



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

SOUTH CAROLINA EDITION 2020

# Small Business

RESOURCE GUIDE



## GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA







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South Carolina Edition 2020



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**ON THE COVER** skyline of downtown Columbia, photo by Akhenaton06 from Wikimedia; Boyd and Nicole Johnson, courtesy of Boyd Cycling; Karen Jenkins, courtesy of Dan Beale, Bealebagley Creations LLC

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If you're looking to start or expand your own business, we may be able to help you. At BDC, associated with CDC, we offer SBA 7(a) and SBA 504 loans, which allow us to provide small business financing solutions from \$100,000 up to \$5 million that are customized to fit your specific needs. Business Development Corporation is a leader in small business lending.

**For more information, contact one of our SBA Lending Experts today.**



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# NARRATIVE


— BY NEW SOUTH MEDIA —



We have all heard the phrase “content is king.” Creating rich, engaging, and inspiring content differentiates your brand in the marketplace. But who has time to focus on anything other than running their business?

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3294 Ashley Phosphate Road,  
suite 1D  
North Charleston, SC 29418  
(843) 225-7430

## District Director Letter

Welcome to the 2020 edition of the U.S. Small Business Administration's South Carolina Small Business Resource Guide. Small businesses are the backbone of America's economy, and that is reflected here in South Carolina. Over 99% of the state's businesses are small, and they are responsible for creating about 800,000 jobs in our state. That is over 46% of the employed population. That is why the government works so hard to support small business.

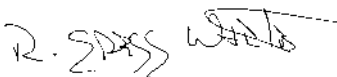
The SBA helps make the American dream of small business ownership a reality. We are the only federal agency dedicated to helping our 30 million small businesses start, grow, expand, or recover after a disaster. The SBA South Carolina District Office works with an extensive network of business advisers and lenders to help South Carolina's over 415,000 small businesses at every stage of development.

Across South Carolina in the last year, we empowered the state's small businesses to:

- Find an ally, advocate or mentor via our 21 Small Business Development Centers and six SCORE chapters across the state.
- Access over \$312 million in SBA-guaranteed loans using local banks, credit unions, community-based lenders, and microlenders. The 695 businesses that qualified for SBA-backed financing hired thousands of new employees, bought needed equipment, and built or renovated facilities.
- Rebuild and recover from Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael with low-interest disaster loans.
- Gain more than \$4.4 billion in federal contracting awards.

Our office is dedicated to ensuring that you have the resources you need to be a successful entrepreneur. Stay up to date on SBA events near you and get valuable South Carolina business information by following us on Twitter at @SBA\_SCarolina. Sign up for our weekly newsletter at [sba.gov/updates](http://sba.gov/updates). Use our Small Business Resource Guide to power your dream of starting, growing, or expanding your small business here in South Carolina.

Sincerely,



R. Gregg White  
South Carolina District Director



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# LOCAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

How We Did It

## Made to Last

Joyce and Jerado Reynolds used SBA support to succeed.

WRITTEN BY MICAELA MORRISSETTE



**R**eynolds 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



COURTESY OF SHANA SURECK PHOTOGRAPHY

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

Karen Jenkins, president/CEO of KRJ Consulting in Charlotte, was directed to the SBA programs that would work best for her business by her local SBDC business adviser. Karen has succeeded in government contracting thanks to the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program and the Emerging Leaders program.



COURTESY OF DAN BEALE, BEALEBAGLEY CREATIONS LLC

Spartanburg Community College  
Tyger River Campus  
1875 E. Main St.  
Duncan  
(864) 592-6317

## Lowcountry Chapter

Hilton Head Island  
Bluffton Chamber of Commerce  
1 Chamber of Commerce Drive  
(843) 785-7107  
**slowcountry.score.org**  
Beaufort  
(843) 470-0800  
Bluffton  
(843) 785-7105

## Small Business Development Centers

**scsbdc.com**  
@scsbdc

## SCORE

Visit [sba.gov/score](http://sba.gov/score) to start working on your business goals. Contact your local office to schedule an appointment.

### Greater Aiken Chapter

Aiken Chamber of Commerce  
121 Richland Ave. E.  
(803) 641-1111  
**greateraiken.score.org**  
North Augusta  
406 West Ave.  
(803) 279-2323

### Charleston Chapter

Lonnie Hamilton III Building  
4045 Bridge View Drive, suite B151  
North Charleston  
(843) 727-4778  
**charlestonsc.score.org**  
Summerville  
Summerville Library  
76 Old Trolley Road

### Grand Strand Chapter

605 10th Ave. N.  
Myrtle Beach  
(843) 918-1079  
**grandstrand.score.org**

### Midlands Chapter

Columbia Chamber of Commerce  
930 Richland St.  
Columbia  
(803) 765-5131  
**midlands.score.org**  
Chapin  
(803) 345-1100  
Hartsville Chamber of Commerce  
214 N. Fifth St.  
(843) 332-6401

### Piedmont Chapter

31 Boland Court  
Greenville  
(864) 271-3638  
**piedmont.score.org**

### State Director's Office

University of South Carolina  
Moore School of Business  
1014 Greene St.  
Columbia  
(803) 777-4907  
scsbdc@sc.edu

### Clemson Area SBDC

Clemson University  
413 Sistine Hall  
(864) 710-4717  
bennys@clemson.edu  
**clemson.edu/sbdc**

### Greenville Area SBDC

225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, suite C-12  
Greenville  
(864) 370-1545  
clemsonsbdc@clemson.edu

**Greenwood Area SBDC**

430 Helix Road  
Greenwood  
(864) 941-8092  
bcalho@clemson.edu

**Spartanburg Area SBDC**

Spartanburg Community College  
Tyger River Campus  
1875 E. Main St., suite 4  
Duncan  
(864) 592-6318  
es2@clemson.edu

**Orangeburg Area SBDC**

South Carolina State University  
Algernon S. Belcher Hall  
300 College St. NE  
Orangeburg  
(803) 536-8445  
jjohns47@scsu.edu  
**scsu.edu/sbdc**  
Walterboro  
Colleton Commercial Kitchen  
514 E. Washington St.  
(843) 549-2303

**Aiken Area SBDC**

USC-Aiken School of Business  
471 University Parkway  
(803) 641-3646  
sbdc@usca.edu

**Beaufort Area SBDC**

USCB Historic Beaufort Campus  
801 Carteret St.  
(843) 521-4143  
goodman@uscb.edu

**Charleston Area SBDC**

The Citadel  
256A Bond Hall  
171 Moultrie St.  
Charleston  
(843) 953-7220  
wetzelj@mailbox.sc.edu  
**charlestonsbdc.com**

**North Charleston Area SBDC**

6296 Rivers Ave., suite 300  
North Charleston  
(843) 740-6160  
strangbc@mailbox.sc.edu

**Columbia Area SBDC**

1225 Laurel St., third floor  
Columbia  
(803) 777-5118  
brown89@mailbox.sc.edu

**Hilton Head Area SBDC**

USCB Gateway to Hilton Head Campus  
1 University Blvd.  
Bluffton  
(843) 208-8259  
pcameron@usb.edu  
Lexington  
311 W. Main St.  
(803) 777-5118

**Newberry Area SBDC**

Newberry College  
2100 College St.  
(803) 321-5689  
barbara.miller@newberry.edu

**Sumter Area SBDC**

USC Sumter  
200 Miller Road, room 216  
(803) 938-3833  
dweeks2@mailbox.sc.edu

**Winthrop Region SBDC**

winthropregionalsbdc.org  
Cheraw  
Northeastern Technical College  
1201 Chesterfield Highway  
(843) 910-7352

**Florence Area SBDC**

Florence-Darlington Technical College  
2715 W. Lucas St.  
Florence  
(843) 661-8256  
sbdc.florence@gmail.com  
**florencesbdc.org**  
Georgetown Library  
405 Cleland St.  
(843) 606-0116  
**coastal.edu/sbdc**

**Myrtle Beach Area SBDC**

Coastal Carolina University Atlantic Hall  
642 Century Circle  
Conway  
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jpgraham@coastal.edu  
**coastal.edu/sbdc**

**Rock Hill Area SBDC**

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118 Thurmond Building  
Rock Hill  
(803) 323-2283  
withropregionalsbdc@gmail.com  
Union  
beardmores@winthrop.edu



O'Connor Belting, a Delaware family-owned business, expanded with the help of an SBA-guaranteed 7(a) loan.

**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.

**Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource Center**

1001 S. Armed Forces Blvd.  
Warner Robins, GA  
(478) 218-3900  
**avecpr.org**





# Your Advocates

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

## 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](https://www.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

To report how a proposed federal regulation could unfairly affect you, find your regional SBA advocate at [sba.gov/advocacy](https://www.sba.gov/advocacy).

To submit a comment about how your business has been hurt by an existing regulation, visit [sba.gov/ombudsman/comments](https://www.sba.gov/ombudsman/comments)

- » 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](https://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).

To submit a comment or complaint through the online form, visit [sba.gov/ombudsman/comments](https://www.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.



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

COURTESY OF THE SBA

# How to Start a Business in South Carolina

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. Find your city and county contacts at the South Carolina Business One Stop, (803) 898-5960, or visit [scbos.sc.gov](http://scbos.sc.gov).

## 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.

- » **SC Secretary of State**  
1205 Pendleton St., suite 525  
Columbia  
(803) 734-2170  
[scsos.com](http://scsos.com)

## 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](http://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.





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An O'Fallon Casting Inc. employee at work in O'Fallon, MO. General Manager Vince Gimeno grew his business thanks to the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

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](https://www.irs.gov) for the latest tax reform updates that affect your bottom line.

» **Small Business Stakeholder Liaison**

Evette Davis  
(803) 548-4350  
[evette.davis@irs.gov](mailto:evette.davis@irs.gov)

» **State Taxes**

SC Department of Revenue  
(803) 898-5000  
[dor.sc.gov](https://dor.sc.gov)

## Social Security

If you have any employees, including officers of a corporation but not the sole proprietor or partners, you must make periodic payments, and/or file quarterly reports about payroll taxes and other mandatory deductions. You can contact the IRS or the Social Security Administration for information, assistance, and forms, at (800) 772-1213 or visit [socialsecurity.gov/employer](https://www.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](https://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](mailto: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](https://e-verify.gov), call (888) 464-4218 or email [e-verify@dhs.gov](mailto: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](https://www.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](https://www.osha.gov).

» **U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division**

1835 Assembly St., suite 1072  
Columbia  
(803) 765-5981

» **SC Department of Labor Licensing & Regulations**

Kingtree Building  
110 Centerview Drive  
Columbia  
(803) 896-4300  
[llr.state.sc.us](https://llr.state.sc.us)

## 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](https://www.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](https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/association-health-plans).



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

COURTESY OF THE SBA

## 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](http://nationalsbeap.org/states/list).

- » **SC Department of Health and Environmental Control**  
2600 Bull St.  
Columbia  
(803) 898-3432  
[scdhec.gov](http://scdhec.gov)

## 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](mailto:ta@access-board.gov) or visit [access-board.gov](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://uspto.gov). Call the patent and trademark office help center at (800) 786-9199 or visit the U.S. Patent and Trademark headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

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](http://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](http://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](http://copyright.gov)

## Export Assistance

**U.S. Export Assistance Centers**

1362 McMillian Ave., suite 100  
North Charleston  
(843) 746-3404  
[export.gov/southcarolina](http://export.gov/southcarolina)

Columbia  
1301 Gervais St., suite 1100  
(803) 255-2623  
Greenville

216 S. Pleasantburg Drive, suite 243  
(704) 340-1299

**SC Department of Commerce–  
International Strategy & Trade**

1201 Main St., suite 1600  
Columbia  
(803) 737-0598  
[sccommerce.com/export-incentives](http://sccommerce.com/export-incentives)

## Chambers of Commerce

**African American Chamber**

(803) 661-2977  
[scachamber.org](http://scachamber.org)

**American Indian Chamber**

(843) 224-4000  
[aicssc.org](http://aicssc.org)

**Abbeville**

(864) 366-4600  
[abbevillechamber.org](http://abbevillechamber.org)

**Aiken**

(803) 641-1111  
[aikenchamber.net](http://aikenchamber.net)

**Anderson**

(864) 226-3454  
[andersonscchamber.com](http://andersonscchamber.com)

**Aynor**

(843) 358-4808  
[aynorareachamberofcommerce.com](http://aynorareachamberofcommerce.com)

**Bamberg**

(803) 245-4427  
[bambergcountychamber.org](http://bambergcountychamber.org)

**Barnwell**

(803) 259-7446  
[southernpalmettoregionalchamber.org](http://southernpalmettoregionalchamber.org)

**Batesburg-Leesville**

(803) 532-4339  
[batesburg-leesvillechamber.org](http://batesburg-leesvillechamber.org)

**Beaufort**

(843) 525-8525  
[beaufortchamber.org](http://beaufortchamber.org)

**Beaufort County Black Chamber**

(843) 986-1102  
[bcbcc.org](http://bcbcc.org)

**Berkley**

(843) 761-8238  
[berkeleysc.org](http://berkeleysc.org)

**Blythewood**

(803) 403-6769  
[blythewoodchamber.com](http://blythewoodchamber.com)

**Calhoun Falls**

(864) 418-8672

**Cayce West Columbia**

(803) 794-6504  
[cwcchamber.com](http://cwcchamber.com)

**Chapin**

(803) 345-1100  
[chapinchamber.com](http://chapinchamber.com)

**Charleston Metro**

(843) 577-2510  
[charlestonchamber.org](http://charlestonchamber.org)

**Cheraw**

(843) 537-7681  
[cherawchamber.com](http://cherawchamber.com)

**Cherokee County**

(864) 489-5721  
[cherokeechamber.org](http://cherokeechamber.org)

**Chester County**

(803) 581-4142  
[chesterchamber.com](http://chesterchamber.com)

**Clarendon County**

(803) 435-4405  
[clarendoncounty.com](http://clarendoncounty.com)

**Clemson area**

(864) 654-1200  
[clemsonareachamber.org](http://clemsonareachamber.org)

**Clover**

(803) 222-3312  
[cloverchamber.org](http://cloverchamber.org)

**Columbia**

(803) 733-1110  
[columbiachamber.com](http://columbiachamber.com)

**Conway**

(843) 248-2273  
[conwayscchamber.com](http://conwayscchamber.com)

**Darlington**

(843) 393-2641  
[darlingtonchamber.com](http://darlingtonchamber.com)

**Dillon County**

(843) 774-8551  
[dilloncounty.sc.gov](http://dilloncounty.sc.gov)

**Easley County**

(864) 859-2693  
[easleychamber.org](http://easleychamber.org)

**Edgefield County**

(803) 275-0010  
[edgefieldcountychamber.net](http://edgefieldcountychamber.net)

**Edisto**

(843) 869-3867  
[edisto-chamber.com](http://edisto-chamber.com)

**Fairfield County**

(803) 635-4242  
[fairfieldchamber.sc](http://fairfieldchamber.sc)

**Florence**

(843) 665-0515  
[florchamber.com](http://florchamber.com)

**Fountain Inn**

(864) 862-2586  
[fountaininnchamber.org](http://fountaininnchamber.org)

**Georgetown County**

(843) 546-8436  
[visitgeorge.com](http://visitgeorge.com)

**Greenville**

(864) 242-1050  
[greenvillechamber.org](http://greenvillechamber.org)

**Greenwood**

(864) 223-8431  
[greenwoodscchamber.org](http://greenwoodscchamber.org)

**Greer**

(864) 877-3131  
[greerchamber.com](http://greerchamber.com)

**Hampton County**

(803) 914-2143  
[hamptoncountychamber.org](http://hamptoncountychamber.org)

**Hardeeville**

(843) 784-3630  
[hardeevillechamber.com](http://hardeevillechamber.com)

**Hartsville**

(843) 332-6401  
[hartsvillechamber.org](http://hartsvillechamber.org)

**Hilton Head-Bluffton**

(843) 785-3673  
[hiltonheadchamber.org](http://hiltonheadchamber.org)

**Inman**

(864) 472-3654  
[inmanscchamber.org](http://inmanscchamber.org)

**Irmo**

(803) 749-9355  
[greaterirmochamber.com](http://greaterirmochamber.com)

**Jasper County**

(843) 726-8126  
[jaspersc.org](http://jaspersc.org)

**Kershaw County**

(803) 432-2525  
[kershawcountychamber.org](http://kershawcountychamber.org)

**Lake City**

(843) 374-8611  
[lakecitysc.org](http://lakecitysc.org)

**Lake Murray**

(803) 356-2151  
[lakemurraychamber.com](http://lakemurraychamber.com)

**Lake Wylie**

(803) 831-2827  
[lakewyliechambersc.com](http://lakewyliechambersc.com)

**Lancaster County**

(803) 283-4105  
[lancasterchambersc.org](http://lancasterchambersc.org)

**Laurens County**

(864) 833-2716  
[laurenscounty.org/cc](http://laurenscounty.org/cc)

**Lee County**

(803) 483-2800  
[leecountychambersc.com](http://leecountychambersc.com)

**Lexington**

(803) 359-6113  
[lexingtonsc.org](http://lexingtonsc.org)

**Little River**

(843) 249-6604  
[littleriverchamber.org](http://littleriverchamber.org)

**Loris**

(843) 756-6030  
[lorischamber.com](http://lorischamber.com)

**Marion**

(843) 423-3561  
[marionscchamber.com](http://marionscchamber.com)

**Mauldin**

(864) 297-1323  
[mauldinchamber.org](http://mauldinchamber.org)

**McCormick**

(864) 852-2835  
[mccormickscchamber.org](http://mccormickscchamber.org)

**Midland Valley**

(803) 392-7043  
[facebook.com/mvachamber](http://facebook.com/mvachamber)

**Mullins**

(843) 464-6651  
[mullinschamber.com](http://mullinschamber.com)

**Myrtle Beach**

(843) 626-7444  
[myrtlebeachareachamber.com](http://myrtlebeachareachamber.com)

**Newberry County**

(803) 276-4274  
[newberrycountychamber.com](http://newberrycountychamber.com)

**Ninety Six**

(864) 543-2047  
[ninety-six-sc.gov](http://ninety-six-sc.gov)

**North Augusta**

(803) 279-2323  
[northaugustachamber.org](http://northaugustachamber.org)

**North Myrtle Beach**

(843) 281-2662  
[northmyrtlebeachchamber.com](http://northmyrtlebeachchamber.com)

**Oconee County**

(864) 882-2097  
[oconeechambersc.com](http://oconeechambersc.com)

**Orangeburg County**

(803) 534-6821  
[orangeburgchamber.com](http://orangeburgchamber.com)

**Pageland**

(843) 672-6400  
[pagelandcham.net](http://pagelandcham.net)

**Pickens**

(864) 878-3258  
[pickenschamberofcommerce.com](http://pickenschamberofcommerce.com)

**Rock Hill**

(803) 324-7500  
[yorkcountychamber.com](http://yorkcountychamber.com)

**Saluda County**

(864) 445-4100  
[saludachambersc.org](http://saludachambersc.org)

**SC Chamber**

(803) 799-4601  
[scchamber.net](http://scchamber.net)

**SC Hispanic Chamber**

(864) 643-7261  
[schcc.org](http://schcc.org)

**SC Small Business**

(803) 252-5733  
[scsbc.org](http://scsbc.org)

**Simpsonville area**

(864) 963-3781  
[simpsonvillechamber.com](http://simpsonvillechamber.com)

**Spartanburg area**

(864) 594-5000  
[spartanburgchamber.com](http://spartanburgchamber.com)

**Summerville & Dorchester County**

(843) 873-2931  
[greatersummerville.org](http://greatersummerville.org)

**Sumter**

(803) 775-1231  
[sumterchamber.com](http://sumterchamber.com)

**Tri-County region**

(843) 563-8187  
[tri-crcc.com](http://tri-crcc.com)

**Union County**

(864) 427-9039  
[unionsc.info](http://unionsc.info)

**Walterboro-Colleton**

(843) 549-9595  
[walterboro.org](http://walterboro.org)

**Westminster**

(864) 647-5316  
[westminstersc.com](http://westminstersc.com)

**Williamsburg**

(843) 355-6431  
[williamsburgsc.org](http://williamsburgsc.org)

**York County region**

(803) 324-7500  
[yorkcountychamber.com](http://yorkcountychamber.com)





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### ▲ 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](http://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](http://sba.gov/vboc). For veterans business information visit [sba.gov/veterans](http://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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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

- Key partnerships
- Key activities
- Key resources
- Value proposition
- Customer relationships
- Customer segments
- Channels
- Cost structure
- Revenue streams



# Boyd & Nicole Johnson

OWNERS, BOYD CYCLING

*Greenville, SC*

**When Boyd and Nicole Johnson wanted to distribute their high-performance bicycle wheels overseas, the couple turned to the SBA.** With the help of SBA export assistance, the Johnsons are competing better here and abroad.

- **What challenge did you have?** As former professional cyclists, we knew there was an international demand for innovative cycling products. We just had to tap into that international market with our small-business budget. One of the biggest obstacles was we didn't have the capacity nor capability to market ourselves abroad. The cycling world really requires personal interaction and face-to-face meetings. We needed a budget to meet clients where they are to tell them about the benefits of our products.
- **What was the SBA solution?** We used the SBA-funded State Trade Expansion Program to help us export our products to Europe. First, we reached out to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, which administers the STEP grant to assist small businesses to succeed in the international marketplace. The Department of Commerce provided the funding for Boyd Cycling to expand our marketing to European, Asian, and South American countries by participating in trade shows in Germany and Taiwan.
- **What benefit did this have for you?** Learning how to export from STEP program specialists was a tremendous time saver. Our grant allowed us to travel to many international locations for seminars and trade shows to meet with customers and secure new contracts. Thanks to the STEP program, we've increased sales by about 20%, while gaining momentum to continue business growth.

Our business is now exporting to South America, Australia, and Asia. We are a husband and wife team, and it would've been difficult to accomplish that without the help of the SBA and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. We are very appreciative of their support and for making the world a better market for small businesses.



COURTESY OF BOYD CYCLING

**“  
We used the SBA-funded State  
Trade Expansion Program to  
help us export our products  
to Europe.”**

**Boyd & Nicole Johnson**  
Owners, Boyd Cycling



# 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





**J**ennifer 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.

COURTESY OF SUPERSTITION MEADERY

## 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.

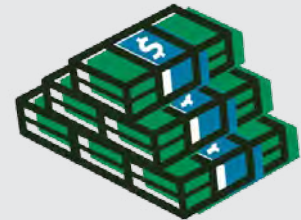
# Lender Match

Find a lender interested in working with you at [sba.gov/lendermatch](http://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.



# Let HomeTrust Bank Connect You to the Capital You Need

HomeTrust Bank is a national SBA 7(a) & USDA B&I Lender

**Examples of eligible financing:**

- Gas Station
- Hotel
- Franchise
- Auto Repair
- Mini / Self Storage
- Owner Occupied Real Estate and Office<sup>1</sup>
- Business Acquisitions, Goodwill and Intangible Assets

1. Must be at least 51% owner occupied

**Christopher McFatter**  
SVP / DIRECTOR OF SBA LENDING  
828.225.3588  
[christopher.mcfatter@htb.com](mailto:christopher.mcfatter@htb.com)

**Joe Diggs**  
SVP / SBA LENDING SALES MGR  
704.971.7038  
[joe.diggs@htb.com](mailto:joe.diggs@htb.com)

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender 191021-547639878



**HomeTrust Bank**

SBA Lending

[HTBforBusiness.com/sba](http://HTBforBusiness.com/sba)

# SBA Lenders

Our participating SBA Lenders serve all South Carolina unless otherwise noted. Contact the lender for more bank locations.

## AIKEN

### Coastal Carolina National Bank

128 Laurens St. NW  
(803) 644-9550  
[myccnb.com](http://myccnb.com)

### First Community Bank

407 Silver Bluff Road SW  
(803) 293-2400  
[firstcommunitysc.com](http://firstcommunitysc.com)

### Regions Bank

(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

107 Chesterfield St. S.  
1799 Whiskey Road

### Security Federal Bank

[securityfederalbank.com](http://securityfederalbank.com)  
1705 Whiskey Road  
(803) 644-2692  
2587 Whiskey Road  
(803) 644-2692  
100 Laurens St.  
(803) 644-2692  
1665 Richland Ave.  
(803) 644-2691

## ANDERSON

### Community First Bank

2007 E. Greenville St.  
(864) 224-0178  
[c1stbank.com](http://c1stbank.com)

### Countybank

300 N. Main St.  
(864) 622-2695  
[ecountybank.com](http://ecountybank.com)

### Entegra Bank

602 N. Main St.  
(864) 716-4115  
[entegrabank.com](http://entegrabank.com)

### People's Bank

[peoplesbanksc.com](http://peoplesbanksc.com)  
1921 E. Greenville St.  
(864) 222-2601  
3010 S. Main St.  
(864) 296-3480

3901 Clemson Blvd.  
(864) 261-3211  
3009 Whitehall Road  
(864) 222-4038

## BAMBERG

### Enterprise Bank of South Carolina

2727 Main Highway  
(803) 245-5171  
[ebsc.bank](http://ebsc.bank)

## BARNWELL

### Enterprise Bank of South Carolina

287 Main St.  
(803) 245-5171  
[ebsc.bank](http://ebsc.bank)

### Regions Bank

1680 Jackson St.  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

## BLACKSBURG

### First National Bank of Pennsylvania

207 W. Cherokee St.  
(864) 839-2265  
[fnb-online.com](http://fnb-online.com)

## BLACKVILLE

### Enterprise Bank of South Carolina

227 Main St.  
(803) 284-2258  
[ebsc.bank](http://ebsc.bank)

## BLYTHEWOOD

### First Community Bank

201 Main St.  
(803) 726-6300  
[firstcommunitysc.com](http://firstcommunitysc.com)

## BOILING SPRINGS

### First Tennessee

3090 Boiling Springs Road  
(864) 578-8600  
[firsttennessee.com](http://firsttennessee.com)

## CAMDEN

### First Community Bank

631 W. DeKalb St.  
(803) 432-7575  
[firstcommunitysc.com](http://firstcommunitysc.com)

## CAYCE

### Southern First Bank

190 Knox Abbott Drive  
[southernfirst.com](http://southernfirst.com)

## CHAPIN

### First Community Bank

127 Amicks Ferry Road  
(803) 345-5952  
[firstcommunitysc.com](http://firstcommunitysc.com)

## CHARLESTON

### First Reliance Bank

26 Cumberland St.  
(843) 789-1000  
[firstreliance.com](http://firstreliance.com)

### Heritage Trust

### Federal Credit Union

2030 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.  
(843) 832-7570  
[heritagetrust.org](http://heritagetrust.org)

### Pinnacle Bank

[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)  
134 Meeting St.  
(843) 769-0999  
1503 Old Towne Road  
(843) 852-6400  
291 E. Bay St.  
(843) 606-9166  
329 Folly Road  
(843) 735-5360  
802 Savannah Highway  
(843) 571-6097

## South Carolina

### Federal Credit Union

[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)  
3460 Shelby Ray Court  
(843) 545-8300  
1945 Sam Rittenburg Blvd.  
(843) 797-8300  
140 Bee St.  
(843) 797-8300  
1317 Folly Road  
(843) 797-8300

### Southern First Bank

80 Calhoun St.  
(843) 725-5099  
[southernfirst.com](http://southernfirst.com)

## CHERAW

### First Bank

901 Chesterfield Highway  
(843) 537-7656  
[localfirstbank.com](http://localfirstbank.com)

## CHESNEE

### Entegra Bank

110 S. Alabama Ave.  
(864) 461-2287  
[entegrabank.com](http://entegrabank.com)

## CLEARWATER

### Regions Bank

4385 Jefferson Davis Highway  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

### Security Federal Bank

4568 Jefferson Davis Highway  
(803) 593-7417  
[securityfederalbank.com](http://securityfederalbank.com)

## COLUMBIA

### Ameris Bank

1333 Main St.  
(803) 765-1600  
[amerisbank.com](http://amerisbank.com)

## Business

### Development Corp. of South Carolina

Enoree Building  
111 Executive Center Drive, suite 225  
(803) 798-4064  
[businessdevelopment.org](http://businessdevelopment.org)

### Coastal Carolina National Bank

1219 Assembly St., suite 101  
(803) 733-2582  
[myccnb.com](http://myccnb.com)

### First Community Bank

4404 Forest Drive  
(803) 790-0100  
[firstcommunitysc.com](http://firstcommunitysc.com)

### First Tennessee Bank

[firsttennessee.com](http://firsttennessee.com)  
1320 Main St., suite 175  
(803) 779-0411

1340 Sumter St.  
(803) 779-0411

10134 Two Notch Road  
(803) 779-6670  
4840 Forest Drive  
(803) 748-7799

### Grow Financial Federal Credit Union

163 Forum Drive  
(803) 705-3121  
[growfinancial.org](http://growfinancial.org)

### Regions Bank

(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)  
1010 Gervais St.  
149 Columbiana Drive

### Security Federal Bank

1900 Assembly St.  
(803) 739-3940  
[securityfederallbank.com](http://securityfederallbank.com)



**South Carolina**

**Federal Credit Union**  
**scfederal.org**

2350 Legrand Road  
(803) 738-8300  
4503 Forest Drive  
(803) 738-8300

**Southern First Bank**

4018 Forest Drive  
(803) 509-6280  
**southernfirst.com**

**United Community Bank**

1523 Huger St.  
(803) 461-3801  
**ucbi.com**

**CONWAY**

**Coastal Carolina National Bank**

1106 Third Ave.  
(843) 488-2800  
**myccnb.com**

**DENMARK**

**Enterprise Bank of South Carolina**

4668 Carolina Highway  
(803) 793-5018  
**ebsc.bank**

**DILLON**

**First Bank**  
**localfirstbank.com**

101 W. Main St.  
(843) 841-7656  
206 E. Monroe St.  
(843) 841-9955

**EASLEY**

**First Community Bank**  
**firstcommunitysc.com**

**Pinnacle Bank**  
6602 Calhoun Memorial Highway  
(864) 306-2540  
**pnfp.com**

**EHRHARDT**

**Enterprise Bank of South Carolina**

13497 Broxton Bridge Road  
(803) 267-3191  
**ebsc.bank**

**FLORENCE**

**First Reliance Bank**  
**firstreliance.com**

411 Second Loop Road  
(843) 656-5000  
2170 W. Palmetto St.  
(843) 656-5000

**South Carolina Federal Credit Union**  
**scfederal.org**

2321 Trade Court (843) 519-8300  
1937 E. Palmetto St.  
(843) 519-8300

**GAFFNEY**

**First National Bank of Pennsylvania**

207 W. Cherokee St.  
(864) 839-2265  
**fnb-online.com**

**GARDEN CITY**

**Coastal Carolina National Bank**

2961 Highway 17 S.  
(843) 839-3066  
**myccnb.com**

**PNC Bank**

701 Gervais St.  
(877) 287-2654  
**pnc.com**

**GEORGETOWN**

**South Carolina Federal Credit Union**

1701 Highmarket St.  
(843) 545-8300  
**scfederal.org**

**GOOSE CREEK**

**Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union**

201 St. James Ave.  
(843) 832-7570  
**heritagetrust.org**

**Pinnacle Bank**

597 Old Mount Holly Road, suite 200  
(843) 553-0021  
**pnfp.com**

**South Carolina Federal Credit Union**  
**scfederal.org**

82 Bridgetown Road  
(843) 797-8300

1001 Jefferson Ave.  
Ext. (843) 797-8300

**GRANITEVILLE**

**Security Federal Bank**

50 Canal St.  
(803) 663-1100  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**GREENVILLE**

**Aquesta Bank**

27 Cleveland St.  
(843) 242-1555  
**aquesta.com**

**Bank of Travelers Rest bankoftravelersrest.com**

2021 N. Pleasantburg Drive (864) 244-4380  
201 Pelham Road (864) 298-0040  
5101 Old Buncombe Road (864) 246-6702  
6204 White Horse Road (864) 295-0008  
1041 Verdae Blvd. (864) 720-1100  
217-B E. Washington St. (864) 282-2322

**Coastal Carolina National Bank**

416 E. North St.  
(864) 278-0600  
**myccnb.com**

**Community First Bank**

210 Brendan Way  
(864) 775-3480  
**c1stbank.com**

**Countybank**

3431 Pelham Road  
(864) 335-2450  
**ecountybank.com**

**Entegra Bank**

501 Roper Mountain Road  
(864) 255-9035  
**entegrabank.com**

**First Community Bank**

45 Farris Bridge Road  
(864) 294-9711  
**firstcommunitysc.com**

**First Reliance Bank**

500 E. Washington St.  
(864) 672-1776  
**firstreliance.com**

**First Tennessee Bank**

3401 Pelham Road  
(864) 213-9109  
**firsttennessee.com**

**Pinnacle Bank pnfp.com**

2415 Laurens Road  
(864) 234-5556  
550 E. McBee Ave.  
(864) 250-9800  
3900 Pelham Road  
(864) 315-1041

**Southern First Bank**  
**southernfirst.com**

2125 Augusta St.  
(864) 679-9480  
100 Verdae Blvd., suite 100 (864) 679-9000  
1900 Woodruff Road  
(864) 679-9300

**GREENWOOD**

**Countybank**

419 Main St.  
(864) 942-1569  
**ecountybank.com**

**GREER**

**Pinnacle Bank**

530 W. Wade Hampton Blvd.  
(864) 801-1165  
**pnfp.com**

**Southern First Bank**

309 The Parkway  
(864) 662-2000  
**southernfirst.com**

**HAMPTON**

**Regions Bank**

403 First St. E  
(800) 734-4667  
**regions.com**

**HILTON HEAD**

**Pinnacle Bank**

1000 William Hilton Parkway  
(843) 842-3232  
**pnfp.com**

**IRMO**

**Ameris Bank**

1200 Lake Murray Blvd.  
(803) 749-5230  
**amerisbank.com**

**Security Federal Bank**

1790 Dutch Fork Road  
(803) 569-2700  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**JAMES ISLAND**

**Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union**

766 Daniel Ellis Drive  
(843) 832-7570  
**heritagetrust.org**

**JOHNS ISLAND**

**Pinnacle Bank**

2753 Maybank Highway  
(843) 559-5029  
**pnfp.com**

**JOHNSTON**

**Regions Bank**

400 Lee St.  
(800) 734-4667  
**regions.com**

**LEXINGTON**

**Ameris Bank**

701 W. Main St.  
(803) 808-4220  
**amerisbank.com**

**First Reliance Bank**

801 N. Lake Drive  
(803) 996-4900  
**firstreliance.com**

**Grow Financial Federal Credit Union**

805 Highway 378  
(803) 705-3121  
**growfinancial.org**

**Security Federal Bank**

5446 Sunset Blvd.  
(803) 808-8180  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**Southern First Bank**

5346 Sunset Blvd.  
(803) 520-5380  
**southernfirst.com**

**MARIETTA**

**Bank of Travelers Rest**

3211 Geer Highway  
(864) 836-8187  
**bankoftravelersrest.com**

**MAULDIN****Pinnacle Bank**

787-H E. Butler Road  
(864) 272-0825  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**MONCKS CORNER****Heritage Trust  
Federal Credit Union**

206 E. Main St.  
(843) 832-7570  
[heritagetrust.org](http://heritagetrust.org)

**Pinnacle Bank**

337 E. Main St.  
(843) 899-7755  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**South Carolina  
Federal Credit Union**

456 N. Highway 52  
(843) 797-8300  
[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)

**Mount Pleasant**

First Reliance Bank  
800 S. Shelmore Blvd.  
(843) 789-1000  
[firstreliance.com](http://firstreliance.com)

**First Tennessee Bank  
firsttennessee.com**

28 Bridgeside Blvd.,  
suite 100 (843) 972-6000  
651 Johnnie Dodds  
Blvd. (843) 971-6977

**Heritage Trust  
Federal Credit Union**

[heritagetrust.org](http://heritagetrust.org)  
847 Coleman Blvd.  
1126 Park W.  
(843) 832-7570

**Southern First Bank**

691 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
(843) 606-4300  
[southernfirst.com](http://southernfirst.com)

**Pinnacle Bank**

[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)  
602 Coleman Blvd.  
(843) 971-6542  
3305 S. Morgans Point  
(843) 887-3832

**South Carolina  
Federal Credit Union**

[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)  
910 Houston  
Northcutt Blvd.  
(843) 797-8300  
1620 N. Highway 17  
(843) 797-8300

**MURRELLS INLET****Aquesta Bank**

870 B Inlet Square  
Drive (843) 651-7111  
[aquesta.com](http://aquesta.com)

**Pinnacle Bank**

11975 Highway 17  
Bypass  
(843) 979-5300  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**MYRTLE BEACH****Coastal Carolina  
National Bank**

1012 38th Ave. N.  
(843) 839-2265  
[myccnb.com](http://myccnb.com)

**First Reliance Bank**

507 21st Ave. N.  
(843) 492-2830  
[firstreliance.com](http://firstreliance.com)

**Pinnacle Bank**

[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)  
3064 Dick Pond Road  
(843) 294-6000  
3751 Robert M.  
Grissom Parkway  
(843) 626-2265

**Sandhills Bank  
sandhillsbank.com**

610 International  
Drive (843) 903-1903  
273 Carolina Forest  
Blvd. (843) 903-3223  
4600 Highway 17 S.  
(843) 293-7595

**NORTH AUGUSTA****Security Federal Bank**

315 E. Martintown Road  
(803) 442-2104  
[securityfederalbank.com](http://securityfederalbank.com)

**NORTH CHARLESTON****Aquesta Bank**

4000 Faber Place  
Drive, suite 300  
(843) 242-1555  
[aquesta.com](http://aquesta.com)

**Grow Financial  
Federal Credit Union**

9514 Dorchester Road  
(843) 285-4424  
[growfinancial.org](http://growfinancial.org)

**Heritage Trust****Federal Credit Union**

[heritagetrust.org](http://heritagetrust.org)  
8435 Dorchester Road  
(843) 832-7570  
7550 Rivers Ave.  
(843) 832-7570  
2375 White Circle  
(843) 832-7570

**Pinnacle Bank**

8420 Dorchester Road  
(843) 207-0300  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**South Carolina  
Federal Credit Union**

[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)  
6265 Rivers Ave.  
(843) 797-8300  
1900 McMillan Ave.  
(843) 797-8300

**NORTH MYRTLE BEACH****Coastal Carolina  
National Bank**

1100 Highway 17 N.  
(843) 839-3055  
[myccnb.com](http://myccnb.com)

**Pinnacle Bank**

710 Highway 17 N.  
(843) 663-2265  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**Sandhills Bank  
sandhillsbank.com**

1020 Highway 17 N.  
(843) 280-2265  
4400 Highway 17 S.  
(843) 663-5600

**RIDGEFIELD****Enterprise Bank of  
South Carolina**

102 N. Main St.  
(843) 871-0225  
[ebsc.bank](http://ebsc.bank)

**RIDGELAND****Regions Bank**

11004 N. Jacob  
Smart Blvd.  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

**RIDGE SPRING****Security Federal Bank**

636 E. Main St.  
(803) 641-3000  
[securityfederalbank.com](http://securityfederalbank.com)

**SIMPSONVILLE****First Reliance Bank**

150 Highway 14  
(864) 688-1071  
[firstreliance.com](http://firstreliance.com)

**Regions Bank**

2565 Woodruff Road  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

**SPARTANBURG****First Tennessee Bank  
firsttennessee.com**

215 N. Pine St. (864)  
948-9001  
2680 Reidville Road  
(864) 576-7220

**South Carolina  
Federal Credit Union**

930 Charisma Drive  
(864) 406-8300  
[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)

**Pinnacle Bank**

531 E. Main St.  
(864) 573-6347  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**Regions Bank**

235 S. Pine St.  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

**SENECA****Community First Bank  
c1stbank.com**

449 Hwy 123 Bypass  
(864) 886-0206  
1600 Sandifer Blvd.  
(864) 882-2575

**SPRINGFIELD****Enterprise Bank of  
South Carolina**

7222 Festival Trail Road  
(803) 258-3211  
[ebsc.bank](http://ebsc.bank)

**SUMMERVILLE****Grow Financial  
Federal Credit Union**

1585 Central Ave.  
(843) 285-4424  
[growfinancial.org](http://growfinancial.org)

**Heritage Trust****Federal Credit Union**

[heritagetrust.org](http://heritagetrust.org)  
1905 Old Trolley Road  
(843) 832-7570  
210 Marymeade Drive  
(843) 832-7570

**Pinnacle Bank**

203 N. Main St.  
(843) 873-5330  
[pnfp.com](http://pnfp.com)

**Regions Bank**

201 S. Main St.  
(800) 734-4667  
[regions.com](http://regions.com)

**South Carolina  
Federal Credit Union**

[scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org)  
1000 N Main St.  
(864) 747-8300  
9999 Dorchester Road  
(843) 797-8300

**Southern First Bank**

105 Front St.  
(843) 285-7089  
[southernfirst.com](http://southernfirst.com)

**TAYLORS****Bank of Travelers Rest**

6000 Wade  
Hampton Blvd.  
(864) 879-7771  
[bankoftravelersrest.com](http://bankoftravelersrest.com)

**First Reliance Bank**

2801-B Wade  
Hampton Blvd.  
(864) 451-5360  
[firstreliance.com](http://firstreliance.com)

**TEGA CAY****First National Bank  
of Pennsylvania**

207 W. Cherokee St.  
(864) 839-2265  
[fnd-online.com](http://fnd-online.com)

**First Tennessee Bank**

1115 Stonecrest Blvd.  
(803) 548-6666  
[firsttennessee.com](http://firsttennessee.com)

**Travelers Rest**

Bank of Travelers Rest  
**bankoftravelersrest.com**  
 42 Plaza Drive  
 (864) 834-9031  
 500 Roe Center Court (864)  
 834-9061

**WAGENER**

**Security Federal Bank**  
 118 Main St.  
 (803) 564-5166  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**WALHALLA**

**Community First Bank**  
 3685 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
 (864) 638-2105  
**c1stbank.com**

**WALTERBORO**

**Enterprise Bank of South Carolina**  
 776 Bells Highway  
 (843) 549-1120  
**ebsc.bank**

**Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union**

814 N. Jefferies Blvd.  
 (843) 832-7570  
**heritagetrust.org**

**WARRENVILLE**

**Security Federal Bank**  
 2812 Augusta Road  
 (803) 593-7400  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**WEST COLUMBIA**

**First Community Bank**  
 506 Meeting St.  
 (803) 791-8810  
**firstcommunitysc.com**

**First Reliance Bank**

2805A Sunset Blvd.  
 (803) 936-4888  
**firstreliance.com**

**Security Federal Bank**

1185 Sunset Blvd.  
 (803) 739-6100  
**securityfederalbank.com**

**South Carolina Federal Credit Union**

109 N. 12th St.  
 (803) 738-8300  
**scfederal.org**

**WESTMINSTER**

**Community First Bank**  
 306 E. Windsor St.  
 (864) 647-5487  
**c1stbank.com**

**WILLIAMSTON**

**Community First Bank**  
 208 E. Main St.  
 (864) 847-5109  
**c1stbank.com**

**WILLISTON**

**Enterprise Bank of South Carolina**  
 12960 Main St.  
 (803) 266-7474  
**ebsc.bank**

**STATEWIDE & OUT OF STATE LENDERS**

**1st Colonial Community Bank**  
 (856) 885-2042  
**1stcolonial.com**

**Atlantic Capital**  
 (855) 693-7422  
**atlanticcapitalbank.com**

**Bancorp Bank**  
 (800) 545-0289  
**thebancorp.com**

**Bank of America**  
 (800) 432-1000  
**bankofamerica.com**

**Bank of George**  
 (702) 851-4200  
**bankofgeorge.com**

**Bank of Hope**  
 (678) 380-0774  
**bankofhope.com**

**BankUnited**  
 (877) 779-2265  
**bankunited.com**

**BB&T**  
 (888) 228-6654  
**bbandt.com**

**BBVA Compass Bank**

(800) 266-7277  
**bbvacompass.com**

**Byline Bank**

(773) 244-7000  
**bylinebank.com**

**Cadence Bank**

(800) 636-7622  
**cadencebank.com**

**Carolina Small Business Development Fund**

(704) 412-7031  
**carolinasmallbusiness.org**

**Celtic Bank**

(800) 529-0612  
**celticbank.com**

**Citizens Bank**

(843) 657-2001  
**thecitizensbank.com**

**City National Bank of New Jersey**

(800) 966-8262  
**citynatbank.com**

**CresCom Bank**

(855) 273-7266  
**haveanicebank.com**

**Crestmark**

(888) 999-6088  
**crestmark.com**

**Customers Bank**

(407) 761-4114  
**customersbank.com**

**Embassy National Bank**

(800) 560-9883  
**embassynationalbank.com**

**Evolve Bank & Trust**

(866) 367-2611  
**getevolved.com**

**Fidelity Bank**

(404) 248-5466  
**lionbank.com**

**Fifth Third Bank**

(866) 671-5353  
**53.com**

**FinWise Bank**

(801) 545-6020  
**finwisebank.com**

**First Bank Financial Centre**

(888) 569-9909  
**fbfcwi.com**

**First Bank of the Lake**

(573) 348-2265  
**firstbanklake.com**

**First Chatham Bank**

(913) 629-2909  
**firstchatham.com**

**First Citizens Bank**

(866) 323-4732  
**firstcitizens.com**

**First Financial Bank**

(877) 322-9530  
**bankatfirst.com**

**First Home Bank**

(727) 685-2083  
**firsthomebank.com**

**First IC Bank**

(770) 451-7200  
**firsticbank.com**

**Firsttrust Savings Bank**

(800) 220-2265  
**firsttrust.com**

**First Savings Bank**

(800) 555-6895  
**firstsavingsbank.bank**

**First Western SBLC**

(877) 521-9191  
**smallbusinessloans.co**

**Five Star Bank**

(877) 882-5782  
**five-starbank.com**

**Florida Capital Bank**

(800) 318-3159  
**floridacapitalbank.com**

**Georgia Banking Co.**

(770) 226-8800  
**geobanking.com**

**Harvest Small Business Finance**

(949) 534-0240  
**harvestsbfc.com**

**Iberia Bank**

(888) 777-7145  
**iberiabank.com**

**Independence Bank**

(877) 621-1776  
**independence-bank.com**

**Level One Bank**

(888) 880-5663  
**levelonebank.com**

**LiftFund**

(888) 215-2373  
**liftfund.com**

**Live Oak Banking Co.**

(910) 790-5867  
**liveoakbank.com**



**Manufacturers & Traders Trust**  
(800) 724-2440  
**mtb.com**

**Metro City Bank**  
(888) 455-4686  
**metrocitibank.bank**

**Millennial Bank**  
(205) 702-2265  
**millennialbank.com**

**Mint National Bank**  
(281) 359-6468  
**themint.bank**

**Newtek Small Business Finance**  
(212) 356-9500  
**newtekone.com**

**NOA Bank**  
(678) 385-0826  
**noabank.com**

**North State Bank**  
(919) 855-9925  
**northstatebank.com**

**Pacific City Bank**  
(213) 210-2000  
**paccity.net**

**Pacific Premier Bank**  
(888) 388-5433  
**ppbi.com**

**Quantum National Bank**  
(888) 451-0530  
**quantumbank.com**

**Radius Bank**  
(312) 767-2665  
**radiusbank.com**

**ReadyCap Lending**  
(800) 713-4984  
**readycaplending.com**

**Seacoast Bank**  
(866) 710-5778  
**seacoastbank.com**

**Small Business Assistance Corp.**  
(912) 232-4700  
**sbacsav.com**

**South Coast Bank & Trust**  
(912) 264-8887  
**southcoastbankandtrust.com**

**South State Bank**  
(800) 277-2175  
**southstatebank.com**

**Spirit of Texas**  
(877) 302-1836  
**sotb.com**

**State Bank & Trust**  
(800) 295-6920  
**statebt.com**

**Stearns Bank**  
(800) 320-2899  
**stearnsbank.com**

**Synovus Bank**  
(800) 708-5687  
**synovus.com**

**TD Bank**  
(888) 751-9000  
**tdbank.com**

**Touchmark National Bank**  
(770) 407-6700  
**touchmarknb.com**

**United Midwest Savings Bank**  
(614) 225-9728  
**umwsb.com**

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

**West Town Bank & Trust**  
(855) 884-0744  
**westtownbank.com**

## Participating Certified Development Companies

**Appalachian Development Corp.**  
Greenville  
(864) 382-2350  
**adcloans.com**

**Business Expansion Funding Corp.**  
*Serving Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, and York counties*  
(704) 414-3000  
**befcor.com**

**Carolina Business Capital**  
(704) 372-1280  
**cbc504.com**

**Catawba Regional Development Corp.**  
215 Hampton St. #200  
Rock Hill  
(803) 327-9041  
**catawbacog.org**

**Certified Development Corp.**  
Enoree Building  
111 Executive Center Drive,  
suite 225  
Columbia  
(803) 798-4064  
**businessdevelopment.org**

**CSRA Business Lending**  
1237 Gadsden St., suite 200C,  
Columbia  
(706) 210-2010  
**csrabusineslending.com**

**Provident Business Financial Services**  
3937 Sunset Blvd., suite D  
West Columbia  
(803) 791-0071  
**providentbfs.com**

## Participating Microlenders

**Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce**  
*Serving Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Jasper, and Orangeburg counties*  
Beaufort  
(843) 986-1102

**Community Works**  
Greenville  
(864) 235-6331  
**communityworks carolina.org**

**Local Development Corp.**  
Charleston  
(843) 724-3796  
**charlestonldc.com**

## Export Assistance Lenders

**First National Bank**  
(800) 555-5455  
**fnb-online.com**

**Home Trust Bank**  
(800) 627-1632  
**htb.com**

**Regions**  
(800) 734-4667  
**regions.com**

**Synovus Bank**  
(888) 796-6887  
**synovus.com**

**TD Bank**  
(888) 751-9000  
**td.com**

**WestTown Bank & Trust**  
(919) 861-8001  
**soundbanking.com**

## Small Business Investment Corporation

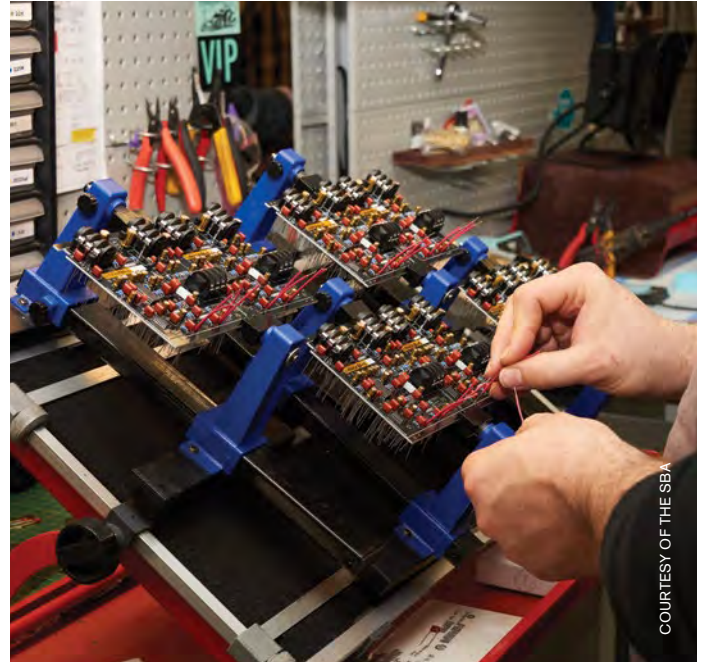
**Route 2 Capital Partners**  
110 E. Court St., suite 501  
Greenville  
(864) 484-9370  
info@route2capital.com  
**route2capital.com**  
Charleston  
200 Meeting St., suite 403  
(854) 529-9550

# 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.



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## 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](https://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](https://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.





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## ▲ 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](mailto: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.



## 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.

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- › 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](http://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](http://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](http://sba.gov) and click on Funding Program and then Investment Capital.

# Advertise your company here.

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

[contactinfo@newsouthmediainc.com](mailto:contactinfo@newsouthmediainc.com)





COURTESY OF THE SBA

## 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





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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 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

**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



COURTESY OF THE SBA

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](https://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](https://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.



# 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](https://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

# 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%



# CONTRACTING

Doing Business with the Government



**How I Did It**

COURTESY OF THE SBA

## Taking the Helm

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

WRITTEN BY MICAELA MORRISSETTE



COURTESY OF THE SBA

**J**ennifer 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](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**.



# 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](https://www.sba.gov)/[naa](https://www.naa.gov). 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://sba.gov/ovbd). After you have set up to do business with the government in [sam.gov](http://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](http://sba.gov/wosb).

Here's how to get certified:

## 1. Make sure you're eligible

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

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

## 2. Register

- Register with the System for Award Management ([sam.gov](http://sam.gov)) to start doing business with the government.

## 3. Certify

Self-certify as a woman-owned small business or an economically disadvantaged woman-owned small business for free, or obtain certification from one of the SBA's approved third-party certifiers (which costs a fee):

- El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- National Women Business Owners Corporation
- U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council

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

## 4. Update your status

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

## 5. Search the database

- Search the FedBizOpps database ([fbo.gov](http://fbo.gov)) for your new business opportunity.

## 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](https://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](https://sba.gov/localassistance) to find your local SBA office or an SBA Resource Partner near you (see page 8).

### Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

#### Columbia

1225 Laurel St.  
(803) 777-7877  
[scsbdc.com/ptac.php](https://scsbdc.com/ptac.php)

#### North Charleston

6296 Rivers Ave., suite 300  
(843) 740-6160  
[charlestonsbdc@moore.sc.edu](mailto:charlestonsbdc@moore.sc.edu)  
[charlestonsbdc.com](https://charlestonsbdc.com)

## Regional/State Contracting Programs

### Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification

1205 Pendleton St., suite 525  
Columbia  
(803) 734-5010  
[oepp.sc.gov/osmba](https://oepp.sc.gov/osmba)

### SC Department of Transportation Office of Business Development and Special Programs

955 Park St.  
Columbia  
[scdot.org](https://scdot.org)

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









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WITH YOUR VBOC, PTAC OR SBDC  
COUNSELORS, WE ARE THE NEXT LEVEL  
UP TO ASSURE YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESS.**

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