

Follow These Steps to Starting a Business

Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions and completing a series of legal activities. These 10 easy steps can help you plan, prepare and manage your business. Click on the links to learn more.

[Step 1: Templates for Writing a Business Plan](#)

Use these tools and resources to create a business plan. This written guide will help you map out how you will start and run your business successfully.

[Step 2: Get Business Assistance and Training](#)

Take advantage of free training and counseling services, from preparing a business plan and securing financing, to expanding or relocating a business.

[Step 3: Choose a Business Location](#)

Get advice on how to select a customer-friendly location and comply with zoning laws.

[Step 4: Finance Your Business](#)

Find government backed loans, venture capital and research grants to help you get started.

[Step 5: Determine the Legal Structure of Your Business](#)

Decide which form of ownership is best for you: sole proprietorship, partnership, Limited Liability Company (LLC), corporation, S corporation, nonprofit or cooperative.

[Step 6: Register a Business Name \("Doing Business As"\)](#)

Register your business name with your state government.

[Step 7: Get a Tax Identification Number](#)

Learn which tax identification number you'll need to obtain from the IRS and your state revenue agency.

[Step 8: Register for State and Local Taxes](#)

Register with your state to obtain a tax identification number, workers' compensation, unemployment and disability insurance.

Step 9: Obtain Business Licenses and Permits

Get a list of federal, state and local licenses and permits required for your business.

Step 10: Understand Employer Responsibilities

Learn the legal steps you need to take to hire employees.