



U.S. Small Business
Administration

SOUTH FLORIDA EDITION 2020

Small Business

RESOURCE GUIDE



How to Grow Your BUSINESS in South Florida

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Patrick Fenech
Sr. VP / Managing Director SBA Lending
pfenech@american**momentum**.bank
(813) 833-9002



Ruben Alfaras
Sr. VP / SBA Business Development Officer
ralfaras@american**momentum**.bank
(813) 748-7926



Steven R. Hoschak
VP / SBA Business Development Officer
shoschak@american**momentum**.bank
(813) 300-9246



Jeannine Balanky
VP / SBA Business Development Officer
jbalanky@american**momentum**.bank
(904) 477-7057

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CONTENTS



South Florida Edition 2020



Local Business Assistance

- 8 National Success Story**
Jerado and Joyce Reynolds know their local landscape for entrepreneurship support.
- 11 Local SBA Resource Partners**
- 13 10 Steps to Start Your Business**
- 14 How to Start a Business**
- 18 Your Advocates**
- 19 Opportunities for Veterans**
- 20 Entrepreneurial Opportunities**
- 22 Write Your Business Plan**

Funding Programs

- 24 National Success Story**
Jennifer and Jeff Herbert's meadery has expanded into a multimillion dollar enterprise thanks to SBA assistance.
- 27 SBA Lenders**
- 31 Need Financing?**
- 32 Go Global with International Trade**
- 34 R&D Opportunities for High Growth Startups**
- 36 National Success Story**
Cheeseburger Baby owner Stephanie Vitori persevered through a financial storm and a natural disaster.
- 42 Surety Bonds**

Contracting

- 44 National Success Story**
Jennifer Rahn steers the course for Admiral Engineering, succeeding as a small business subcontractor.
- 47 Government Contracting**
- 48 SBA Certification Programs**
- 49 Woman-Owned Small Business certification**

ON THE COVER Stephanie and Gabriele Vitori, courtesy of the SBA, by Kirk Francis

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FOR VETERANS.**

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BUSINESS SUCCEED WITH FEDERAL
AGENCIES, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND
AMERICA'S LEADING CORPORATIONS**

**AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR
BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM, FINISH
WITH SCORE, GET YOUR SBA LOAN, MEET
WITH YOUR VBOC, PTAC OR SBDC
COUNSELORS, WE ARE THE NEXT LEVEL
UP TO ASSURE YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESS.**

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PUBLISHER

Nikki Bowman, nikki@newsouthmediainc.com

DESIGNER

Hayley Richard, hayley@newsouthmediainc.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Pam Kasey, pam@newsouthmediainc.com

Jess Walker, jess@newsouthmediainc.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Holly Leleux-Thubron, holly@newsouthmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR

Heather Mills, heather@newsouthmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Meggan Hoyman, Kelley McGinnis, Bryson Taylor

sba@newsouthmediainc.com

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WRITER/EDITOR

Becky Bosshart

(202) 205-6677

rebecca.bosshart@sba.gov

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Paula Panissidi Tavares

paula.tavares@sba.gov

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SBA South Florida District Office

51 SW First Ave., suite 201
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 536-5521
Fax (305) 536-5058
sba.gov/southflorida
@SBA_SouthFL

Tampa Office

501 E. Kennedy Blvd., suite 1210
(813) 228-2100

Fort Pierce Office

505 S. Second St., suite 225
(772) 466-1944

District Director

Victoria Guerrero
(305) 536-5533
victoria.guerrero@sba.gov

Deputy District Director

Jonel Hein
(305) 536-5527
jonel.hein@sba.gov

Lead Lender Relations Specialist

Debra Salas
(305) 536-5835
debra.salas@sba.gov

Senior Area Managers

Tampa
Hipolito Castro
(813) 228-2100 x24
hipolito.castro@sba.gov

Ft. Pierce
Vincent LoPresti
(772) 466-1944
vincent.lopresti@sba.gov

Lead Economic Development Specialists

Miami Area
Althea Harris
(305) 536-5828
althea.harris@sba.gov

Fort Pierce Area
Leon Koyama
(772) 466-3176
leon.koyama@sba.gov

Economic Development Specialist

Tina Davis
(305) 536-5528
tina.davis@sba.gov

Business Opportunity Specialists

Ray Lewis
(772) 466-3176
rabon.lewis@sba.gov

Aimee Perez
(305) 536-5981
aimee.perez@sba.gov

Ronald Brunner
(305) 536-5899
ronald.brunner@sba.gov

Gustavo Vergara
(305) 536-5839
gustavo.vergara@sba.gov

Public Affairs Specialist

Heather Hines
(305) 536-5844
heather.hines@sba.gov

District Support Assistant

Maritza Perez
(305) 536-5522
maritza.perez@sba.gov

Administrative Officer

Diane Haag
(305) 536-7561

District Counsel

Natalia M. Batista Vázquez
(305) 536-5540
natalia.vazquez@sba.gov

Regional International Trade Manager

Mary Hernandez
(305) 536-5835 or (305) 526-7425 x21
mary.hernandez@sba.gov

Office of SBDCs Program Analyst

Traci Giddens
(305) 536-5982
traci.giddens@sba.gov

Office of Government Contracting General Business & Industry Specialist

Ivette Mesa Bascombe
(305) 536-5749
ivette.mesabascumbe@sba.gov

Procurement Center Representative

Scott Nirk
(305) 536-5769
scott.nirk@sba.gov



LOCAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

How We Did It

Made to Last

Joyce and Jerado Reynolds used SBA support to succeed.

WRITTEN BY MICAELA MORRISSETTE



Reynolds Welding & Fabrication has grown steadily, building a loyal customer base, since Jerado Reynolds founded the company in 2005.

“At first the company was just Jerado,” recalls his wife and co-owner, Joyce Reynolds. “Then it was him and me part time.” During the day she worked as a nurse and spent her evenings doing all the company’s paperwork. The Reynolds sank everything they earned into the business—money, time, and energy. She remembers with pride helping Jerado weld a stair railing at a local school. Her son later attended that same school, and she watched her child and others using the rail, benefiting from the hard work the couple did together. It was then Joyce decided as much as she loved her day job, she wanted to devote herself full time to the family business in Windsor, Connecticut. She wanted to work side-by-side with her husband, fully focused on administration and business growth. As they both hoped, word of mouth spread; clients made referrals. Joyce was soon overwhelmed with paperwork. They brought on two employees—doubling up in the busy seasons. They were able to maintain four full-time employees by 2009. After this, Joyce says, they saw that “things were not moving.” She wanted to scale up.

Challenge

The company wasn’t growing in part because it wasn’t certified with the state department of transportation or prequalified with the Connecticut State Department of Administrative Services, Joyce says. She decided to tackle the certification problem full time, leaving her nursing career. This was the change she’d been wanting to make, but since her background was in health care, Joyce didn’t feel fluent in the languages of construction or business. Joyce wanted to learn, and she had incentive: they needed the certifications to bid on bigger jobs. “Never be afraid to ask questions,” she says. Joyce needed to find people with answers.

Solution

She and Jerado connected with the University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center & Women’s Business Center, an



SBA Resource Partner, where “from day one it was, Eureka! Everyone wanted to see us win.” Women entrepreneurs receive essential business counseling and training from this national network of community-based centers. Most helpful was the detailed personal attention available through free one-on-one business counseling. Joyce also learned about workshops offered by providers like the Metropolitan District, a Connecticut nonprofit municipal corporation offering water and sewer services. At a meet-and-greet, Joyce understood how much the SBA could help her business. An SBA professional walked Joyce through the extensive paperwork and, crucially, helped her register the company in the System for Award Management (sam.gov), positioning the company for new federal contracts.

“Resources like the Entrepreneurial Center and the SBA will train you from bottom to top,” Joyce says. “They have finance classes that open your eyes regarding taxes. You’ll learn how to register your business. They’ll help with a contract or your website or accountability statements. Everything!”

Before the SBA, Reynolds Welding attempted the DOT certification on five separate occasions, always falling short because the process was so complicated. Joyce secured the certification with SBA guidance on the first attempt.

Benefit

Reynolds Welding now employs more than 15 workers, constructing stairs, rails, structural beams, and columns throughout the region. Jerado is working

5 Tips for Success

Find a great business mentor.

To find your local SBA office and resource partners in your area, visit sba.gov/localresources.

Have a healthy view of competition.

We’re not always competing. We’re a competitor, but if a similar business has extra work, they’ll send it to us and vice versa. That’s the relationship to have.

Record everything you do.

Navigating business relationships in this age means keeping an email record of everything you do. Leave a clear paper trail.

Sacrifice to ensure quality.

We don’t cut corners. Sometimes you have to lose money to do quality work—it’s rough, but nothing is more important.

Seek SBA assistance to see if you qualify for business certifications.

We used to look for jobs. Now that we’re on the SBA Subcontracting Network database, SubNet, and sam.gov, we have a continuous flow of contractors reaching out to us.

on two bridges—a lifelong dream. Joyce continues to move forward, getting Reynolds qualified for the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program, which provides free business development education to small businesses so they can better compete in the public sector. “When I came on full time, I set a goal for what I would like for the company, and I’ve achieved 80% of that,” Joyce says. When she secures 8(a) certification for Reynolds, she’ll have hit all her objectives. Then, she admits, she’ll probably come up with some new ones. ■

SBA Resource Partners

No matter your industry, location, or experience, if you have a dream, the SBA is here to help you achieve it. Our SBA Resource Partners offer mentoring, counseling, and training to help you startup and thrive at all stages of the business life cycle. These independent organizations operating across the United States and U.S. territories are funded through SBA cooperative agreements or grants.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

950+

**Small Business
Development Centers**

Achieve your dream of business ownership and remain competitive in an ever-changing global economy with assistance from your local SBDC. Access free counseling and free or low-cost training on topics like regulatory compliance, technology development, and international trade. Find an SBDC adviser at sba.gov/sbdc.

SCORE

300+

SCORE chapters

Join the ranks of other business owners who have experienced higher revenues and increased growth thanks to SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer business mentors. Experienced executives share real-world knowledge to fit your busy schedule. SCORE mentors are available for free as often as you need, in person, via email or over video chat. Find a mentor at sba.gov/score.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

100+

**Women's Business
Centers**

Women entrepreneurs receive essential business counseling and training from this national network of community-based centers. Each center tailors its services to help you navigate the challenges women often face when starting or growing a business. To learn about SBA resources for women visit sba.gov/women.

VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS

20+

**Veterans Business
Outreach Centers**

Veteran and military entrepreneurs receive business training, counseling, and referrals to other SBA Resource Partners at a Veterans Business Outreach Center, sba.gov/vboc. Receive procurement guidance to better compete for government contracts. VBOCs also serve active duty service members, National Guard or Reserve members, veterans of any era, and military spouses.

Our Local SBA Resource Partners

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



Arthur and Sandra Johnson, owners of 21 Short Stop in Georgia, received assistance from their local Small Business Development Center and SCORE chapter.

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SCORE

Visit sba.gov/score to start working on your business goals. Contact your local office to schedule an appointment.

South Palm Beach Chapter

7999 N. Federal Highway, suite 201
Boca Raton
(561) 981-5180

Port Charlotte Chapter

1777 Tamiami Trail, suite 411
(941) 743-6179

Pinellas County Chapter

4707 140th Ave. N, suite 311
Clearwater
(727) 437-0990

Pasco-Hernando Chapter

6014 US Highway 19, suite 302
New Port Richey
(727) 842-4638

Southwest Florida Chapter

3650 Colonial Blvd., suite 231
Fort Myers
(239) 489-2935

Space Coast Chapter

1600 Sarno Road, suite 205
Melbourne
(321) 254-2288

Treasure Coast Chapter

3220 S. US Highway 1, suite 2
Fort Pierce
(772) 489-0548

Tampa Chapter

2101 E. Palm Ave., Suite A
(813) 448-2311

Palm Beach Chapter

500 S. Australian Ave., suite 115
West Palm Beach
(561) 833-1672

Manasota Chapter

2801 Fruitville Road, suite 280
Sarasota
(941) 955-1029

Central Florida Chapter

100 S. Kentucky Ave. #230
Lakeland
(863) 284-5607

Miami Dade Chapter

2000 Ponce de Leon Blvd., suite 600
Miami
(786) 425-9119

Naples Chapter

900 Goodlette Road N
(239) 430-0081

Broward Chapter

299 E. Broward Blvd. #123
Fort Lauderdale
(954) 356-7263

Florida Small Business Development Centers

SBDC Network Headquarters

State Director Michael Myhre
220 W. Garden St., suite 301-302
Pensacola
(850) 898.3479
floridasbdc.org

Eastern Florida State College SBDC easternflorida.edu/go/sbdc

3865 N. Wickham Road, building 10, room 117
Melbourne
(321) 433-5570

Florida Atlantic University SBDC sbdc.fau.edu

Higher Education Complex, suite 1010
111 E. Las Olas Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale
(954) 762-5235

Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC fsbdcswfl.org

Fort Myers

Lutgert College of Business
10501 FGCU Blvd. S, unit 2320
(239) 745-3700

Cape Coral

1020 Cultural Park Blvd., unit 3
(239) 573-2737

Port Charlotte

2702 Tamiami Trail
(941) 627-2222

Florida International University sbdc.fiu.edu

South Tower Penthouse, 11th floor
1101 Brickell Ave.

Miami

(305) 779-9230

Indian River State College SBDC irscbiz.com

Fort Pierce

3209 Virginia Ave., building Y, room 101
(772) 462-7296 or (888) 283-1177

Port St. Lucie

500 NW California Blvd., F-123
(772) 336-6282

Vero Beach

IRSC Mueller Campus
6155 College Lane, building B, room 127a
(772) 226-2541

Stuart

2400 SE Salerno Road
(772) 419-5694

University of South Florida SBDC sbdctampabay.com

Tampa

Port Tampa Bay Building Muma College of Business
1101 Channelside Drive, suite 210
(813) 905-5800
USF Connect Building
3802 Spectrum Blvd., suite 111
(813) 974-5238
Entrepreneur Collaborative Center
2101 E. Palm Ave.
(813) 204-9267

Avon Park

South Florida State College
600 W. College Drive, building H
(863) 784-7378

Lake Wales

Lake Wales Administration Building
201 W. Central Ave.
(863) 678-4182 x227

Lakeland

35 Lake Morton Drive
(863) 688-8551 x237

Sarasota

Economic Development Corp. of Sarasota County
1680 Fruitville Road, suite 402
(941) 309-1200 x107

Bradenton

1112 Manatee Ave. W
(941) 748-4501 x 6201

Clearwater

Pinellas County Economic Development
13805 58th St. N, suite 1-200
(727) 453-7200

St. Petersburg

140 Seventh Ave. S, Davis 108
(727) 453-7200

University of Central Florida SBDC sbdcorlando.com

Orlando

3201 E. Colonial Drive, suite A-20
(407) 420-4850

Kissimmee

Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce
1425 E. Vine St.
(407) 847-2452

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.

Gulf Coast State College

Associate Director Brent Peacock
Asbell Building, room 206
5230 W. Highway 98
Panama City
(800) 542-7232
info@vboc.org

Women's Business Centers

Florida Women's Business Center

Program Director Victoria Hughes
401 W. Atlantic Ave., suite O9
Delray Beach
(561) 265-3790
victoria@flwbc.org

Women's Business Centre

Program Director Donna Obernberger
305 S. Hyde Park Ave.
Tampa
(813) 251-8437
dobernberger@thecentre.org

weVenture

Program Director Val Williams
2202 S. Babcock St.
Melbourne
(321) 674-7007
vwilliams@fit.edu



10 STEPS to Start Your Business

Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions, and completing a series of legal requirements.

1 Conduct market research.
This will tell you if there's an opportunity to turn your idea into a successful business. Gather information about potential customers and businesses already operating in your area so you can use that information to find a competitive advantage.

2 Write your business plan.
This is the roadmap for how to structure, run, and grow your new business. You'll use it to convince people that working with you and/or investing in your company is a smart choice.

3 Fund your business.
Your business plan will help you figure out how much money you'll need to startup. Investors or lenders will help you get the amount you need.

4 Pick your business location.
Are you setting up a brick-and mortar business or launching online?

5 Choose a business structure.
The legal structure you choose for your business will affect your business registration requirements, how much you pay in taxes, and your personal liability.

6 Choose your business name.
Pick a name reflecting your brand. Check your secretary of state's website to make sure your business name isn't already being used.

7 Register your business.
Once you've picked the perfect business name, it's time to make it legal and protect your brand. If you're doing business under a name different than your own, you'll need to register with the federal government and often your state government.

8 Get federal and state tax IDs.
You'll use your Employer Identification Number for important steps to start and grow your business, like opening a bank account and paying taxes. It's like a social security number for your business. Some, but not all, states require you to get a tax ID as well.

9 Apply for licenses and permits.
Keep your business running smoothly by staying legally compliant. The licenses and permits you need for your business vary by industry, state, and location.

10 Open a business bank account.
A small business checking account can help you handle legal, tax, and day-to-day issues.





How to Start a Business in South Florida

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

The Startup 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 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.

Market Research

Need to do research on your clients and location? View consumer and business data for your area using the Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition, <https://cbb.census.gov/sbe>. Filter your search by business type and location to view data on your potential customers, including consumer spending, and a summary of existing businesses, available as a map and a report.

Business License & Zoning

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 local business license office where you plan to locate your business. You may not be permitted to conduct business out of your home or engage in industrial activity in a retail district.

» Florida Department of State

R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee
(850) 245-6500
<https://dos.myflorida.com>

» Sunbiz Florida Division of Corporations

Clifton Building
2661 Executive Center Circle
Tallahassee
(850) 245-6000
corphelp@dos.myflorida.com
<https://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/start-business/know-before-starting>



Adriana Medina, owner of Fuerte Fitness, in Seattle, WA, received counseling from a SCORE mentor and a Women's Business Center adviser.

Name Registration

Register your business name with the county clerk where your business is located. If you're a corporation, also register with the state.

- » **Division of Corporations**
(850) 245-6058 or x6052
sunbiz.org

Taxes

As a business owner, you should know your federal tax responsibilities and make some business decisions to comply with certain tax requirements. The IRS Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center, go.usa.gov/xPxYR, offers information on a variety of topics including: obtaining an Employer Identification Number, paying and filing income tax, virtual workshops, forms, and publications.

As the IRS continues to implement some of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions, your tax obligations may change. Visit the Tax Reform Provisions that Affect Businesses page on irs.gov for the latest tax reform updates that affect your bottom line.

- » **IRS Tax Assistance Centers**
Open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Call (844) 545-5640 for an appointment

Fort Myers

4210 Metro Parkway
(239) 938-7601

Lakeland

2133 Harden Blvd.
(863) 904-3399

Melbourne

431 N. Wickham Road
(321) 253-7700

Miami

51 SW First Ave.
(352) 401-0010

Plantation/Fort Lauderdale

7850 SW Sixth Court
(954) 423-7300

Port St. Lucie

7410 S. US Highway 1
(772) 340-5606

Saint Petersburg

9450 Koger Blvd.
(727) 568-2459

Sarasota

5971 Cattle Ridge Blvd.
(941) 378-6448

Tampa

3848 W. Columbus Drive
(813) 302-5500

West Palm Beach

1700 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
(561) 616-2002

» State Taxes

(800) 352-3671
<http://www.dor.myflorida.com>

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



Reeves Clippard used the business knowledge he acquired in the SBA Emerging Leaders program to grow A/R Solar in Seattle, WA.

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forms, at (800) 772-1213 or visit socialsecurity.gov/employer. You can file W-2s online or verify job seekers through the Social Security Number Verification Service.

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 Service offers information and assistance through uscis.gov/i-9-central. For forms call (800) 870-3676. For the employer hotline call (888) 464-4218 or email I-9central@dhs.gov.

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

Health & Safety

All businesses with employees are required to comply with state and federal regulations regarding the protection of employees, visit dol.gov for information. The Occupational Safety and Health

Administration provides information on the specific health and safety standards used by the U.S. Department of Labor. Call (800) 321-6742 or visit osha.gov.

» US Dept. of Labor Wage & Hour Division

Ft. Lauderdale-Sunrise

510 Shotgun Road, suite 140
(954) 356-6896

Miami-Sunset Center

10300 SW 72nd St., suite 255
(305) 598-6607

Tampa

4200 W. Cypress St., suite 444
(813) 288-1242

West Palm Beach

1818 S. Australian Ave. #251
(561) 640-0474

» Occupational Safety and Health Administration

5807 Breckenridge Parkway A
Tampa
(813) 626-1177

Employee Insurance

Check with your state laws to see if you are required to provide unemployment or workers' compensation insurance for your employees. For health insurance options, call the Small Business Health Options Program at (800) 706-7893 or visit healthcare.gov/small-businesses/employers.

Department of Labor Association Health Plans allow small businesses, including self-employed workers, to band together by geography or industry to obtain healthcare coverage as if they were a single large employer. For information, visit dol.gov/general/topic/association-health-plans.

Environmental Regulations

State assistance is available for small businesses that must comply with environmental regulations under the Clean Air Act. State Small Business Environmental Assistance programs provide free and confidential assistance to help small business owners understand and comply with complex environmental regulations and permitting requirements. These state programs can help businesses reduce emissions at the source, often reducing regulatory burden and saving you money. To learn more about these free services visit nationalsbeap.org/states/list.

Accessibility and ADA Compliance

For assistance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, call the ADA Center at (800) 949-4232 or the Department of Justice at (800) 514-0301. Direct questions about accessible design and the ADA standards to the U.S. Access Board at (800) 872-2253, TTY (800) 993-2822, ta@access-board.gov or visit access-board.gov.

Child Support

Employers are essential to the success of the child support program and are responsible for collecting 75% of support nationwide through payroll deductions. The Office of Child Support Enforcement at Health and Human Services offers employers step-by-step instructions for processing income withholding orders for child support. Download the fact sheet about the Employer's Role in the Child Support Program at the Office of Child Support Enforcement's website at acf.hhs.gov/programs/css > **employer responsibilities**. You can also find information about other employer responsibilities and tools that can make meeting those responsibilities easier, such as electronic income withholding orders and the Child Support Portal. Send questions to employerservices@acf.hhs.gov.

Intellectual Property

Patents, trademarks, and copyrights are types of intellectual property that serve to protect creations and innovations. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is the federal agency that grants U.S. patents and registers trademarks. For information and resources about U.S. patents and federally registered trademarks consult uspto.gov. Call the patent and trademark office help center at (800) 786-9199 or visit Texas Regional Office in Dallas, uspto.gov/texas.

A patent for an invention is the grant of a property right to an inventor, issued by the U.S. patent office. The right conferred by the patent grant is the right to exclude others

from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention in the United States or importing the invention into the country.

For information visit uspto.gov/inventors.

There are three types of patents:

- Utility patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement.
- Design patents may be granted to anyone who invents a new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.
- Plant patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers and asexually reproduces any distinct and new variety of plant, other than a tuber propagated plant or a plant found in an uncultivated state.

A trademark or service mark includes any word, name, symbol, device, or any combination, used or intended to be used to identify and distinguish the goods/services of one seller or provider from those of others and to indicate the source of the goods/services. Trademarks and service marks may be registered at both the state and federal level. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office only registers federal trademarks and service marks. Federally registered trademarks may conflict with and supersede those registered only at the state level. Visit uspto.gov/trademarks.

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 they may protect the way they are expressed. For general information contact:

» U.S. Copyright Office

U.S. Library of Congress
James Madison Memorial Building
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC
(202) 707-3000 or toll free (877) 476-0778
copyright.gov

Economic Development

Department of Economic Opportunity

Caldwell Building
107 E. Madison St.
Tallahassee
(850) 717-8519
floridajobs.org

Florida Chamber of Commerce

136 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee
(850) 521-1200
info@flchamber.com



Your Advocates

The SBA's offices of advocacy and ombudsman are independent voices for small business within the federal government.

To report how a proposed federal regulation could unfairly affect you, find your regional SBA advocate at sba.gov/advocacy.

To submit a comment about how your business has been hurt by an existing regulation, visit sba.gov/ombudsman/comments

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, 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, sba.gov/ombudsman.

To submit a comment or complaint 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.



▲ HOW THE SBA HELPED US SUCCEED

Margot Adam Langstaff, left, and Elisa Hamill, right, sought assistance from their local Veterans Business Outreach Center, which helped them better compete for government contracts. LifeHealth of Littleton, CO has expanded to more than 30 states with offices in Washington, DC and San Antonio, TX. Their clients include the Department of Defense, the National Guard, and the Indian Health Service. They also expanded their business using an SBA-backed line of credit for \$350,000. Margot started her career as an Army medic, eventually running one of the largest outpatient clinics in the Northeast at Ft. Devens, MA.



Opportunities for Veterans

Members of the military community can start and grow their small businesses with the help of SBA programs.

Need entrepreneurship training?

In Boots to Business, you explore business ownership and other self-employment opportunities while learning key business concepts. You will walk away with an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals, including how to access startup capital using SBA resources. Boots to Business is conducted on all military installations as part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program.

Who's eligible?

Service members transitioning out of active duty and military spouses. Are you a veteran or member of the National Guard or Reserve or a military spouse? Boots to Business: Reboot teaches this entrepreneurship curriculum off base and in local communities. Register for either B2B program at <https://sbavets.force.com>.

For women veterans

Receive entrepreneurial training geared toward women veterans, service members, and spouses of service members through these SBA-funded programs:

- » Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship in Syracuse, New York
- » LiftFund in San Antonio, Texas

For service-disabled veterans

Learn how to start and grow a small business using these SBA-funded programs:

- » Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities in Syracuse, New York
- » Veterans Entrepreneurship Program at the Riata Center for Entrepreneurship, Spears School of Business, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma
- » Veteran Entrepreneurship Jumpstart at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- » Dog Tag Inc., affiliated with Georgetown University in Washington, DC

Need financing?

Loan Fee Relief

To encourage lending to members of the military community who want to start or grow their business, the SBA reduces upfront guarantee fees on select loans. That means the cost savings will be passed down to you, the eligible veteran or qualifying military member. Ask your local SBA district office or SBA Lender about the Veterans Advantage program.

Have an employee who was called to active duty?

You may receive funds that enable your business to meet ordinary and necessary operating expenses when an essential employee is called up to active duty in the military reserve. Ask your local SBA district office or SBA Lender about the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

Interested in contracting?

Veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses interested in federal contracting receive training from the Veteran Institute for Procurement, which offers a platform with three training programs to assist veterans. Visit nationalvip.org.

VIP Start

Enter the federal market and become ready for procurement. Nearly 200 veteran-owned businesses from 29 states plus Washington, DC have graduated from the program.

VIP Grow

Strategize to expand and operate within the federal marketplace. More than 700 veteran-owned businesses from 42 states plus DC and Guam have graduated from this program.

VIP International

Enter or expand your federal and commercial contracting opportunities overseas.

Get certified

Learn about the service-disabled veteran-owned small business certification program on page 49.

For more assistance

Veteran and military entrepreneurs receive business training, counseling, and referrals to other SBA Resource Partners at a Veterans Business Outreach Center, sba.gov/vboc. For veterans business information visit sba.gov/veterans.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Regional Innovation Clusters

Create jobs and grow the economy through an SBA Regional Innovation Cluster.

Who should join

Small businesses driving innovation in one of these tech industries:

- advanced composites
- agTech
- bioscience
- food processing
- data sciences
- medical sciences
- power and energy
- unmanned aerial systems
- water tech
- wood products

How it works

Each industry cluster is based in a geographic region. Your small business must be located in or near that region in order to join the cluster. For example, the AgLaunch Initiative cluster, which focuses on agricultural technology, is located in the Tennessee area. A small agTech business in or near Tennessee will connect with other agTech suppliers, service providers, and related institutions through that innovation cluster.

How it benefits you

Network with other industry innovators and connect with resources that will help your small business find funding. You'll also receive guidance on how to better compete for government contracts and other opportunities so you can grow and expand. Receive free technical and legal assistance to develop your tech and get it to market for government and industry buyers.

Get involved

Find an SBA Regional Innovation Cluster near you by visiting sba.gov/localassistance. Select the regional innovation clusters on the drop-down menu.

Online Resources

Find free short courses and learning tools to start and grow your small business at sba.gov/learning. The free SBA Online Learning Center is a great resource for every entrepreneur, especially rural business owners looking for easy access to vital business training.



Courses include:

- writing your business plan
- buying a business
- financing options
- digital and traditional marketing to win customers
- disaster recovery
- understanding your customer

Native American Workshops

Tribal enterprises and business organizations can receive training at an SBA Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop. These workshops cover business concepts important for starting, growing, or expanding a small business. RedWind instructors identify and help participants avoid common pitfalls. Learn how to prepare a business plan, gain access to capital, and basic book keeping. Request a workshop in your area by visiting nativesmallbusiness.org.

SBA Regional Innovation Clusters



- 1 Autonomous & Unmanned Systems Cluster – Emerging Tech Ventures**
- 2 The Ozarks Cluster – Startup Junkie**
(Industry focus: Food processing, supply chain, & logistics)
- 3 The Water Council Cluster**
- 4 Marine Industry Science & Technology Cluster**
- 5 BioSTL: St. Louis Biosciences Cluster**
- 6 Oklahoma-South Kansas Unmanned Aerial Systems Cluster**
- 7 The Appalachian Ohio Wood Products Cluster**
- 8 Conductor RIC in Healthcare, Education & Data/Decision Sciences – Startup Junkie Consulting**
- 9 Integrative Business Services Inc.**
(Industry focus: Optics)
- 10 Great Plains Technology & Manufacturing Cluster**
- 11 Montana Bioscience Cluster – Montana Technology Enterprise Center**
- 12 AgLaunch Initiative**
- 13 Utah Advanced Material Manufacturing Initiative**
- 14 Defense Alliance - LSI Business Development Inc.** *(Industry focus: Advanced Power and Energy)*

Write your Business Plan

Your business plan is the foundation of your business. Learn how to write a business plan with the help of an SBA Resource Partner.



Business plans help you run your business.

A good business plan guides you through managing your business. You'll use your business plan as a roadmap for how to structure, run, and grow your new business.

Business plans can help you get funding or bring on new business partners. Investors want to 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 investment. Brain storm with a business counselor (visit one of our SBA Resource Partners detailed on page 8) and write a **traditional business plan**, which uses a standard structure and detailed sections. Once you've got it all down, you can then condense it to a lean startup business plan, which typically contains key points on only one page.

TRADITIONAL BUSINESS PLAN FORMAT

When you write your business plan, you don't have to stick to the exact business plan template. Instead, use the sections that make the most sense for your business and your needs.

Executive Summary

Briefly summarize your company 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

Go into detail about the problems your business solves. Be specific as to audience and location. List out the consumers, organizations, or businesses your company plans to serve.

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

Market Analysis

Demonstrate a solid understanding of your industry outlook and target market. This is where it pays to partner with an experienced business counselor from your local Small Business Development Center, SCORE, Women's Business Center, or Veterans Business Outreach Center—all these SBA Resource Partners provide free or low-cost business assistance. Competitive research will show what other businesses are doing and their strengths. 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

Explain 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 limited liability company.

Want to see an example of a business plan?

View examples of business plans at [sba.gov/business-guide/plan/write-your-business-plan-template](https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan/write-your-business-plan-template)

TRADITIONAL BUSINESS PLAN CHECKLIST

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

Use an organizational chart to show the hierarchy. Explain how each person's experience will contribute to the success of your venture. Consider including CVs of key members.

Service or Product Line

Describe what you sell or what service you offer. Explain how it benefits your customers and the product lifecycle. 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.

Marketing and Sales

Your marketing strategy should evolve and change to fit your needs in each context.

Describe how you'll attract and retain customers. Show how a sale will actually happen. You'll refer to this section later when you make financial projections, so be thorough.

Funding Request

If you're asking for funding, outline your funding requirements. Specify whether you want debt or equity and the terms you'd like. Your goal is to clearly explain how much funding you'll need over the next five years and how the investment will be used.

Specify if you need funds to buy equipment or materials, pay salaries, or cover specific bills until revenue increases. Explain how you'll pay off the debt.

Financial Projections

Supplement your funding request with a prospective financial outlook for the next five years. Show how your business 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. List collateral you could put against a loan.

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.

Use visual organization tools--graphs and charts—to tell your business's financial story.

Appendix

Here you'll attach supporting documents or other requested materials. Common items to include are credit histories, CVs, product pictures, letters of reference, licenses, permits, patents, legal documents, and other contracts.

LEAN STARTUP PLAN FORMAT

Write a lean startup plan if requested from an investor, or if your business is relatively simple or you plan to regularly change and refine as you go.

Lean startup plans use more visual organization tools and only a handful of elements to describe your company's value proposition, infrastructure, customers, and finances. They're useful for visualizing your company's fundamental facts. Your business counselor can help you edit down into the Business Model Canvas, used here—the most well known style, or another lean startup template.

Key Partnerships

Note the other businesses you'll work with--suppliers, manufacturers, subcontractors, and similar strategic partners.

Key Activities

List the ways your business will gain a competitive advantage. Will you sell direct to consumers or use technology to tap into the sharing economy?

Key Resources

List resources you'll leverage to create value for your customer. Your most important assets include staff, capital, or intellectual property. 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. Think through the customer experience from start to finish. Is it automated or personal? In person or online?

Customer Segments

Name your target market. Your business won't be for everybody; it's important to have a clear sense of who you serve.

Channels

List the most important ways you'll talk to your customers.

Cost Structure

Will your company focus on reducing cost or maximizing value? Define your strategy, then list the most significant costs you'll face.

Revenue Streams

Explain how your company makes money: direct sales, memberships fees, selling advertising space? If your company has multiple revenue streams, list them all.

LEAN STARTUP PLAN CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer segments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Channels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Value proposition | <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer relationships | |

FUNDING PROGRAMS

Financing Your Small Business

How We Did It

Crafting a Business

SBA-backed financing helped Superstition Meadery expand into a multimillion dollar enterprise.

WRITTEN BY BECKY BOSSHART

Jennifer and Jeff Herbert's home-based brewing has expanded into a global, multimillion dollar enterprise thanks to SBA assistance. Using Arizona honey and ingredients they've sourced from around the world (such as Tahitian vanilla and Moroccan saffron), the Herberts are selling nearly 30,000 gallons annually of their honey-based fermented beverage. They operate a downtown Prescott, Arizona tasting room and state-of-the-art production facility, creating jobs and building a local craft industry. The Herberts, founding members of the American Mead Makers Association, have traveled around the world hosting pairing events and pouring at craft beverage festivals.


Challenge

The Herberts wanted to scale up their meadery while also staying true to their values of quality ingredients and craft process. It is often difficult for new entrepreneurs or unique concepts like a meadery to get traditional financing, even though they knew they had a great idea, the backing wasn't there to expand. They say that choosing to do something new breaks the mold, which can be uncomfortable for traditional lenders.

Solution

Thanks to guidance from an SBA Resource Partner, the Small Business Development Center at Yavapai Community College, Jennifer and Jeff learned about financing that worked for them. The SBA guarantees loans made by lending institutions to small business that would not otherwise be able to obtain financing. Their small business qualified for two SBA-backed loans totaling more than \$600,000. The Herberts' first SBA-backed loan allowed them to acquire commercial property to design and build their mead production facility. Their second SBA-backed loan provided the funding for professional brewing equipment to complete their 7,450-square-foot production space. The Herberts recently purchased a historic building in downtown Phoenix, Arizona to open a mead-pairing restaurant.

Benefit

The Herberts started with two employees and now have over 20 producing 29,000 gallons this year. From a homegrown setup, Jennifer and Jeff are now charting revenue in excess of \$2.6 million and distributing to 37 states, across Europe and Southeast Asia. They have plans for another expansion, including a shipping warehouse to manage their online retail and wholesale orders. 



Jeff & Jennifer Herbert, owners of Superstition Meadery, completed their 7,450-square-foot production space and opened a tasting room in Prescott, AZ with the assistance of SBA-backed financing. See their story on YouTube by searching for the 2019 National Small Business Persons of the Year.

5 Tips for Success

Get guidance.

Develop a working relationship with an SBA Resource Partner (see page 8) to help you find the funding that works best for you.

Define your lending needs.

Determine if a loan is right for you. Is this the right time? How much do you need? What are you going to use it for?

Talk to multiple lenders.

See who best matches you and your business. Has the lender successfully worked with other businesses in your industry?

Check all options.

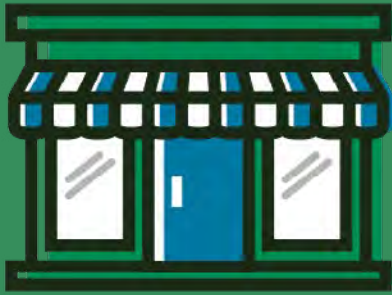
Consult with your lender to see if you're eligible for SBA financing programs, determined by your industry & experience; collateral; credit score; and the relationship & transparency you develop with the lending agent.

Be ready for the ups and downs.

Your entrepreneurial endeavor will be a roller coaster ride filled with challenges and successes. The path is all consuming so make sure that you love what you do. Passion is the price of admission.

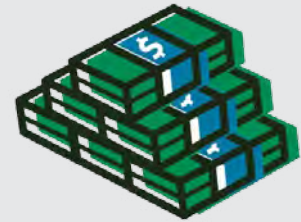
Lender Match

Find a lender interested in working with you at **sba.gov/lendermatch**. This matching tool connects entrepreneurs with SBA Lenders in your area.



SBA-backed Loans

help small business owners and entrepreneurs who are creditworthy but don't qualify for conventional financing. If you cannot obtain a business loan with reasonable rates and terms, contact your local SBA Lender to see if you are eligible for SBA programs. The SBA works with participating lenders to reduce their risk, increasing the likelihood your loan will be approved with the terms that work best for you. The guarantee is conditional on the lender following SBA program requirements. Just like with any other loan, you make your loan payments directly to your lender in accordance with your terms.



We're ready to help you navigate the SBA loan process.

As a Small Business Administration Express Lender and participant in the Preferred Lender Program, we can provide:

- Expedited loan decisions*
- Flexible terms
- Low down payment options



Get expert, personal service from local bankers today.

Call 888-224-2833

*Expedited loan decisions are dependent on customer's timely submission of all required documentation.



Hancock Whitney Bank, Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender. All loans and accounts subject to credit approval. Terms and conditions apply.

Funding Your Dream SHOULDN'T BE A NIGHTMARE.

Borrowing is Easier with an SBA Preferred Lender.
More flexible terms. Longer repayment timelines.
Lower down payment options. These are just a few ways Republic Bank makes SBA lending easy.
Let's talk business, 502.329.4510 and apply today.



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SBA Lenders

Our most active participating SBA Lenders serve all of South Florida. For more bank locations, visit the lender's website.

South Florida Top 20 Lenders Ranked by Number of Loans in 2018

1. TD Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 724 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$53 million	11. Celtic Bank Corp. NUMBER OF LOANS: 64 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$14 million
2. Wells Fargo Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 225 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$41 million	12. Stearns Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 62 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$18 million
3. JPMorgan Chase Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 182 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$29 million	13. Regions Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 46 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$43 million
4. Independence Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 134 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$15 million	14. Live Oak Banking Co. NUMBER OF LOANS: 43 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$50 million
5. Florida Business Development Corp. NUMBER OF LOANS: 121 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$88 million	15. BankUnited NUMBER OF LOANS: 42 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$34 million
6. Florida First Capital Financial Corp. NUMBER OF LOANS: 119 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$115 million	16. Fifth Third Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 38 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$19 million
7. SunTrust Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 82 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$50 million	17. United Midwest Savings Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 37 TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOANS: \$7 million
8. First Home Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 82 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$31 million	18. Seacoast National Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 36 TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOANS: \$10 million
9. Huntington National Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 69 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$26 million	19. Valley National Bank (formerly USAmeribank) NUMBER OF LOANS: 31 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$24 million
10. Newtek Small Business Finance NUMBER OF LOANS: 65 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$57 million	20. PNC Bank NUMBER OF LOANS: 31 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$3 million

BREVARD COUNTY

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

FBDC

(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

Fifth Third Bank

(866) 531-4249
53.com

Customer Bank

(866) 476-2265
customerbank.com

SunTrust Bank

(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

JPMorgan Chase Bank

(800) 242-7324
chase.com

BROWARD COUNTY

FBDC

(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

SunTrust Bank

(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

Newtek SBF

(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

Radius Bank

800-242-0272
radiusbank.com

TD Bank

(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

BankUnited

(877) 779-2265
bankunited.com

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

First Western Bank

(701) 852-3711
firstwestern.bank

Independent Development Services Corp.

(239) 652-5588
idscorp.org

Byline Bank

(773) 244-7000
bylinebank.com

United Community Bank

(800) 822-2651
ucbi.com

Ready Capital

(212) 257-4666
readycapital.com

BMO Harris National Bank

888-340-2265
bmoharris.com

Seacoast Commerce Bank

(858) 432-7000
sccombank.com

COLLIER COUNTY

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

Regions Bank

(800) 734-4667
regions.com

Huntington Bank

(239) 260-6056
huntington.com

Radius Bank

800-242-0272
radiusbank.com

Newtek SBF

(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

BBVA Compass (Compass Bank)

(844) 228-2872
bbvausa.com

Bank of America

(888) 432-1000
bankofamerica.com

DESOTO COUNTY

Busey Bank

(800) 672-8739
busey.com

HENDRY COUNTY

FBDC

(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

First Bank

(866) 319-4093
first1bank.com

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

American Momentum Bank

(866) 530-2265
americanmomentum.com

Independence Bank

(401) 886-4600
workingcapitalloan.com

Wells Fargo Bank

(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

FBDC

(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

Valley National Bank

(800) 522-4100
valleynationalbank.com

Live Oak Banking Co.

(910) 790-5867
liveoakbank.com

CenterState Bank

(855) 863-2265
centerstatebank.com

Bank of Tampa

(813) 872-1200
bankoftampa.com

First Home Bank

(727) 440-6848
firsthomebank.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Wells Fargo Bank

(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

Seacoast Natl Bank (First Green Bank)

(800) 706-9991
seacoastbank.com

BankUnited

(877) 779-2265
bankunited.com

CenterState Bank

(855) 863-2265
centerstatebank.com

Oculina Bank

(772) 563-2212
oculinabank.com

Stearns Bank & Trust

(800) 320-7262
sternsbank.com

CRF Small Business Loan Co.

(800) 475-3050
crfusa.com

LEE COUNTY

FFCFC

(800) 504-5626
ffcf.com

Huntington Bank

(239) 260-6056
huntington.com

Busey Bank

(800) 672-8739
busey.com

Independent Development Services Corp.

(239) 652-5588
idscorp.org

Regions Bank

(800) 734-4667
regions.com

Fifth Third Bank

(866) 531-4249
53.com

Newtek SBF

(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

MANATEE COUNTY

BankUnited

(877) 779-2265
bankunited.com

Centennial Bank
(888) 372-9788
my100bank.com

Synovus Bank
(888) 796-6887
synovus.com

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

SunTrust Bank
(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

CenterState Bank
(855) 863-2265
centerstatebank.com

BBVA Compass
(844) 228-2872
bbvausa.com

MARTIN COUNTY

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

Seacoast National Bank
(800) 706-9991
seacoastbank.com

TD Bank
(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

CenterState Bank
(855) 863-2265
centerstatebank.com

Newtek SBF
(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

FBDC
(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

First Bank Financial Center
(888) 569-9909
fbfcwi.com

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FBDC
(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

TD Bank
(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

Newtek SBF
(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

BanESCO Bank
(888) 228-1597
banescousa.com

Seacoast Natl Bank (First Green Bank)
(800) 706-9991
seacoastbank.com

Branch Banking & Trust
(800) 226-5228
bbt.com

MONROE COUNTY

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

Seacoast Natl Bank (First Green Bank)
(800) 706-9991
seacoastbank.com

Stearns Bank & Trust
(800) 320-7262
sternsbank.com

JPMorgan Chase Bank
(800) 242-7324
chase.com

Wells Fargo Bank
(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

TD Bank
(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

First Home Bank
(727) 440-6848
firsthomebank.com

OSCEOLA COUNTY

First Western Bank
(701) 852-3711
firstwestern.bank

Live Oak Banking Co.
(910) 790-5867
liveoakbank.com

Newtek SBF
(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

SunTrust Bank
(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

Wells Fargo Bank
(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

Celtic Bank Corp.
(877) 251-2873
celticbank.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Paradise Bank
(561) 392-5444
paradisebank.com

SunTrust Bank
(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

Newtek SBF
(855) 763-9835
newtekone.com

TD Bank
(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

Radius Bank
(800) 242-0272
radiusbank.com

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

Oculina Bank
(772) 563-2212
oculinabank.com

PASCO COUNTY

BBVA Compass
(844) 228-2872
bbvausa.com

Berkshire Bank
(800) 773-5601
berkshirebank.com

Central Bank
(866) 236-8744
centralbank.net

BankUnited
(877) 779-2265
bankunited.com

Central Bank Illinois
(309) 944-5601
central-bank.com

Bancorp Bank
(800) 545-0289
thebancorp.com

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

PINELLAS COUNTY

FFCFC
(800) 504-5626
ffcfc.com

First Home Bank
(727) 440-6848
firsthomebank.com

Regions Bank
(800) 734-4667
regions.com

FBDC
(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

Live Oak Banking Co.
(910) 790-5867
liveoakbank.com

Wells Fargo Bank
(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

Sunshine State Economic Development Corp.
(800) 850-2504
sunshineedco.com

POLK COUNTY

The Mint
(281) 359-6468
themint.bank

First Bank Financial Center
(888) 569-9909
fbfcwi.com

Wells Fargo Bank
(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

Live Oak Banking Co.
(910) 790-5867
liveoakbank.com

SunTrust Bank

(800) 786-8787
suntrust.com

Stearns Bank & Trust

(800) 320-7262
sternsbank.com

TD Bank

(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

Fifth Third Bank

(866) 531-4249
53.com

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

New Millennium Bank

(201) 585-6090
nmbonline.com

Independence Bank

(401) 886-4600
workingcapitalloan.com

JPMorgan Chase Bank

(800) 242-7324
chase.com

Oculina Bank

(772) 563-2212
oculinabank.com

TD Bank

(888) 751-9000
tdbank.com

Wells Fargo Bank

(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

SARASOTA COUNTY

CenterState Bank

(855) 863-2265
centerstatebank.com

FBDC

(813) 348-0660
fbdc.net

First Home Bank

(727) 440-6848
firsthomebank.com

The Huntington Bank

(239) 260-6056
huntington.com

JPMorgan Chase Bank

(800) 242-7324
chase.com

Wells Fargo Bank

(800) 869-3557
wellsfargo.com

Participating Certified Development Corporations

Florida Business Development Corp.

1715 N. Westshore Blvd., suite 780
Tampa
(813) 348-06660
fbdc.net

Florida First Capital Finance Corp.

1351 N. Gadsden St.
Tallahassee
(800) 681-3601
ffcfc.com

Independent Development Services Corp.

8280 College Parkway, suite 204
Fort Myers
(239) 652-5588
idscorp.org

**Sunshine State Economic
Development Corp.**

14141 46th St. N, suite 1206
Clearwater
(800) 850-2504
sunshineedc.com

Community Advantage Lenders

ACCION

2828 Coral Way, suite 200
Miami
(305) 548-3360
us.accion.org

**Black Business Investment Fund of
Central Florida**

301 E. Pine St., suite 175
Orlando
(407) 649-4780
bbiffloirida.com

Florida First Capital Finance Corp.

1351 N. Gadsden St.
Tallahassee
(800) 681-3601
ffcfc.com

**Sunshine State Economic
Development Corp.**

14141 46th St. N, suite 1206
Clearwater
(800) 850-2504
sunshineedc.com

Participating Microlenders

Accion

2828 Coral Way, suite 200
Miami
(305) 548-3360
us.accion.org

**Black Business Investment Fund of
Central Florida**

301 E. Pine St., suite 175
Orlando
(407) 649-4780
bbiffloirida.com

Florida First Capital Finance Corp.

1351 N. Gadsden St.
Tallahassee
(800) 681-3601
ffcfc.com

LiftFund

(210) 226-3664 x1253
liftfund.com

Partners for Self Employment Inc.

3000 Biscayne Blvd., suite 215
Miami
(305) 438-1407
success@partnersforselfemployment.org

**Sunshine State Economic
Development Corp.**

14141 46th St. N, suite 1206
Clearwater
(800) 850-2504
sunshineedc.com

Need Financing?

Visit your local SBA office or lender to learn about these funding options.

The 7(a) Loan, the SBA's Largest Financing Program

If you cannot get conventional financing and you meet the eligibility requirements, you can use a 7(a) loan to buy real estate, equipment, or inventory for your small business. It may also be used for working capital, 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%

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%

CAPLines

Meet your revolving capital needs with lines of credit. CAPLines can be used for contract financing, seasonal lines of credit, builders line of credit, or for general working capital lines.

SBA Express Loan

Featuring a simplified process, these loans are 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%; for loans of \$50,000 and greater, prime + 4.75%

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%

Community Advantage

A financing program for women, veterans, low-income borrowers, and minority entrepreneurs just starting up or in business for a few years. Receive free business counseling as you work with a community-based financial institution.

INTEREST RATE: prime + 6%

TERMS: up to 25 years for real estate, 10 years for equipment and working capital

GUARANTEE: 75 to 90%



Microloans

Eligible businesses can startup and grow with working capital or funds for supplies, equipment, furniture and fixtures. Borrow from \$500 to \$50,000 and access free business counseling from microlenders.

INTEREST RATE: loans less than \$10,000, lender cost + 8.5%; loans \$10,000 and greater, lender cost + 7.75%

TERMS: lender negotiated, no early payoff penalty

504 Certified Development Company Loan

If you do not qualify for traditional financing, but would like to purchase or renovate real estate or buy heavy equipment for your business, ask about the 504 loan. It provides competitive fixed-rate mortgage financing through a lender and a Certified Development Company.

MAX LOAN AMOUNT (UP TO 40% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT): up to \$5 million; \$5.5 million for manufacturing or energy public policy projects

INTEREST RATE: below market fixed rates for 10, 20 or 25 year terms

TERMS: 20 or 25 years for real estate or long-term equipment, 10 years for general machinery and equipment

GUARANTEE: the lender provides a senior loan for 50% of the project cost (with no SBA guarantee); the CDC finances up to 40% in a junior lien position (supported by the SBA guarantee)

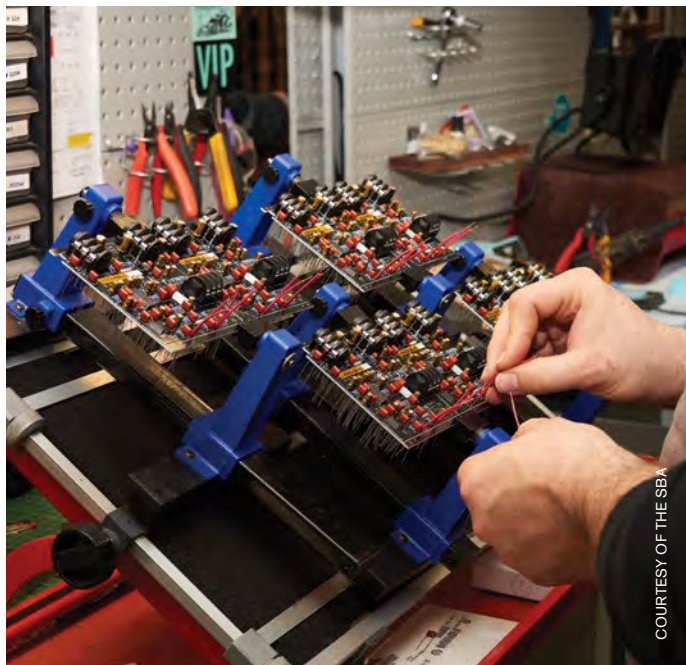
SPECIAL CONDITION: a minimum borrower contribution, or down payment, is required, amounts vary by project but are usually 10%

Go Global with International Trade

Businesses that export are more resilient—they are less dependent on any one market. Exporting also stabilizes sales for those who make seasonal products.



COURTESY OF THE SBA



COURTESY OF THE SBA

Expand your Market

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

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

Having trouble securing capital to meet your small business exporting needs? Use SBA international trade programs to cover short or long-term costs necessary to sell goods or services abroad. Loan proceeds can be used for working capital to finance foreign sales or for fixed assets, helping you better compete globally. You can apply for lines of credit prior to

finalizing an export sale or contract, so adequate financing is in place by the time you win your contract. If you've been in business for at least a year, ask your area SBA regional finance manager about the Export Working Capital program. The International Trade Loan program also helps exporters who have been adversely affected by foreign importing competition, helping you better compete globally.

Max loan amount: \$5 million

Interest rate: for Export Working Capital, the rate is negotiated between borrower and lender. For the International Trade Loan, it also cannot exceed prime + 2.75% for loan amounts over \$50,000 and maturity of seven years or more

Terms: For Export Working Capital, typically one year, cannot exceed three years. For International Trade Loans, up to 25 years for real estate, up to 10 years for equipment

Guarantee: up to 90%

Export Express uses a streamlined process that expedites the SBA guarantee—what small businesses need most when preparing to export or ramping up international trade on a fast timeline.

Max loan amount: \$500,000

Interest rate: typically not to exceed prime + 6.5%

Terms: up to 25 years for real estate, up to 10 years for equipment, up to seven years for lines of credit

Guarantee: up to 90%

Approval time: 36 hours or less

Expert Advice on Exporting

Find an SBA professional in one of the 21 U.S. Export Assistance Centers, sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/eac, located in most major metro areas. 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 exporting assistance from professional business counselors.



COURTESY OF THE SBA

▲ HOW THE SBA HELPED US SUCCEED

Small businesses that qualify for the SBA State Trade Expansion Program use grant proceeds to bolster their international market presence, which EarthQuaker Devices has done in a seismic way. A manufacturer of guitar special effects pedals in Akron, OH, EarthQuaker has built an international social media fanbase delivering content in seven languages, generating millions of website page views.

EarthQuaker owners Julie Robbins & Jamie Stillman developed their global marketing strategy and multilingual promo materials with the SBA State Trade Expansion Program. The couple also received global marketing counseling and research assistance from the Ohio Small Business development Center Export Assistance Network.

Help with Trade Barriers

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 your contact information and trade issue to international@sba.gov.

R&D Opportunities for High Growth Startups

Engaged in high-risk research and development? Compete for funding to develop your cutting-edge technology.



COURTESY OF THE SBA

Do you work in one of these areas?

- » advanced materials
- » agTech
- » artificial intelligence
- » biomedical
- » cybersecurity
- » energy
- » first response
- » national security
- » space exploration

The Small Business Innovation Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer programs, also called America's Seed Fund, provide more than \$3.5 billion in early stage capital through a competitive awards process.

How it works

Every year, participating federal agencies announce topical areas that address their R&D needs. Eligible businesses submit proposals to win either grants or contracts.

There are three phases:

- » The proof-of-concept stage typically lasts from 6-12 months, and ranges from \$100,000-\$225,000.
- » The full R&D period lasts about 24 months and typically provides \$600,000-\$1.5 million.
- » The commercialization stage is when you seek public or private funds for your venture.

How your startup benefits

The funding agency does not take an equity position or ownership of your business. The federal government also protects data rights and the ability to win sole-source phase III contracts.

Participating agencies:

- » Department of Agriculture
- » Department of Commerce

▲ HOW THE SBA HELPED US SUCCEED

Killer Snails brings science out of the laboratory and into classrooms and living rooms with award-winning educational games, such as BioDive, Assassins of the Sea, and Biome Builder. The Brooklyn, NY-based business gained access to startup funding thanks to the Small Business Innovation Research program. Dr. Mandë Holford, left, Jessica Ochoa Hendrix, right, and Dr. Lindsay Portnoy envisioned how venomous marine snail research could be used in extended reality and digital learning to engage students and meet educators' needs. The business has raised more than \$1.2 million to support a team of full-time employees. Killer Snails's tabletop, digital, augmented and virtual reality games have won national and international awards.

- › National Institute of Standards and Technology
- › 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

Visit **sbir.gov** to find funding opportunities and helpful program tutorials, as well as past award winners, such as Qualcomm, iRobot, Illumina, and Symantec.

SBIR Road Tour

Visit **sbirroadtour.com** to learn about national events connecting entrepreneurs working on advanced tech to the country's largest source of early stage funding. Each SBIR Road Tour stop introduces participating federal agency program managers, who oversee over 5,000 new awards annually.

Investment Capital

Looking for investors? For mature, profitable businesses with sufficient cash flow to pay interest, a Small Business Investment Company can help scale up your small business.

How an SBIC works

Investment companies with financing expertise in certain industry sectors receive SBA-guaranteed loans, which means the federal government is responsible in case of default. These investment companies then use the SBA-guaranteed capital and private funds to invest in qualifying small businesses. Each SBIC has its own investment profile in terms of targeted industry, geography, company maturity, the types and size of financing they provide.

To be eligible

The majority of your employees and assets must be within the United States. Some ineligible small businesses and activities include relenders, real estate, project financing, and foreign investment.

Visit **sba.gov** and click on Funding Program and then Investment Capital.



From Florida, companies can effortlessly conduct business around the corner or around the world.

We offer trade grants worth up to \$7,500 for small and medium-sized manufacturers and services providers. These grants can reduce the cost of doing business around the world with:

- ✓ Export Marketing Plans
- ✓ Overseas Trade Show Participation
- ✓ Gold Key Service/Business Matchmaking
- ✓ Website Localization

To learn more about international trade, contact Enterprise Florida at trade@enterprise-florida.com, or visit enterprise-florida.com/export.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA®



Cheeseburger Baby owner Stephanie Vitori qualified for a low-interest SBA disaster assistance loan to repair, replace, and secure working capital to keep her business open, serving 100 percent Angus beef cheeseburgers made on a flat-top grill in the restaurant and food trucks.



How I Did It

Smiling After the Storm

With SBA assistance, Stephanie Vitori rebuilt her Miami Beach, FL restaurant after Hurricane Irma.

WRITTEN BY JESS WALKER

If you ask Stephanie Vitori, the person who coined the term “bittersweet” must have run a business. In the 15 years Stephanie has owned Cheeseburger Baby, the Florida burger joint has endured recessions, multiple hurricanes, and competition from corporate franchises. She has grown along with Cheeseburger Baby, changing with each stage of the business lifecycle.

Vitori worked as a delivery driver before purchasing the business in 2004. Since then, she’s expanded by purchasing two food trucks. She runs an open kitchen, which means customers can watch their 100% Angus

beef cheeseburgers sizzle on the flat-top grill. Burgers are kept classic, no extra frills. “People feel at home,” Stephanie says. “You’re not just another table somebody has to serve.” Here, everybody feels like somebody, she says. So many people love a good cheeseburger, which is why all kinds of people are attracted to her restaurant. Cheeseburger Baby’s handcrafted patties have been featured on the Food Network and consumed by celebrities such as



Jay-Z and Kanye West. Stephanie has met famous chefs “all through a cheeseburger.” But just as special to her is the Vietnamese couple who came in one day, speaking little English. They were eager to meet Stephanie and show her a napkin with “Cheeseburger Baby” scrawled on it. On the other side of the world, a friend had told them to come, so they did. It all just goes to show you, Stephanie says, people come together for a great cheeseburger.

Challenge

Despite these sweet moments, there have also been bitter ones. Hurricane Irma struck in 2017, and Cheeseburger Baby lost equipment and food supplies. Thirty percent of sales blew away with the wind. “It was a zombie zone in South Beach. People were scared to come since they thought everything was destroyed,” Stephanie says. “It was the roughest road I’ve ever traveled.”

Solution

An SBA disaster assistance loan aided Cheeseburger Baby’s recovery. The SBA provides direct low-interest loans to businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters to repair damage or replace property not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance. SBA

When you're affected by a disaster the SBA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other organizations work together to provide assistance. Once immediate safety and security needs are met, the SBA helps get you and your community back to where you were before the disaster. Since low-interest SBA disaster assistance loans are government aid, creditworthiness and the ability to repay are taken into consideration before a loan is awarded.

What to do after a Disaster Declaration

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 SBA cannot help you with a loan for all your needs, the SBA will in most cases refer you back to FEMA. If you do not complete an SBA application, you may not be considered for assistance from other agencies.

Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program

Businesses affected by a Presidential disaster declaration are eligible to receive expedited financing through an SBA Express lender. These funds may be used for disaster-related purposes while the business waits for long-term financing through the SBA’s direct disaster loan program.

Loan Amount: \$25,000

Terms: up to seven years

Guarantee: 50%

After a disaster is declared by the SBA

Businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters are eligible to apply for an SBA disaster assistance loan. Visit a Business Recovery Center or Disaster Loan Outreach Center in your area or visit **disasterloan.sba.gov/ela** to apply for a loan. You can also call the SBA customer service center at (800) 659-2955, TTY (800) 877-8339, and ask for an application package. FEMA grant assistance for homeowners or renters is not available under an SBA declaration.



Information you need to get started:

- address of damaged residence or business and contact information
- insurance information, including type of insurance, policy numbers, and amount received
- household and/or business income
- description of disaster-caused damage and losses






disaster assistance loans can also be used to rebuild stronger, protecting your home or business against future damage caused by a disaster. The SBA also introduced Stephanie to her local Small Business Development Center, which provided assistance with financing options and marketing. She continues to meet with SBDC advisers every month to remain competitive in an ever-changing economy.

During disasters, the responsibility falls on the owner's shoulders. But one lesson Stephanie has learned is the value in reaching out to others for assistance and counsel. While her brick-and-mortar restaurant was being rebuilt, she sold from a food truck. When the restaurant was operational again, she advertised that with spray paint on the plywood covering the broken windows. Stephanie and her wife, Gabriele Vitori, rebuilt Cheeseburger Baby by depending on each other and SBA assistance. See their story on YouTube by searching for the 2019 Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery. "You've got to have resiliency. You've got to swallow your pride sometimes," Stephanie says. "But you also have to believe in your product."

Benefit

For Cheeseburger Baby, that product will continue satisfying the burger hankerings of locals, celebrities, and tourists alike. Vitori sees expansion in her future—she'd like to have a brick-and-mortar restaurant and food truck in each growing town in South Florida. "My whole life is this. I've always felt a love for business ownership," Vitori says. "That drive keeps you going." 

The SBA provides direct low-interest loans to businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace damaged property not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance. SBA disaster assistance loans can also be used to rebuild stronger, protecting your home or business against future damage caused by a disaster. For information visit **sba.gov/disaster**.

Keep in mind

Since an SBA disaster assistance 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 for your disaster loss. Be sure to check with the organization offering assistance 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 assistance loan.

Get Ready

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.



Getting Back to Business:

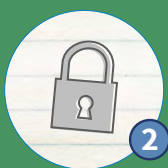
Six essential preparedness steps for creating a continuity plan

The financial and emotional cost of rebuilding a business after a disaster can be overwhelming. With a business continuity plan in place, you can recover more quickly. Your plan also puts you in a better position to contribute to the economic recovery of your community.



Establish a communications plan

- Test your calling tree or communications list to reach employees to ensure they and their families are safe.



Protect your documents

- Keep copies of vital business documents in a digital format or in an accessible, protected off-site location.



Review 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 because of a disaster.



Establish a solid supply chain

- If your vendors and suppliers are local and the disaster is widespread, you will all be in the same situation—struggling to recover. Put a disaster response plan in place to get key supplies from companies outside your area. Create a contact list of contractors and vendors you plan to use.



Plan for an alternative location

- Identify several places to relocate your operations in case you must close your primary location for an extended time.
- Consider creative options for available office space, including sharing space and resources with other businesses.
- Allow employees to telecommute until your location reopens.



Practice your plan with your staff

Based on your location, assess your risk for every type of emergency.

- Discuss as a group how your plan would be affected by different types of disasters, such as an earthquake, tornado, flood, mudslide, or hurricane.



**Only Hiscox sees your business
is as unique as a barcode.**

Hiscox, America's #1 online business insurer, tailors its policies
to each small business's very specific needs ... and yours.

Get a quote and buy online at
Hiscox.com or call 877-854-2990.


HISCOX
business insurance experts

Surety Bonds

SBA-backed surety bonds help small businesses succeed.

Eligible small businesses in the construction, supply, and service sectors better compete for contracting and subcontracting jobs using SBA-backed surety bonds.

How you benefit

Surety bonds help small businesses receive the bonding assistance they need to win contracts by providing the customer with a guarantee the work will be completed.

How surety bonds work

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.

Is the program right for you?

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
- » those who cannot secure bonding through regular commercial channels
- » subcontractors with a desire to establish their own bonding as a prime contractor
- » those wishing to increase their current bonding limits



COURTESY OF AZTEC CONTRACTORS

▲ HOW THE SBA HELPED ME SUCCEED

With SBA-backed surety bonds, Frank Spencer III has been able to better compete for commercial and government contracts. Aztec Contractors of El Paso, TX received the bonding support it needed to compete for construction contracts with the General Services Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Frank acquired Aztec in 2006 with no capital and only two employees. Now he employs 25 full time and provides internship opportunities. Sales have grown to about \$30 million annually. Aztec now qualifies for bonding in the standard surety market without SBA support.

For all contracts and subcontracts up to \$6.5 million, the SBA guarantees bid, payment, performance, and ancillary bonds issued by surety companies. For federal contracts up to \$10 million, the SBA makes a guarantee if it's in the best interest of the government.

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

Need a surety bond guarantee fast?

For contracts under \$400,000, the process is streamlined using the SBA's QuickApp program.

- » easy application
- » no need to submit financials to the SBA
- » online applications submitted to SBA authorized agents approved within hours



Ready to start?

The SBA partners with 36 surety companies and hundreds of bonding agents. Find authorized agents at sba.gov/osg.

Do you want to discuss the advantages of the SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee program? Contact a bonding specialist:

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

Kevin Valdes
Seattle, WA
(206) 553-7277

Jennifer C. Bledsoe
Washington, DC
(202) 205-6153

CONTRACTING

Doing Business with the Government



How I Did It

COURTESY OF THE SEA

Taking the Helm

Jennifer Rahn steers Admiral Engineering and Manufacturing to success as a government subcontractor.

WRITTEN BY MICAELA MORRISSETTE



Jennifer Rahn was first hired as an office assistant at Phoenix, Arizona-based Admiral Engineering and Manufacturing Co. Rising to the top in a sector dominated by men, Rahn's career sounds a lot like the classic American success story. She got there with the help of a mentor and business growth earned as a federal government subcontractor.

For 16 years, Rahn worked side-by-side with then-owner David Schlosser, who became her mentor. Rahn says she learned "everything it takes to run a machine shop. I naturally just picked it up and wanted it."

The learning curve was steep—Admiral specializes in complex machined parts for industries including aerospace and communications—and Schlosser expected as much as he gave. "When I did something wrong, he told me, and I didn't do that again," Rahn

said, laughing.

One of their largest clients, aerospace and defense company L3 Technologies, nominated Admiral for the SBA Subcontractor of the Year award. As a subcontractor for L3 Technologies, Rahn said she gets great satisfaction from knowing soldiers are able to communicate with their leaders because of parts her company has made.

When Schlosser decided to retire, he asked Rahn to purchase Admiral.

"He did not want to sell to a corporation that would bring in their own people or end up foreclosing," Rahn says. "Then all your hard work is gone. I agreed because it was everything I had spent my life working on, too."

In September 2017, she took over as owner and president. Ownership transition poses a unique set of challenges. Rahn wanted to maintain relationships with her existing clients, which include

5 Tips for Success:

Find a mentor.

I had a great mentor in my company, and I reached for opportunity when it was in front of me.

Always move forward.

The SBA has educational resources to improve your business know-how. To learn more about government contracting and SBA certification programs, call your local SBA district office or procurement center representative.

Compete smart.

See if your company can use the SBA Subcontracting Network database, https://eweb1.sba.gov/subnet/client/dsp_Landing.cfm. SubNet connects businesses with subcontractors & small businesses with contract opportunities.

Know your industry.

I see everything; I have my hands in everything. I don't want to expand to where I can't do that anymore.

Build a team.

Everybody feels like this is our work family. My employees are as big a part of my company as I am, so I make sure they know that.

major government contractors. She's grateful prime contractors have incentive to subcontract with small business, and that helps businesses like Admiral.

Rahn has plans to grow, but not in the typical ways. She's investing in replacing equipment, enhancing efficiency and productivity while leading Admiral into new arenas like 3D printing. Because of the stability provided by being a government subcontractor, she's able to do all of this. ■



How to do business with the government

- 1** Identify your product or service number at **naics.com**.
- 2** Search the FedBizOpps database (**fbo.gov**) 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** to find your local office.
- 4** Talk to a local Small Business Development Center counselor (see page 8) or visit a Procurement Technical Assistance Program adviser. Find your closest center at **aptac-us.org**.
- 5** Obtain a free DUNS number at **fedgov.dnb.com/webform**.
- 6** Register with the System for Award Management (**sam.gov**) to start doing business with the government.
- 7** Are you eligible for SBA certification programs? Read more about the 8(a), woman-owned small business, and HUBZone programs. Find out if you are eligible and upload all required documents to **certify.sba.gov**.

Government Contracting

Is it right for you? Government contracting can be a valuable tool to grow your small business, but it isn't for everyone. Complete the following readiness assessment to help you decide whether your company can successfully compete for government contracts.

1 Does the government buy the product or service that you sell?

- ✓ Continue to question 2.
- ✗ Government contracting may not be for you at this time.
- ? Start with your local SBA district office. If you can't identify at least three federal agencies that might buy what you sell, contracting might not be right for you.

2 Are you capable of fulfilling a government contract (e.g., time, staffing, and materials)?

- ✓ Continue to question 3.
- ? Your local SBA district office can help you gauge ramp-up time and other factors that contribute to government contracting success.

3 Confirm your answer to all of the following:

- Is the majority owner(s) a U.S. citizen?
- Does your company have a place of business in the U.S.?
- Is your business organized for profit?
- Does your business generate revenue?
- ✓ Continue to question 4.
- ✗ These are requirements for participation in government contracting programs.

6 Do you have cash on hand to purchase working inventory, if needed?

- ✓ Continue to question 7.
- ✗ Talk to an SBA Lender about getting a line of credit or a loan to do business with the government.

5 Do you have an accounting system that produces financial statements, such as profit and loss statements, balance sheets, and cash flow projections?

- ✓ Continue to question 6.
- ✗ Before you get into government contracting, make sure your accounting system is compatible with the government's requirements.

4 Are you credit worthy?

- ✓ Continue to question 5.
- ✗ Visit an SBA Resource Partner for tips on repairing your credit.
- ? Talk to an SBA Lender about how to build credit.

7 Do you already have federal/state/local government contracting experience?

- ✓ Continue to question 8.
- ✗ If you don't yet have contracting experience, you won't reap the full benefit of opportunities like the 8(a) Business Development Program. You can participate in the 8(a) program once, so make sure it's the right time for you.

8 Do you know where to find contracting opportunities?

- ✓ Continue to question 9.
- ✗ Ask an SBA business opportunity specialist for help.

9 Make sure you have:

- a DUNS number
- the NAICS codes and size standards for your industry
- SAM registration
- ✓ Continue below.
- ✗ This is a requirement for participation in some government contracting programs.

It sounds like you may be a good fit for government contracting!
Visit your local SBA district office or [sba.gov/contracting](https://www.sba.gov/contracting) for more information.

SBA Certification Programs

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



COURTESY OF THE SUNDANCE CONSULTING

◀ HOW THE SBA HELPED ME SUCCEED

September Myres knew that becoming a government contractor would empower herself and other native peoples, while also growing her small business to the next level. She sought business development assistance from the SBA, qualifying for the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program, which helps small disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal marketplace. This program helped September strategically grow her company to become a competitive force in the environmental services industry. Sundance Consulting of Pocatello, ID has won contracts from the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service. She has continually secured Department of Defense contracts to improve Native American lands adversely affected by past department activities. September often assists Native American tribes and Alaska Native villages with developing projects and community plans.

American Indians, Alaska Natives, and native Hawaiians seeking entrepreneurial development training can start, grow, and expand their business with the help of the SBA, [sba.gov/naa](https://www.sba.gov/naa). The Office of Native American Affairs also consults with tribal governments prior to finalizing SBA policies affecting tribes.

Socially disadvantaged: those 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 often fit this status: 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 he or she has suffered social disadvantage.

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

The benefits of the 8(a) program:

- » You are assigned an SBA professional to help coordinate 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.

8(a) small business that can provide the needed services. This is an accelerated process saving time for both you and the government agency or office.

All Small Mentor-Protege Program

Looking for an opportunity to partner with a more experienced firm for mentorship? That effort can be rewarded in the All Small Mentor-Protege Program, [sba.gov/allsmallmpp](https://www.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.

Contracting certification programs are designed to help you better compete for and win federal contracts set aside for small businesses. Visit [sba.gov/contracting](https://www.sba.gov/contracting) to learn more about set-asides and whether one or more of these government certification programs is right for your business. To see if you are eligible and then certify as a woman-owned, HUBZone, 8(a), or All Small business, visit [certify.sba.gov](https://www.certify.sba.gov).

8(a) Business Development Program

If you're an entrepreneur who is socially or economically disadvantaged, you may be eligible to receive business training and government contracting assistance through the 8(a) Business Development Program, [sba.gov/8a](https://www.sba.gov/8a). It includes free business development

education, training workshops, and match-making opportunities with federal buyers. Firms owned by Alaska Native Corporations, 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:

- » be owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are socially and/or economically disadvantaged
- » demonstrate at least a two-year track record and have potential for continued success
- » have a net worth and adjusted gross income of less than \$250,000 and assets under \$4 million

- » You must be certified as a small business within your NAICS industry classification (naics.com).
- » Mentors and proteges must be organized for profit or as an agricultural cooperative.
- » Mentors cannot own more than 40% 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.

HUBZone

Businesses located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones, sba.gov/hubzone, can gain special access to federal contracts. To qualify for the certification, your small business must:

- » be owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, a Community Development Corporation, an agricultural cooperative, Indian tribal government, Alaska Native Corporation, or a Native Hawaiian organization
- » have a principal office located in a HUBZone, which includes Indian reservations and military facilities closed by the Base Realignment and Closure Act. Enter your address in our interactive map, maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map, to see if you qualify.
- » have at least 35% of your employees living in a HUBZone



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, sba.gov/ovbd. After you have set up to do business with the government in sam.gov, update your status as a service-disabled veteran business. Keep in mind, the SBA does not officially certify this designation, so when a contract awarded based on this eligibility is protested, the SBA will determine if your business meets the eligibility status, ownership, and control requirements.

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.

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 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.

5. Search the database

- Search the FedBizOpps database (fbo.gov) for your new business opportunity.

Get Expert Contracting & Certification Help

Federal contracting can be complex, but you don't have to do it alone. A Procurement Technical Assistance Center adviser can help you determine if your business is ready for government contracting. An adviser can also help you register in the System for Award Management (sam.gov), and see if you're eligible for any small business certifications and/or programs. One-on-one counseling is free or low cost. Visit sba.gov/localassistance to find your local SBA office or an SBA Resource Partner near you (see page 8).

Find procurement activities, opportunities, and interact with governmental offices through the My Florida Market Place eProcurement system at dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing.

Office of Supplier Diversity

Florida Department of Management Services
4050 Esplanade Way, suite 380
Tallahassee
(850) 487-0915

Florida Procurement Technical Assistance Centers fptac.org

Headquarters

UWF Division of Research and Strategic Innovation
Statewide Manager Jane Dowgwillo
220 W. Garden St., suite 301-302
Pensacola
(850) 898-3479

University of South Florida PTAC

Port Tampa Bay Building Muma College of Business
1101 Channelside Drive, suite 210
Tampa
(813) 905-5800

Pinellas County Economic Development PTAC

13805 58th St. N, suite 1-200
Clearwater
(727) 453-7200

Florida Gulf Coast University PTAC

Lutgert College of Business
10501 FGCU Blvd, S, unit 2320
Fort Meyers
(239) 745-3700

Indian River State College PTAC

3209 Virginia Ave., building Y, room 101
Fort Pierce
(772) 462-4942

Florida Atlantic University PTAC

Fort Lauderdale
111 E. Las Olas Blvd.
HEC Building, suite 1010
(954) 762-5235
Boca Raton
FAU Tech Runway
901 NW 35th St.
(561) 297-4234

Florida International University PTAC

South Tower Penthouse, 11th floor
1101 Brickell Ave.
Miami
(305) 779-9230

An O'Fallon Casting Inc. employee at work in O'Fallon, MO. Owner Vince Gimeno grew his business thanks to expert SBA business counseling.



By the Numbers

The U.S. government is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world. Every year it awards more than **\$500 billion** in contracts.

Of those prime contracts, the federal government must set aside 23% for small businesses. Why types of small businesses benefit?



- 5% are small & disadvantaged
- 5% are women owned
- 3% are HUBZone certified
- 3% are service-disabled veteran owned



SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

made easy

Centennial Bank can help you choose from options to support your small business in a BIG way.

SBA 7a Programs • SBA 7a Refi Program • SBA Express/LOC • SBA Veteran's Advantage • SBA International Trade
SBA Export & Export Express • SBA 504 Program & Refi Program • USDA B & I Program (Rural) • USDA Agricultural Program (Rural)

U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Dept of Agriculture Programs

SBA 7(a) Program (new and refi) — Maximum Loan Amount \$5 million

Cash Injection: 10% minimum cash injection requirement (Loans from Shareholders/Investors or borrowed funds must be on Full Stand By for the Life of the loan). Fees may be rolled into the loan.

Use of Proceeds: Business Acquisition/Goodwill, Expansion/renovations; purchase land/lot and new construction, purchase commercial real estate; purchase machinery, equipment, furniture, fixtures, leasehold improvements; working capital, refinance business debts, inventory, and startup costs

Maturity: Up to 25 Years (maturities of 15 years or more have a SBA Recoupment Fee/Prepayment Penalty — 5% year 1, 3% year 2, 1% year 3)

Generally working capital & machinery & equipment (not to exceed life of equipment) 10 years.

Commercial Real Estate is 25 years (25 years if real estate exceeds 51% of the total loan amount or a blended term will be used if Goodwill, FF&E and working capital exceed 51% of loan amount)

Who Qualifies: Sole-proprietorships/sole owners. Must be a for-profit business & meet SBA size standards; have good credit history, must operate/manage business, and demonstrate the ability to repay the loan. Must be an eligible type of business. Borrowing Entity must occupy at least 51% of the commercial real estate for existing building/structure, 60% for Ground Up Construction Projects (80% after 10 years). All owners of 20% or more, or "key" employees (managers, directors, and licensed staff) must be a guarantor. Life Insurance is required for all sole-proprietorships.

SBA Express — \$150,000 Line of Credit

Use of Proceeds: May be used for a revolving Line of Credit, Fees may be rolled into the loan.

Maturity: 10 Year Term, renewed annually, will term out after 5 years if fully funded.

(Who qualifies, same as SBA 7a Program, Bank policy - must be an existing business with 20% equity or 10% cash injection)

SBA Veterans Advantage (sub-part of SBA 7a Loan Program)

Use of Proceeds and Term: Same as SBA 7(a), Fees may be rolled into the loan.

Who Qualifies: Same as 7(a). Plus, small business must be owned and controlled (51%+) by one or more of the following groups: veteran, active-duty military in TAP, reservist or National Guard member or a spouse of any of these groups, or a widowed spouse or a service member or veteran who died during service, or a service-connected disability.

SBA International Trade — Loan Amount up to \$5 million

Use of Proceeds: Term loan for permanent working capital, equipment, facilities, land and buildings and debt refinance related to international trade.

Maturity: Up to 25 years

Who Qualifies: Same as 7(a) loans, Plus, engaged or preparing to engage in international trade or adversely affected by competition from Imports, provides goods or services to Export businesses.

SBA Export Working Capital Program — Loan Amount up to \$5 million

Use of Proceeds: Short term, working- capital loans for exporters. May be transaction based or asset-based. Can also support standby letters or credit.

Who Qualifies: Same as 7(a) loans, plus, short-term working capital for direct or indirect exporting.

SBA Export Express — Loan amount up to \$500,000

Use of Proceeds: Same as SBA Express plus Standby letters of credit

Maturity: Same as SBA Express

Who Qualifies: Applicant must demonstrate that loan will enable them to enter a new, or expand in an existing export market. Business must have been in operation for at least 12 months (though not necessarily in exporting).

SBA 504 Program — This is a two part Program, Bank loan and SBA/CDC loan:

SBA/CDC Maximum amount ranges from \$5 million to \$5.5 million depending on type of business or project, and has a 10 year SBA Prepayment Penalty. The Bank's loan amount depends on the Bank's Credit Policy for Conventional Commercial Loan Programs (Centennial Bank offers up to 65% of the Total Project), the Bank's Prepayment Penalty is 5 Years (declining 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 1%).

Use of Proceeds: To Purchase/Refinance Commercial Real Estate, Machinery & Equipment

Maturity: Up to 25 Years (this Program has a "balloon" payment on the Bank's Loan of 10 Years, 20 or 25 Year Amortization). Some fees may be rolled into the loan amount

Who Qualifies: For profit businesses that do not exceed \$15m tangible net worth, and do not have an average two full fiscal year net income over \$5million.

Owner Occupied up to 51% for existing building/structure or 60% for new construction (80% after 10 years).

USDA B & I Program and USDA Agricultural Program (Rural) —

Up to 30 Year Term (usually 25 years) depending on industry type, fully amortized/no balloon (5 Year Prepayment Penalty — flat 5% for 5 Years)

Use of Proceeds: Purchase/Refinance Commercial Real Estate (owner-occupied), Machinery, Equipment, Furniture, Fixtures, Business Acquisition, Start Ups, Working Capital. Some fees may be rolled into the loan.

Who Qualifies: Must be in a rural area (see USDA Map), go to USDA.gov for more information.

Business/Borrower must show 20% "Equity" or Cash to qualify, all owners/guarantors of 20% or more must guaranty the loan.



Tammy Youst

Sr. Vice President

SBA & USDA Dept. Manager

Direct: 813-749-5344

18311 U.S. Hwy. 41 N. | Lutz, FL 33549

TYoust@my100bank.com

Centennial Bank



All loans are subject to credit approval.

A Wealth of Knowledge *At Your Side*



At the Florida SBDC Network, we're passionate about creating unimaginable possibilities for small business prosperity.

Through our service offering, we provide research, training, and no-cost consulting to give you the competitive advantage needed to develop and realize growth opportunities and compete in today's global marketplace.

We provide world-class business and industry expertise and experience through our certified professional business consultants and specialists who are motivated to help your small business prosper.

The Florida SBDC Network has more than 40 offices from Pensacola to Key West to assist you. Find the office nearest you to learn how we can help in areas including:

- Strategic and Business Plan Development
- Accessing Capital for Business Growth
- Strategic Intelligence and Market Research
- Market and Sales Growth Development
- Exporting and International Trade
- Acquiring Government Contracts
- Financial Literacy and Cash Flow Management
- Business Recovery and Continuation

Visit us online to find your local office to get started on your path to success today.



**Helping Businesses
Grow & Succeed**

A statewide partnership program nationally accredited by the Association of America's SBDCs and funded in part by the U.S. SBA, DLA, State of Florida, and other private and public partners, with UWF serving as the network's headquarters. Florida SBDC services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for individuals with limited English proficiency.



Division of Research
and Strategic Innovation
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA



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[Fla. Stat. § 288.001]**

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