

GENERAL RESOURCES

U.S. Small Business Administration website, in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), is full of information and tools for the entrepreneur and small business owner.

[U.S. Small Business Administration -- RI District Office Resource Guide](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration – National Resource Guide in Spanish](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration Learning Center](#) – free 30-minute courses on a variety of topics related to planning, launching, managing, and growing your business.

[CommerceRI](#) – the State of Rhode Island’s economic development organization.

R.I. Department of the State’s [Business Portal](#) – a gateway designed to help entrepreneurs and small business owners access the tools they will need to plan, start, and maintain a business.

[R.I. Division of Taxation](#)

[R.I. Department of Business Regulation](#)

[R.I. Department of Labor & Training](#) – resources for employers and businesses.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service [Taxpayer Identification Number](#)

U.S. Internal Revenue Service [Employer Identification Number](#)

[RIBizBuilder](#) – designed to help RI entrepreneurs and business owners navigate the many local resources available to help them start and grow their businesses.

[Center for Women & Enterprise](#) -- in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, operates Women’s Business Centers (WBCs) designed to assist women in starting and growing small businesses. Offer comprehensive education and training, online learning, financial education and support, networking opportunities, and consulting and mentoring.

[Rhode Island SCORE](#) – provides free, confidential one-on-one counseling to entrepreneurs and small businesses. Is a volunteer organization of working and retired business owners, professionals, and executives with experience in all aspects of business management. “Library” page has diverse materials in formats ranging from eGuides to blogs to podcasts to templates and checklists.

[R.I. Small Business Development Center](#) -- provides RI small business owners with the services and expertise they need to succeed: no cost expert counseling, relevant training, and access to important resources. Supports owners and businesses at every stage of the business

lifecycle, from start-up through maturity. “Resources” page provides practical to creative short videos, links, readings and content rich sites that provide critical lessons and access to fresh ideas.

[Roger Williams University School of Law Business Start-Up Clinic](#) -- under supervision from faculty licensed to practice law in Rhode Island, second- and third-year law students work directly with clients on matters such as entity formation, tax exemption, governance, contract review and drafting, and intellectual property issues.

PLAN YOUR BUSINESS

Write Your Business Plan

- [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [SCORE](#)
- [South Eastern Economic Corporation \(SEED\)](#) – U.S. Small Business Administration microlender.

MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS

Hire and Manage Employees

- [E-Verify](#) – a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States.
- [U.S. Social Security Administration](#) – resources for employer W-2 filings, verifying Social Security numbers, and publications and forms.

Health & Safety

- [U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Small Business Assistance](#) -- provides numerous OSHA resources and information designed specifically for small business employers, including safety and health tools and publications, easy-to-follow guides for specific OSHA standards, and descriptions of benefits that small businesses receive from OSHA. Focuses on two programs for small businesses: [OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program](#) and [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program \(SHARP\)](#).

Cybersecurity Preparedness

- [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) – resources for locating best cybersecurity practices, help identifying your risk and the types of cyberthreats, and learning best practices for guarding against cyberthreats.

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Stop. Think. Connect.™ Campaign](#) – cyber tips and resources.

Emergency Preparedness & Financial Assistance

- [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) -- disaster checklists and tips; financial assistance after a disaster; disaster cleanup; other assistance.
- [U.S. Internal Revenue Service](#) -- guide to protecting business records.
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) -- emergency preparedness checklists and toolkits.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Ready Business Program](#) -- step-by-step guidance on how to prepare a business for a disaster, including preparedness toolkits for earthquakes, hurricanes, inland flooding, power outages, and severe winds/tornadoes. Materials in Spanish are also available.
- [American Red Cross' Ready Rating Program™](#) -- free online tool that helps businesses evaluate their level of disaster readiness and provides customized feedback on how to establish or expand their disaster plans.
- [Small Business Resilience Guides](#) -- by industry/sector, produced by the State of Rhode Island.

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