Business Brokers, Corporations, Opportunities, LLCs, LL Partnerships, Limited Partnerships, Not-for-Profits, Notary Services, Small Business Center, Securities Trademark/Service mark, Uniform Commercial Code

[Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity](#)

- [Assistance for Business](#) - information about doing business in Illinois including guidance, training, loans, and other resources for start-ups and existing small businesses
- [Step-by-Step Guide to Starting a Business in Illinois](#) - information on legal requirements and additional resources

[Women's Business Development Center](#)

- Headquartered in Chicago to support and accelerate women's business development and growth by providing access to information, contacts, contracts, and capital, including:
- [Start-up & Emerging Business Services](#)
- [Online Business Resources](#)
- [Women's Business Development Center: Aurora](#)

[MBDA Business Center: Chicago](#)

- Develop alliances with local, state, and federal government agencies, major corporations, banks, financial resources and the minority business community to create larger, more strategic minority entrepreneurs

[Selling to the State of Illinois](#)

- Information on the procurement process, special programs for small, diverse and veteran business enterprises to help grow revenues, enhance credentials and build business capacity

DuPage County

[County of DuPage Services for Business](#)

- [Assumed Business Name Registration](#)
- [Building Permit Forms](#)
- [Business Application - Certificate of Ownership \(PDF\)](#)
- [County Code](#)
- [Liquor License](#)
- [Tax Sale Information](#)

[Choose DuPage](#)

- Strives to retain and attract businesses, support county-wide economic development initiatives, and address policy issues critical to the needs of the regional economy

[Innovation DuPage](#)

- Business Incubator that unites start-up founders and small business owners with the people, resources and programs that support their growth

Wheaton

[Starting a Business in Wheaton](#)

- Learn more about Wheaton, available properties, business license application, utilities

[Wheaton Chamber of Commerce](#)

- Helps to promote businesses and enhance economic development

[City of Wheaton Department of Economic Development](#)

- Assists businesses in redevelopment of downtown through Tax Increment Financing and other planning tools, administers business assistance programs, database of available properties

[Downtown Wheaton Association](#)

- Maximizes business opportunities and fosters pride in historic downtown Wheaton

OTHER

[BizFilings Business Owner's Toolkit](#)

- Information on start-up, marketing, finance, running a business, office, HR, tax center, templates

[The Riley Guide: Steps in Starting Your Own Business](#)

- Guide that walks an entrepreneur through the basic steps of getting a business off the ground

[BizLaunch](#)

- Downloadable small business templates include financial sheets and calculators, business plan, sample media release, nondisclosure agreement

[StartupNation](#)

- Community space, articles, podcasts, online seminars and other information on all things small business

[Manta.com](#)

- Information on small companies helping business professionals promote their business and make connections

BLOGS

Entrepreneurs

[Entrepreneur.com](#)

- Devoted to sharing business tools, how-to guides, advice, insight, profiles and other resources for ambitious established and aspiring entrepreneurs

[Small Business Trends](#)

- 2 million+ entrepreneurs, business owners, influencers and experts with 20,000+ pages of content including tech product reviews, small business news, movers and shakers interviews, targeted tips, trends

[Business-Opportunities.biz](#)

- Collection and curation of business ideas, opportunities, information, resources, apps and franchises for anyone who wants to be in business for themselves

[Business Pundit](#)

- Resources and commentary on the latest trends in business and innovation

[SBA Blog](#)

- Insights and updates from Small Business Administration experts, commentary and advice from leaders in the small business industry, success stories from small business owners across the country

[Noobpreneur](#)

- Small business online magazine offering tips, ideas, and tools for small business owners and those who want to enter entrepreneurship

[Global Small Business Blog](#)

- For entrepreneurs and small businesses expanding their businesses internationally

Young Entrepreneurs

[NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation](#)

- Teaches teens real-world business lessons, including how to start and run a small business

[YSN](#)

- Your Success Network has tips and tools for students and young professionals

[Young Upstarts](#)

- Highlights young people, what they do, celebrates their vision and role in changing the world with their ideas, products and services

SELF-DIRECTED ONLINE TRAINING FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND START-UPS

[U.S. Small Business Administration Online Learning Platform](#)

- [Learning Center](#) - courses to help plan, launch, manage, market, and grow small businesses
- [Ascent](#) - specifically for women interested in starting or growing a small business
- [Boots to Business](#) - entrepreneurial education and training program for transitioning service members and their spouses
- [Emerging Leaders Initiative](#) - executive-level series designed to accelerate the growth of high-potential small businesses in America's underserved cities

[BizLaunch](#)

- Everything business including webinars, seminars, training programs and workshops

ONLINE NETWORKING SITES

[Eprez](#)

- Connects entrepreneurs with other entrepreneurs and business owners and provides content on starting, growing and profiting from a business as well as challenges and success stories

[Meet the Boss](#)

- Helps business executives and decision makers across industries tackle challenges and opportunities by connecting them with the knowledge, peer-led insights, and solutions needed to succeed

[LinkedIn](#)

- Build and engage with a professional network, access knowledge, insights and opportunities

TAXATION

[IRS Starting a New Business](#)

- Links to federal tax information including identifying a business structure, employer identification numbers, record keeping, business taxes, and a checklist for all necessary tax-related small business filings

[IRS Small Business & Self-Employed Tax Center](#)

- Resources for taxpayers who file Form 1040, 1040-SR, Schedules C, E, F, Form 2106, and small businesses with assets under \$10 million

[Small Business Tax Workshop](#)

- Series created by the IRS to help small business owners understand and meet federal tax obligations

[Illinois - Department of Revenue - Businesses](#)

- Information on how to file and pay business taxes, business registrations, other tax information and resources

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

[Intellectual Property Basics](#)

- Short (3-5 min.) videos guide entrepreneurs through concepts of intellectual property including patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets

BUSINESS LAW

[Nolo.com Self-Help Law Center](#)

- Articles and information every business owner needs to be successful and avoid legal problems

[Illinois Legal Aid Online - Owning or Running a Business](#)

- Legal resources (articles, guides, how-to's, videos, links) to help Illinois small business owners with legal issues and questions