

Internet Business Information

A Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota -
www.deed.state.mn.us
Secretary of State of Minnesota - www.sos.state.mn.us
Minnesota Small Business Development Centers -
www.mnsbdc.com
IRS - www.irs.gov
All Business Information - www.allbusiness.com
American Association of Micro Businesses -
www.usamicrobiz.org
Business Entrepreneur Site - www.getgomn.org
Business Link to US Government - www.business.gov
Business Web Resource - www.iseek.org
Economic Data on Communities - www.mnpro.com
Entrepreneur Magazine - www.entrepreneur.com
Export Minnesota - www.exportminnesota.com
Fast Company Magazine - www.fastcompany.com
Inc. Magazine - www.inc.com
James J Hill Library - www.jjhill.org
Kauffman Eventuring - www.eventuring.kauffman.org
MN Chamber of Commerce - www.mnchamber.com
MN Entrepreneur Assn. - www.mnentrepreneurs.org
MN Technology - www.minnesotatechnology.org
My Own Business - www.myownbusiness.org
SCORE - www.SCORE.org
Sirolli Institute - www.sirolli.com
Small Business Administration - www.sba.gov
Small Biz U - www.smallbizu.org
US Chamber of Commerce - www.uschamber.com
US Department of Commerce Minority Business
Development Agency - www.mbda.gov
US Department of Commerce - www.commerce.gov
Wall Street Journal Center for Entrepreneurs -
www.startupjournal.com
Women-21 - www.women-21.gov
Women Venture - www.womenventure.org
Minnesota Business Magazines:
www.finance-commerce.com
www.minnesotabusiness.com
www.twincities.bizjournals.com
www.tcbmag.com
www.newbizminn.com
www.upsizemag.com
www.minnesotamonthly.com

South of the River Business Resources

South Metro SCORE 101 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Suite #152, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.score-southmetro.org	952-890-7020
Institute for Business Innovation & Entrepreneurship 14200 Cedar Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124 www.dctc4business.com	651-423-8600
Inver Hills Community College 2500 E. 80th St., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076-3224 www.inverhills.edu	651-450-8500
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce 14800 Galaxie Ave., Suite 301, Apple Valley, MN 55124 www.applevalleychamber.com	952-432-8422
Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce 214 North Meridian St., Belle Plaine, MN 56011 www.belleplainemn.com/	952-873-4295
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce 101 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Suite 150, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.burnsvillechamber.com	952-435-6000
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce 1121 Town Centre Dr., Suite 102, Eagan, MN 55123 www.dcrchamber.com	651-452-9872
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau 111 Third St. E., Hastings, MN 55033 www.hastingsmn.org	651-437-6775
Jordan Chamber of Commerce 315 Broadway St. S., P.O. Box 102, Jordan, MN 55352 www.jordanchamber.org	952-492-2355
Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce and CVB 19950 Dodd Rd., Suite 101, Lakeville, MN 55044 www.lakevillechambercvb.org	952-469-2020
New Prague Chamber of Commerce 101 East Maine St., P.O. Box 191, New Prague, MN 65071 www.newprague.com	952-758-4360
Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce 4775 Dakota St., P.O. Box 114, Prior Lake, MN 55372 www.priorlakechamber.com	952-440-1000
River Heights Area Chamber of Commerce 5782 Blackshire Path, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076 www.riverheights.com	651-451-2266
Savage Chamber of Commerce 14141 Glendale Rd., Suite 210, Savage, MN 55378 www.savagechamber.com	952-894-8876
Shakopee Chamber of Commerce 1801 E. County Road 101, P.O. Box 717, Shakopee, MN 55379-0717 www.shakopee.org	952-445-1660

So, You Want To Start A Business?

Your “How To Guide “ *South Of The River*



Sponsored by
*South of the River Entrepreneurs Program
Dakota-Scott Business Services Committee
Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board*

2900 County Road 42 West - Suite 140
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-895-7600
www.mnwfc.org/dakota

The Steps to Starting Your Business

1. Do a Self Assessment/Reality Check

Complete this free risk assessment from Georgia State Univ. to see if you are really ready to be your own boss www2.gsu.edu/~wwwsbp/

2. Seek Out “How To Guides”

A Guide to Starting a Business in MN www.deed.state.mn.us
Business Owners Tool Kit www.toolkit.com
How to Start a Business at SCORE www.score.org
Step by Step Advice from Startup Nation www.startupnation.com
Manage Your Business From Start to Finish www.sba.gov

3. Attend a Class

Institute for Business Innovation & Entrepreneurship 651-423-8600
4200 Cedar Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.dctc4business.com

Inver Hills Community College 651-450-8500
2500 E. 80th St., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076-3224
www.inverhills.edu

South Metro SCORE 952-890-7020
101 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Suite #152, Burnsville, MN 55337
www.score-southmetro.org

St. Paul SCORE 651-632-8937
176 N. Snelling, Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55104
www.score-stpaul.org

James J Hill Library 651-265-5500
80 W. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55102
www.jjhill.org

SCORE Business Planning Center 651-209-1884
2324 University Ave., Suite 112, St. Paul, MN 55114
www.score-stpaul.org

Twin Cities Metro Small Business Development Ctr 651-962-4500
University of St. Thomas
46 S. 11th St. (Schulze Hall), Minneapolis, MN 55403
www.stthomas.edu/business/centers/sbdc

Twin Cities Entrepreneurs (TCE) 952-469-2080
4570 West 77th St., Suite 238, Edina, MN 55435
www.twincitiesentrepreneurs.com

WomenVenture 651-646-3808
2324 University Ave. W., Suite 120, St. Paul, MN 55114
www.womenventure.org

On Line Training
Small Business Administration - www.sba.gov
Small Biz U - www.smallbizu.org

4. Pick your Business Structure

Sole Proprietor, Limited Liability Corporation, General Corporation, Partnership - all structures have advantages and disadvantages, find out more about each structure by visiting:

Secretary of State MN www.sos.state.mn.us
MN Department of Revenue www.taxes.state.mn.us
Entrepreneur Magazine www.entrepreneur.com
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov
Startup Nation by Entrepreneurs www.startupnation.com
Talk with an accountant

5. Name and Register Your Business

In Minnesota if you use a name other than your full legal name for a business you must file a Certificate of Assumed Name for a filing fee of \$25.

Secretary of State MN www.sos.state.mn.us
MN Department of Revenue www.taxes.state.mn.us
MN Department of Commerce www.state.mn.us
Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov

6. Write a Business Plan

Create a blueprint to follow and bring your idea or product to the marketplace.

MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development www.deed.state.mn.us
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
Total Know How for Small Business www.toolkit.com
Entrepreneur Magazine www.entrepreneur.com
My Own Business www.myownbusiness.org

7. Do a Review of Your Business Idea

Follow this step by step review to see if your idea will be successful
www.missouribusiness.net/startup/startup_evaluating.asp

Institute for Business Innovation & Entrepreneurship
www.dctc4business.com 651-423-8600

Contact a SCORE Representative
www.score-southmetro.org 952-890-7020
www.score-stpaul.org 651-632-8937

Center for Innovative Entrepreneurship's vFinance, Inc.
www.vfinance.com

Talk to other small business owners

8. Look for Financing

Funding a small business is often the most critical part of starting your business. Many times you will need to tap into your personal savings and raise money from your friends and family. Do this carefully and have a plan to repay your loans.

Startup Nation by Entrepreneurs www.startupnation.com
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
Online Business Planning www.smallbizlending.com
vFinance, Inc. www.vfinance.com
Progress Plus www.progressplus.prg
MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development www.deed.state.mn.us

Contact your local bank

9. Organize Logistics

This is where you put a lot of the pieces together to get ready to open shop. You need to set up your bookkeeping, invoicing, collection procedures, cash flow management, insurance policies, and decide on how and when to make your purchases.

Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
Entrepreneur Magazine www.entrepreneur.com
Startup Nation by Entrepreneurs www.startupnation.com
Total Know How for Small Business www.toolkit.com
Microsoft Start-Up Center www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness
Contact an accountant
Contact an insurance agent

10. You are Up and Running

Talk to everybody you know, let them know you are in business and ask them to help you with leads. Look at your market and get creative with how you will serve it with your goods or services. Creating a web page is another area to think about as you market your business. Remember to use all of your connections including neighbors, churches, clubs and organizations, business acquaintances and of course friends and family.

One Stop Small Business Resource Ctr www.morebusiness.com
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
Entrepreneur Magazine www.entrepreneur.com
Startup Nation by Entrepreneurs www.startupnation.com
Total Know How for Small Business www.toolkit.com
Microsoft Start-Up Center www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness
Inc. Magazine www.inc.com
Twin Cities Biz Journal www.twincities.bizjournal.com
James J Hill Library www.jjhill.org
SCORE www.score.org
Contact your Area Chamber of Commerce

Updated 10/27/2008

Every attempt was made to present current and accurate information in this publication.