

## Small Business Resources & Programs to Help Start and Grow Your Business

Here's a list of valuable resources, programs, and funding opportunities to help entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses.

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## Funding & Grants for Small Businesses

### 1. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans & Grants

- Offers low-interest loans and limited grants for small businesses.
- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs>

### 2. Grants.gov (*Government Grants for Small Businesses*)

- Federal database of grants for entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- <https://www.grants.gov>

### 3. FedEx Small Business Grant

- Grants up to \$50,000 for small businesses.
- <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/small-business/grant-contest.html>

### 4. Hello Alice Small Business Grants

- Offers various grants, including funding for women, minorities, and veterans.
- <https://helloalice.com>

### 5. Accion

- Accion USA is a private non-profit organization that offers small business loans of up to \$50,000 and financial literacy education to small business owners in the United States. The online lending platform gives entrepreneurs the ability to apply for a loan from anywhere in the United States.
- [www.accionusa.org](http://www.accionusa.org)

### 6. National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) Grants

- Provides up to \$4,000 in grants for small businesses.
- <https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/grants-and-scholarships>

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## Free Business Training & Mentorship Programs

### 7. SBA Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)

- Free business coaching, training, and resources available nationwide.
- <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/sbdc>

### 8. SCORE Business Mentorship Program

- Free mentoring from successful business owners and professionals.
- <https://www.score.org>

### 9. Women's Business Centers (WBCs) *(For Women Entrepreneurs)*

- Free business training, mentorship, and resources for women.
- <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/wbc>

### 10. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

- Supports minority entrepreneurs with training and resources.
- <https://www.mbda.gov>

### 11. Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) *(For Veterans)*

- Free small business assistance for veterans.
  - <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/vboc>
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## Business Formation & Legal Help

### 12. IRS EIN Registration (Employer Identification Number)

- Required for taxes and business banking. Free to apply.
- <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

### 13. LegalZoom & Incfile (Business Formation Services)

- Helps register LLCs, corporations, and trademarks.
- LegalZoom: <https://www.legalzoom.com>
- Incfile: <https://www.incfile.com> *(Free LLC filing, just pay state fees!)*

## 14. Small Business Legal Assistance (SCORE & Local Legal Aid)

- Some local SCORE chapters provide free legal guidance.
  - Check with your local SBA office or SCORE chapter.
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## Business Banking & Credit Resources

### 15. Business Bank Accounts (Best for Startups)

- **Chase Business Complete Banking®** – Great for startups; \$300 sign-up bonus.
- **Bluevine Business Checking** – No fees, 2% interest on balances.
- **Novo Business Banking** – Easy setup, no monthly fees.

### 16. DUNS Number (For Business Credit & Government Contracts)

- Required for business credit and some grants. Free to apply.
- <https://www.dnb.com>

### 17. Nav (Free Business Credit Monitoring & Loans)

- Helps build business credit and find funding.
  - <https://www.nav.com>
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## Networking & Small Business Communities

### 18. Chamber of Commerce (Local Business Support)

- Connect with other business owners in your city.
- Find your local chapter: <https://www.uschamber.com/co/chambers>

### 19. WeWork & Local Co-Working Spaces

- Find affordable office space and networking opportunities.
- <https://www.wework.com>

### 20. LinkedIn Groups for Small Business Owners

- Join groups like Small Business Network by LinkedIn for advice & networking.
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups>
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# Marketing & Business Growth Resources

## 21. Google My Business (For Local Business Visibility)

- Helps your business show up in Google Search & Maps.
- <https://www.google.com/business>

## 22. Canva (Free Graphic Design for Marketing)

- Create professional logos, social media posts, and flyers.
- <https://www.canva.com>

## 23. HubSpot (Free CRM & Marketing Tools)

- Helps with email marketing, customer tracking, and sales.
- <https://www.hubspot.com>

## 24. Facebook & Instagram Ads (For Small Business Growth)

- Affordable advertising tools for reaching customers online.
  - <https://www.facebook.com/business/ads>
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# Productivity & Business Tools

## 25. QuickBooks & Wave (Free & Affordable Accounting Software)

- **Wave:** Free bookkeeping software – <https://www.waveapps.com>
- **QuickBooks:** Paid but powerful – <https://quickbooks.intuit.com>

## 26. Asana & Trello (Project Management Tools)

- **Trello** (Visual task management): <https://www.trello.com>
  - **Asana** (Team & task collaboration): <https://www.asana.com>
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## Final Tip: Get a Business Mentor!

- SCORE & SBA SBDCs offer free business coaching.
  - Local business incubators provide mentorship & funding opportunities.
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