

Small Business Resources

Both the State of Florida and the Federal Government offer resources to help existing small businesses grow and to help new entrepreneurs make their small business ideas a reality. Below I have included links to various state and federal websites that small business owners or those looking to start a small business may find helpful.

The Internal Revenue Service

The IRS is the governing body that is responsible for implementing tax provisions, as well as, providing the public with information on how to take advantage of tax provisions they are eligible for. To find more information on how to take advantage of these tax provisions and other small business tax issues, visit the Internal Revenue Service small business page by clicking [here](#).

Small Business Development Centers

The Florida Small Business Development Centers (FSBDC) are located at various universities and Economic Development Centers across the state. It is a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development organizations dedicated to providing emerging and established business owners with assistance. The SBDCs offer small business counseling, workshops and events concerning small business growth, and can assist with loan and contracting procurement. SBDC's near Florida's 16th Congressional District are located in Ft. Myers, Charlotte, Clewiston, Boca Raton, St. Lucie West, Sebring, and Okeechobee. For more information you can visit the SBDC Network website by clicking [here](#).

The Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. The SBA offers several assistance and loan programs to help small business grow. The SBA also assists small businesses in obtaining federal contracts as well as providing specialized assistance to veteran, women, and minority owned small businesses. For more information visit the SBA website by clicking [here](#).

To find the local SBA office closest to you click [here](#).

Links to Other websites you may find helpful

[National Federation for Independent Businesses](#)

[National Association for the Self Employed](#)

[National Small Business Association](#)

[Small Business Guide to Government Grants and Loans](#)

[Government Contracting](#)

[Information for Minority-Owned Businesses](#)

[Information for Self Employed Individuals](#)

[Information for Veteran-Owned Businesses](#)

[Information for Women-Owned Businesses](#)

[Veterans in Business VA Site](#)

[Business Licenses and Permits](#)

[Information on Franchise and Business Opportunities](#)

[Information on Importing and Exporting](#)

[Patent and Trademark Information](#)

[Complying with Employment and Labor Laws](#)

[Employee Benefits](#)

[Tax Information for Small Businesses](#)

[IRS Tax Information for Businesses](#)

[Assistance with Tax Problems](#)

[Federal Government Forms](#)