



Other Resources...

When starting a business, it is important to have a diverse base of information sources. One way to insure success is through education. The more you know about your field, the better off your business will be. The following is a list of potential resources for information.

- Better Business Bureau: 6606 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405. (912) 354-7521 www.bbbsoutheastatlantic.org
- Georgia Department of Agriculture and Farm Service Agency: 19 M.L.King Jr. Drive, SW Atlanta, GA 30324 404.656.3645
- Georgia Department of Economic Development: Entrepreneur & small business issues. Ray Snow 912.280.6941
- Georgia Secretary of State's Office: 238 East Second Street, Tifton, GA 31794 229.391.3732 www.sos.state.ga
- Internal Revenue Service: Located at 120 Barnard Street, Savannah, GA 31401 912.652.4011
- Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission: 205 E. Court Street, Hinesville 912.408.2030
- Small Business Administration: 1100 East Liberty Street, Suite 200, Savannah, GA 31401 912.651.3200 www.sbaonline.sba.gov
- US Department of Labor: Atlanta Office, 1375 Peachtree Street N.E. Suite 587, 404.347.3573
- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service: P.O. Box 9866. Savannah, GA 31412 912.652.7981
- Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center: 127 F Street, Brunswick, GA 31521, 912.264.7363

Getting in touch...

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce
425 W Oglethorpe Hwy., Hinesville
912.368.4445 or director@libertycounty.org

City of Hinesville
115 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Hinesville
912.876-3564

City of Flemington
156 Old Sunbury Road, Flemington
912.877.3223

City of Midway
P.O. Box 125, Midway
912.884.3344

City of Riceboro
4614 South Coastal Highway, Riceboro
912.884.2986

City of Walthourville
192-B Talmadge Road, Walthourville
912.368.7501

Town of Allenhurst
P.O. Box 420, Allenhurst
912.876.2180

Liberty County Licensing Office
Courthouse Annex, Main Street, Hinesville
912.876.8454

Hinesville Downtown Development Authority
302 S Main Street, Hinesville
912.877.4332

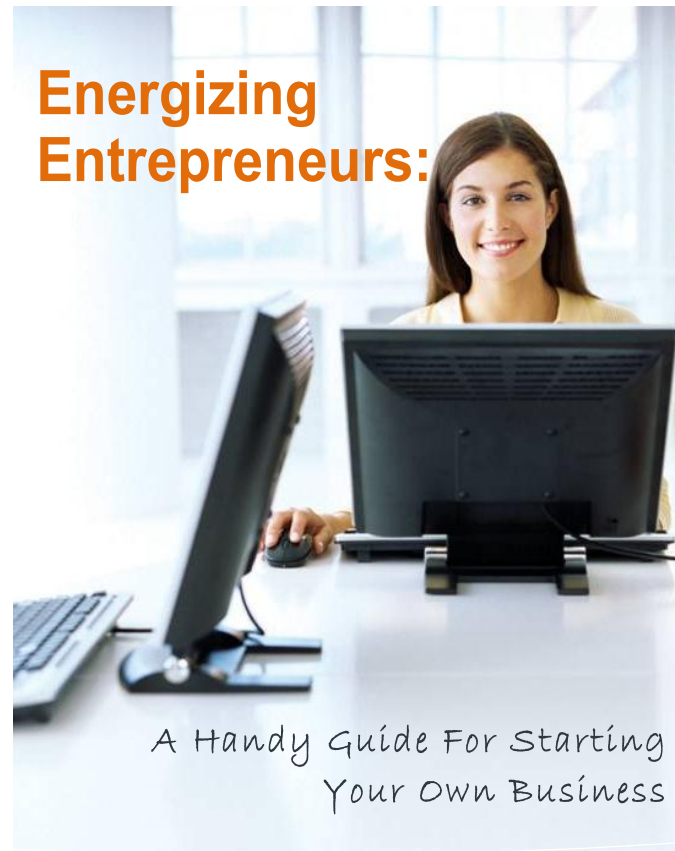


Savannah Technical College
100 Technology Drive, Hinesville,
912.408.3024 www.savannahtech.edu

Georgia Department of Labor
740 General Stewart Way, Hinesville,
912.370.2595/2658 www.dol.state.ga.us

Georgia Technical Enterprise Innovation
190 Technology Cr. Suite 145 Savannah
912.963.2519

Energizing Entrepreneurs:



*A Handy Guide For Starting
Your Own Business*



www.libertycounty.org
912.368.4445

Liberty County....

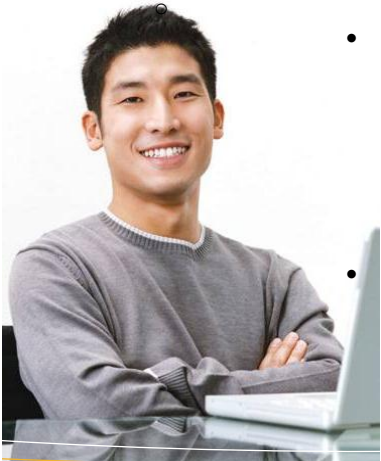
A Great Place To Do Business

Getting an Idea...

The Business Plan

The first step in starting a business is putting together a plan. There are many factors that go into putting together a business plan. These factors include an Outline of Goals, Marketing Strategy, Financial Management and Operation Schedule.

- Outline of Skills/Goals
 - What are the goals of the business?
 - Who owns the business?
 - What advantages do you have?
- Marketing Strategy
 - What market do you serve?
 - How will you market/advertise?
 - How will you price your product?
- Financial Management
 - Where will you find funding?
 - What is your operating budget?
 - What are your immediate/extended costs?
- Operation Schedule
 - Who will manage day-to-day?
 - What equipment/facilities?



Legal Structures

- Sole Proprietorship-an individual owns the business, but is also liable for debts of that business
- Partnerships-two or more people share in business's profits/expenses/operations. A limited partnership allows individuals to share in the profit/loss of a business, but not the operations.
- Corporation-licensed by the state, the model allows the selling of common or preferred stock. This model will also be taxed twice: once on business and second on stock dividends.
- Limited Liability-a mix of partnership and corporation this structure allows partners to own and operate their business while shielding themselves from liability.
- Note: please consult with a legal professional before building a legal structure. Call the Chamber for a list of recommended attorneys.

Getting Licensed

- Getting licensed with the state-certain businesses require licensing with the state. Contact the Secretary of State's office (see back panel) to see if your business requires special licensing.
- Licensing & Sales Tax ID-your business may be required to obtain a seller's permit, and all businesses must receive a Tax ID. Contact the Georgia Department of Revenue and the Federal Internal Revenue Service to obtain these permits.
- Local licensing may be required so please use the contact information provided for individual licensing departments to ensure success.

Getting Financed



- It is a common belief that there are free grants available to help the growth and start-up of businesses. This is not the case, there is no such thing as free money! However, there are many low-interest loan and financial support programs which can help you start and grow your business. A few are listed below, for more information contact the Chamber.
- Small Business Administration Loans-federal loan programs helps small business acquire guaranteed capital @ a fixed rate.
- OneGeorgia Small Business Loan Guarantee-this state loan program is similar to SBA. It guarantees 50% of a loan for small business financing. Visit www.onegeorgia.org or call 478.274.7734
- USDA loans-this federal program offers financial assistance to small businesses. Visit www.rurdev.usda.gov or call 800.670.6553.



Getting Plugged In

- Chamber of Commerce-this organization is dedicated to the promotion and growth of small business. Be it a call for a business listing or hosting a special event, the Chamber can help bring new customers through your front door.
- Department of Labor-hiring employees is one of the most important decisions you will make. The DOL can help you find the right people to help run your business.
- Quality Real Estate-one of the keys to success is location, location, location. To find the best location call the Chamber for a listing of real estate brokers.
- Insurance-your business is your life, so don't take any chances when it comes to protecting your assets. Call the Chamber for recommended insurance agents.

We are proud to be among the state's most progressive communities. In Liberty County you will find an exceptional quality of life and a forward thinking business climate. We were proud to receive our "Entrepreneur Friendly" designation in 2008 and our "Work Ready" certification in 2011, meaning we take pride in helping people like you start your own small business. We hope that this reference guide will point you in the right direction as you think about opening your own small business. We encourage you to contact us to start, run and grow your business.

