STARTING AND GROWING YOUR BUSINESS IN CHICAGO

Starting and growing a business can be both rewarding and challenging. Knowing about business resources can help you build a "team" to support your success. For more information about these and other resources, visit the City of Chicago's Small Business Center website at www.cityofchicago.org/sbc

BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Questions about how to structure your business entity can be answered by agencies such as **SCORE**, **The Law Project**, and **the Women's Business Development Center.**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Law Project provides 1:1 counseling on transactional legal services, educational seminars, and legal clinics.

LICENSING/ PERMITTING

The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection **(BACP) Small Business Center** can help you with getting the right kind of license and permitting for your business.

ZONING ASSISTANCE

The **BACP Small Business Center** and your local **Alderman** can help you with zoning.

GETTING "LOAN READY" / SECURING A LOAN

Small Business Opportunity Centers (SBOCs) provide services in three main areas:

- prepare business owners for borrowing
- connect business owners to the right capital resource
- provide one-on-one financial coaching

MICROLOANS

The Chicago Microlending Institute **(CMI)** offers loans ranging from $500 to $50,000 through three providers: **Accion Chicago**, **Women's Business Development Center**, and **Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives**.

LOCAL CROWDFUNDING (FREE FUNDS)

Seed Chicago is an innovative program that uses Kickstarter's online crowdfunding platform to curate Chicago-based campaigns.

SBIF (SMALL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT FUND)

The City's **SBIF** grant uses local Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues to reimburse eligible applicants for repairing or rehabilitating their facilities within **specific TIF districts**.

ATTRACTING CUSTOMERS

NBDCs can assist businesses with several resources such as leveraging social media, buy local campaigns, special events/ promotions, B2B opportunities, and campaigns that engage the local neighborhood.

TECHNOLOGY

NBDCs help businesses build their technology capacity.

FINDING A LOCATION FOR MY BUSINESS

Site Selector is a free web-based application hosted by World Business Chicago to find available industrial, office, and retail properties throughout Chicago and includes mappable layers of incentives and characteristics throughout the City.

RESOURCE HUBS TO START/GROW BUSINESSES

Innovation Centers are business incubators, accelerators, and co-working facilities that support entrepreneurs and small businesses with coaching, business development; legal assistance; accounting; access to capital; marketing; finding space; referral partners, and related services.

CREATE A GROWTH STRATEGY

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is a training program for mid-growth businesses to develop their growth strategy, develop skills with accounting, human resources, negotiation and marketing, and related other topics, and offers 1:1 business counseling.

ACCESS TO GOOD EMPLOYEES

Chicago/Cook Workforce Partnership connects employers and job seekers in Chicago and Cook County.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

NBDCs welcome businesses to the neighborhood and provide businesses local resources such as the alderman, police, their agency, and other local partners.

CONNECTING WITH OTHER BUSINESSES

NBDCs help their local business community connect with each other through 1:1 referrals, B2B events, and social media.

SUSTAINABILITY

The City has **Environment and Sustainability resources** for small businesses and **NBDCs** help their local business community connect with sustainable business practices.

M/WBE CERTIFICATION

The City's **Department of Procurement Services** promotes opportunities in the contracting process for certain disadvantaged populations. The **Women's Business Development Center** can assist businesses with the certification application process.

ACCESSING CONTRACTS

The City's **Department of Procurement Services** promotes opportunities in the contracting process for certain disadvantaged populations. Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy **(CASE)** fosters strategic relationships between anchor institutions.