



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FAQ

This is a Small Business Resource FAQ document provided by the Small Business Team at the South Carolina Department of Commerce. This document is a compilation of “hot topics” or frequently asked questions that come from small business owners who contact Commerce for assistance. In addition to the resources listed on the FAQ document, Commerce also has a website dedicated to small business development, <https://scbizdev.sccommerce.com/>. We hope you find the information helpful. If you have questions or need additional resources, feel free to reach out to the Small Business team at SmallBizSupport@sccommerce.com.

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SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

FAQ

AGRIBUSINESS: HOW DO I FIND HELP FOR MY AGRIBUSINESS?

Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE)

provides resources, workshops and programs, such as the Advanced Entrepreneurship Program and Agribusiness Planning Curriculum.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension

educates and supports South Carolina farmers regarding entrepreneurship, agritourism, finances and more.

CONTRACTING: HOW DO I FIND CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES?

SC APEX Accelerators

is a resource for small and large businesses to obtain free procurement technical assistance. SC APEX Accelerators helps clients identify federal, state and local government contracting opportunities.

South Carolina Division of Procurement Services (DPS)

assists businesses with the process of doing business with state agencies. Businesses can access additional government contracting opportunities by registering as a state vendor.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: WHERE CAN I FIND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Business Development Corporation (BDC)

provides individuals and businesses with opportunities to access funds for local growth, job creation and economic development, with a priority focus on low- to moderate-income and underserved areas.

CLIMB Fund

is a nonprofit community development lender with a mission to ensure access to capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses that cannot secure traditional financing.

CommunityWorks

provides equitable financing and training to small business owners and startups throughout South Carolina.

South Carolina Community Loan Fund

offers financing and borrower support services to help make community development projects a reality. Loans are available to nonprofits, for-profits and municipalities across the state.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

offers financial programs including loans, investment capital, disaster assistance, surety bonds, and grants for businesses that conduct scientific research and development.

GRANTS: WHAT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?**Grants.gov**

is a database for federally funded grants. In addition to the grants catalog, users will find tools to navigate the grant application process, as well as grant writing tips.

Hello Alice

connects users with easy-to-access capital, grant opportunities, helpful resources, and a supportive community to bring ideas to life.

South Carolina State Library

has a “grants research collection” designed to assist nonprofit organizations and individuals seeking grant funding from private and corporate foundations and government agencies.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

has over 50 grants, programs and loans for a variety of business needs.

Webinar: “How to Find Grant Opportunities for Your Small Business”

is an on-demand webinar workshop helping users understand the small business grant landscape, including where to find funding and more.

WomensNet

provides grant funding opportunities to help women achieve their business dreams, offering free grant application tips, a monthly grant program, and success stories of women’s entrepreneurship.

INNOVATION: WHO CAN HELP ME DEVELOP MY PRODUCT?**S.C. Commerce Innovation Team**

has a mission to provide an innovative environment conducive for the creation of new transformational products and services. Innovation staff collaborate with partners to build an ecosystem that encourages tech-based talent, research and development, the transfer of knowledge to market, and access to risk capital.

Contact: Nancy Conwell, Innovation Ecosystem Manager (803-636-5070 or nconwell@sccommerce.com)

The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

helps aspiring entrepreneurs and founders launch social and entrepreneurial ventures.

RELOCATION: HOW DO I RELOCATE MY BUSINESS TO SOUTH CAROLINA?

South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS)

provides a one-stop information resource for starting, running, expanding and relocating businesses in and to South Carolina.

SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION: HOW DO I CERTIFY MY SMALL BUSINESS?

South Carolina Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification (SMBCC)

connects minority- and women-owned businesses to state contracting and procurement opportunities. Staff provides program services, individual counseling and workshops.

South Carolina Unified Certification Program (UCP)

assists with obtaining Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise certifications, eliminating the need for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms to obtain certifications from multiple state agencies.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small businesses. The SBA provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise as the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses. Certifications allow small businesses access to federal contracts and other benefits based on specific programs for groups, which include minorities, veterans, and women.

SMALL BUSINESS LICENSING: HOW DO I GET MY SMALL BUSINESS LICENSE?

South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS)

provides a one-stop information resource for starting, running, expanding and relocating businesses in and to South Carolina.

South Carolina Secretary of State

administers corporate filings for corporations, nonprofits, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and limited liability partnerships.

STARTUP AND DEVELOPMENT: WHO CAN HELP ME START MY SMALL BUSINESS?

Benedict College Women's Business Center

offers consultants for all businesses, primarily minority, women-owned, who often experience more social and economic disparities than their counterparts.

EmpowHER Women's Business Center (Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber)

provides tools, resources, and support necessary to help women start, grow, and sustain their businesses and is a go-to resource for empowering women entrepreneurs.

IHOPE Women's Business Center of the Lowcountry

seeks to inspire and empower women, minority and veteran entrepreneurs of the Lowcountry by providing programs and services focused on small business education, development and support. Appointments and free business consultations are available.

Lowcountry Local First (LLF) Good Enterprises Program

provides equitable opportunity for business ownership to transform lives and communities through the adoption of nationally recognized and proven curriculum, one-on-one coaching and an access to capital model.

Richland Library Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR) Program

supports, mentors and educates new entrepreneurs and budding startups by connecting participants with peers who successfully launched a new business venture. Free, one-on-one small business coaching appointments are available.

SCORE

is a national nonprofit with mentors who provide free consultations, advice and business services to existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

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provides a one-stop information resource for starting, running, expanding and relocating businesses in and to South Carolina.

The Bridge

is a joint initiative between the S.C. Small Business Development Centers (SCSBDC), the S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs (CMA), South Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), lenders and other partners to improve the economic impact of African American businesses and entrepreneurs.

The South Carolina Community Navigator Program

is designed to reduce barriers that underrepresented and underserved entrepreneurs often face in accessing the programs they need to recover, grow, or start their businesses. Recovery services can include financial assistance, access to capital support, contracting and procurement assistance, marketing, operations, business development and other technical assistance.

The South Carolina Small Business Development Center

offers free, private consulting, resources and seminars to help small businesses thrive. The program is supported with federal, state and private funds, and is open to any present or prospective small business owner.

The South Carolina Small Business Development Center — Veterans Business Program (VBP)

helps active and reserve duty military and veterans reach their potential as entrepreneurs. The VBP can assist with market research, business plans, required forms and registrations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs

offer partnerships with public and private community-based organizations and financial institutions to provide financial, business development and technical assistance to rural businesses.

TogetherSC

serves South Carolinians dedicated to community service, leadership and caring through nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. TogetherSC can support individuals looking to start a nonprofit.

Veteran Entrepreneur Portal (VEP)

provides veterans direct access to resources that guide every step of entrepreneurship, helping small businesses access federal services and relevant best practices and information.

STATE TAX CREDITS: LEARN MORE ABOUT ENHANCED STATE TAX CREDITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

South Carolina Department of Revenue

Provides technical assistance to help small business owners understand and claim tax credits to reduce the total amount of taxes owed.

WORKFORCE AND TRAINING: WHO CAN HELP WITH MY WORKFORCE NEEDS?

Apprenticeship Carolina

provides technical assistance to develop an apprenticeship program tailored to fit business needs. At no cost, consultants are available to guide companies through the registered apprenticeship development process.

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)

supports both new and existing businesses' needs, including assistance finding qualified workers, instructions on how to pay unemployment taxes, information about qualifying for a tax credit, and more. SCDEW's Regional Workforce Advisors help bridge local gaps between educators and business owners relying on a talented labor pool.

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

prepares and assists eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.

The Babcock Center

provides job development, placement and training for local businesses. Individuals can accomplish vocational goals through daily training tasks within the community or at a work training center.

The Federal Bonding Program

is offered by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW). This program is tailored for returning citizens and includes incentives for hiring those who complete the program and/or are federally bonded.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUSINESS TOOLS

BizFeed

is a monthly newsletter designed to help South Carolina's business community stay up to date with economic development and agency news, business development or educational programming, and more.

LocateSC

has flexible search criteria to analyze available sites, buildings and office space, and provides additional demographic, business and community data tools.

SizeUpSC

is S.C. Commerce's free business intelligence tool that provides key demographic data to help companies make better decisions around competitive benchmarking, customers, suppliers, marketing and advertising, and more.

SourceSC

is a free statewide industry directory that matches specific company capabilities and their supply chain needs. Companies looking to be listed in SourceSC must have a physical presence in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Material Exchange

is a free service designed to help businesses, industries and other organizations find markets for materials they have traditionally discarded. Registered users can post both wanted and available listings, like a classified ad section.

The South Carolina Recycling Directory

has over 300 S.C. recycling businesses that can recycle industrial paper, metals, plastics and more.

SUGGESTED NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

- [Hello Alice Newsletter](#)
- [SBA Newsletter](#)
- [SCORE Newsletter](#)
- [Small Business Development Center](#)
- [TogetherSC Newsletter](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Newsletter](#)

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need additional assistance or resources, please contact the South Carolina Department of Commerce Small Business team (SmallBizSupport@SCCommerce.com). For a clickable version of this document, scan the QR code.



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