

Information Sources for Starting A Business



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To access this guide online: <http://library.fcgov.com/adult/business/>

General Start Up Advice & Information (including Franchising)

Poudre River Public Library District Business and Nonprofit Resources Webpage:
<http://library.fcgov.com/adult/business/> Find new business books, links to major business and nonprofit websites, direct link to Library's business databases, and more!

Databases

- **Business Source Premier** <http://www.poudrelibraries.org/research/databases-business.html>

Full text for thousands of scholarly and general business journals covering management, economics, finance, accounting, international business and much more. Good for industry surveys, market research reports, company information, and SWOT analyses. For instruction on using this database, contact: amacdonald@poudrelibraries.org.

- **Small Business Resource Center** <http://www.poudrelibraries.org/research/databases-business.html>

Covers major areas of starting and operating a business. Search and browse sample business plans, how-to articles, overviews, and directories; includes the *Encyclopedia of Business Information Sources*, *Encyclopedia of Management and Small Business Management*, *Consultant's and Consulting Organizations* directory and more. Includes business books from John Wiley such as *Raising Capital for Dummies*, *Portable MBA in Strategy*, *Portable MBA in Entrepreneurship*. Indexes over 200 business and trade journals. For instruction on using this database, contact: amacdonald@poudrelibraries.org

Websites

- **AllBusiness:** <http://www.allbusiness.com/>

This site offers a number of short articles on all aspects of running a small business, including starting a business, incorporation, sales and marketing, accounting and finance, franchising, buying and selling a business, insurance, and Internet and technology. A variety of business forms and guides are available.

- **AOL Business** <http://smallbusiness.aol.com/start>

How to start a small business, how to manage a small business, how to grow a business. Invaluable, up-to-date information for small business and entrepreneurs.

- **Business Index** http://www.larimer.org/business/business_index.htm

Larimer County's website covers all aspects of starting a business in Colorado and Larimer County, including taxes, legal forms, and more. Includes *Colorado Business Resource Guide*.

- **Business Owner's Toolkit** <http://www.toolkit.cch.com>

Step-by-step guide to starting your business, how to write a business plan, manage your business, finance your business, market your product; links to web-based business information, and more.

- **Business Week Online – Small Biz** <http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/index.html>.

News and advice for entrepreneurs on topics such as marketing, sales, leadership, and technology. There are special "resource centers" on opening a franchise, comparing salaries, and purchasing health insurance and retirement plans.

- **BizToolkit HillSource. JHill Library.** <http://www.hillsource.org/> or <http://www.biztoolkit.com>

A free gateway to business and nonprofit tools, databases and research resources to help your company/nonprofit begin, grow or mature. Information and free articles on marketing, branding, naming, financing, etc. Go to “free access” link; check out “biz info library.” **Highly Recommended.**

- **Edward Lowe Foundation** <http://www.lowe.org/>

The Edward Lowe Foundation maintains a database of articles, books, book chapters, and SBA publications dealing with a wide variety of small business issues and interests.

- **Entrepreneur Magazine Online** <http://entrepreneur.com>

Important source for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

- **EntrepreneurialConnection.com** <http://www.entrepreneurialconnection.com>

This site by the National Association of the Self-Employed, offers free learning modules on topics vital to the success of the self-employed and micro-entrepreneurs (with less than 10 employees). Some of the topics covered include creating a marketing plan, financing, outsourcing, and wireless networks. Free e-newsletter by subscription.

- **Entrepreneurship (Kauffman Center)** <http://www.entrepreneurship.org/>

The Kauffman Foundation supports entrepreneurial education. Good source for training materials.

- **My Own Business** <http://www.myownbusiness.org/>

A free Internet course for anyone starting a business. Provides 12 lessons covering topics such as business communications, e-commerce and online marketing, and small business marketing. The course textbook may be purchased for a donation of \$45.00.

- **National Business Incubation Association** <http://www.nbia.org>

For connecting to the world of business incubation and development.

- **New York Times Small Business** <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/business/smallbusiness/index.html>

Section of New York Times Online includes articles, a small business resource center for marketing, business start-ups, financing, e-commerce and more.

- **SCORE** <http://www.score.org>

Offers a host of resources for starting, growing, financing or managing a business. “Ask SCORE” is a database of retired business people who will provide free business advice. You can specify an area of expertise, such as manufacturing, advanced technology, disaster recovery, or financial services.

- **Small Business Administration (SBA)** <http://sba.gov/>

This site has sections on starting a business, financing a business, managing a business, business opportunities, and disaster recovery. The sites’ information library offers more than 200 free publications, as well as forms, business magazine links, and frequently asked questions. The SBA’s **Online Women’s Business Center** <http://sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/onlinewbc/index.html>, has a section called “Business Basics” that covers topics such as accounting and finance, growing your business, marketing and procurement.

- **Small Business Advancement National Center (SBANC)** <http://www.sbaer.uca.edu/>

This site provides databases of local SBA offices, the Small Business Institute network, and a research archive of publications from 18 organizations such as the Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Marketing Management Association. The website also offers industry profiles, business plans, research articles, loan information, conference details, and international and domestic contact information.

- **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)-Larimer County** www.sbdc-larimer.com
The local office for SBDC one-on-one counseling and business start-up information

- **WSJ Startup Journal** <http://www.startupjournal.com/>
Part of the WSJ's Center for Entrepreneurs. Includes how-to advice, news and articles on topics such as marketing and sales, franchising, financing, running a business, and e-commerce. Includes a section on tools for creating a mini business plan online and doing trademark search.

Books

- **Before Starting a Business** by Holmes F. Crouch. Saratoga: CA: Allyear Tax Guides. C2006. 343.73068 Crouch, H. 2006 Main Nonfiction
- **Harvard Business Essentials : Entrepreneur's Toolkit : Tools and Techniques to Launch and Grow Your New Business.** Boston: Harvard Business School Press, c2005. 659.11 Harvard 2005 Main Nonfiction and Harmony Nonfiction
- **How To Start a Business in Colorado.** Entrepreneur Press. Irvine, CA : Entrepreneur Press, 2007. 658.11 How 2007 Main Bus Ref/ Nonfiction/Harmony Ref/Harmony Nonfiction

Downloadable Audio Books (also for MP3 players and some titles for iPods)
<http://0-www.netlibrary.com.dalva.fcgov.com/>

The Entrepreneur Starter Kit: Expert Insights Into Small Business Success! (eAudiobook)
Your Coach in a Box by Christian, Lyn. Publication: Prince Frederick, MD, 2006.

You Need to Be a Little Crazy: The Truth About Starting and Growing Your Business
(eAudiobook) **Your Coach in a Box**; Unabridged. by Moltz, Barry J. Publication: Prince Frederick, MD,[Boulder, CO, 2007.

Databases

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Websites

- **Bplans.com – The Business Planning Expert** <http://www.bplans.com/>

Offers more than 60 free sample business plans, interactive calculators to determine cash flow, starting costs, conversion rates, and other figures to use in a business plan. Includes articles on starting a business, marketing and advertising, growing a business, and managing your e-business. *Business Plan Pro*, business planning software, is available for purchase through the website.

- **BizPlanits Virtual Business Plans** <http://www.bizplanit.com/vplan.html>

Free business planning resources

- **BizToolkit HillSource. JHill Library.** <http://www.hillsource.org/> or <http://www.biztoolkit.com>

A free gateway to business and nonprofit tools, databases and research resources to help your company/nonprofit begin, grow or mature. Information and free articles on marketing, branding, naming, financing, etc. Go to “free access” link; check out “biz info library.” **Highly Recommended.**

- **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Business Plan Index** <http://www.clpgh.org/subject/business/bplansindex.html>

This index lists types of small businesses and a corresponding sample business plan, profile or book about the business with sources provided after each entry. Entries that refer to actual sample plans are in bold print.

- **Center for Business Planning** <http://www.businessplans.org/businessplans.html>

Free access to award-winning business plans.

- **Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Planner** <http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html>

Step-by-step tutorial for writing a business plans. Includes sample business plans.

- **SCORE Business Templates** http://www.score.org/template_gallery.html

Download planning and financial templates. Includes sample business plans and templates. Save the files to your computer and modify for your business needs.

- **Small Business Development Center – Business Plans**
<http://sbdcnet.utsa.edu/SBIC/bplans.htm>.

Links to site with specific business plans and other business planning tools and resources.

Books

- **Business Plans Handbook: A Compilation of Actual Business Plans Developed by Small Businesses Throughout North America** _658.4012 Business 13 vol. Set. Main BusRef. Also: Online through **Small Business Resource Center:**
<http://www.poudrelibraries.org/research/databases-business.html>
- **Anatomy of a business plan : a step-by-step guide to building a business and securing your company's future** / Linda Pinson. Tustin, CA : Out of Your Mind...and into the Marketplace, c2008 658.4012 Pinson, L. 2008 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Business plan in a day : get it done right, get it done fast** / Rhonda Abrams ; with Julie Vallone. Palo Alto, Calif.: The Planning Shop, c2005 658.152 Abrams, R. 2005 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Business plans for dummies** / by Paul Tiffany and Steven Peterson; foreword by John B. Schulze. New York: Wiley, c2005. 658.4012 Tiffany, P. 2005 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Business plans that work : for your small business : a Business owner's toolkit publication** / editors, Joel Handelsman, Alice H . Magos, Catherine Gordon. Riverwoods, Ill: Toolkit Media Group, 2008. 658.4012 Business 2008 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **The complete book of business plans : simple steps to writing powerful business plans** / Joseph Covello and Brian Hazelgren. Naperville, Ill: Sourcebooks, c2006 658.4012 Covello, J. 2006 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **The complete idiot's guide to business plan** / by Gwen Moran and Sue Johnson. New York, N.Y: Penguin Group, c2005 658.4012 Moran, G. 2005 Main Nonfiction.
- **The Ernst & Young business plan guide** / Brian R. Ford, Jay M. Bornstein, Patrick T. Pruitt. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, c2007 .658.4012 Ford, B. 2007 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Rule's book of business plans for startups : creating a winning plan that you can take to the bank** / Roger C. Rule. [Irvine Calif.]: Entrepreneur Press, c2004 658.11 Rule, R. 2004 Main Nonfiction.
- **Tips and traps for writing an effective business plan** / Greg Balanko-Dickson. New York: McGraw-Hill, c2007 658.4012 Balanko-Dickson. G. 2007 Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Your first business plan : a simple question-and-answer format designed to help you write your own plan** / Joseph Covello and Brian Hazelgren. Naperville, Ill: Sourcebooks, c2005. 658.4012 Covello, J. 2005 Main Nonfiction.

Financing and Funding Sources (including Venture Capital and Angel Investing)

Databases

- **Business Source Premier** <http://www.poudrelibraries.org/research/databases-business.html>

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Websites

- **Angel Capital Association** <http://www.angelcapitalassociation.org/>

The Angel Capital Association is North America's professional alliance of angel groups. The association brings together many of the 265 angel organizations in the United States and Canada to share best practices, network, and help develop data about the field of angel investing.

- **Business Finance.com** <http://www.businessfinance.com>

This site allows you to search the funding criteria of over 4,000 sources for business, venture capital, equipment leasing, and commercial real estate financing. You can search by type of funding (e.g. working capital or equipment finance), or you can limit your search to funding sources for business already in existence for four months, for businesses just starting up, or for purchase of a business or franchise.

- **Business Index** http://www.larimer.org/business/business_index.htm

Larimer County's website covering all aspects of starting a business in Colorado and Larimer County, including taxes, legal forms, and more. Links to the *Colorado Business Resource Guide*.

- **Business Owner's Toolkit** http://www.toolkit.com/small_business_guide/sbg.aspx?nid=P10_0500

Small Business Guide for this site defines financial options and gives a step-by-step guide in deciding the best for you, as well as calculating the amount you need.

- **BizToolkit HillSource. JHill Library.** <http://www.hillsource.org/> or <http://www.biztoolkit.com>

A free gateway to business and nonprofit tools, databases and research resources to help your company/nonprofit begin, grow or mature. Information and free articles on marketing, branding, naming, financing, etc. Go to "free access" link; check out "biz info library." **Highly Recommended.**

- **Colorado Business Resource Guide** http://www.larimer.org/business/business_index.htm

This is the pdf format for the published guide on starting and growing a business in Colorado. Link to the section on financing.

- **Entrepreneur.com – Money and Finances** <http://www.entrepreneur.com/>

This website offers a myriad of information on starting and growing your business, including venture and angel investing.

- **Fintel Scoreboard** <http://www.fintel.us/cms/DesktopDefault.aspx>.

A free online tool that allows businesses to benchmark their financial performance against similar-sized firms in their industry. Businesses need only enter their SIC code, eight figures from financial statements, and the number of employees to see how their company ranks in its industry, based on nine core financial ratios. Click on an individual ratio name to read about ways to improve the firm's performance on that ratio.

- **Inc.com: The Daily Resource for Entrepreneurs**
<http://www.inc.com/articles/2001/09/23461.html>

Provides links to all aspects of small business start-ups and entrepreneurial activity. Includes a directory of angel investors and a good overview of venture capital.

- **Kauffman Entrepreneurship** <http://www.entrepreneurship.org/>

This foundation site includes links to articles on venture capital, general financing, angel investors and investing. Kauffman Foundation is considered the entrepreneur's trusted guide to high growth.

- **National Venture Capital Association** <http://www.nvca.org/resources/otheruseful.html>

The website for NVCA contains this link to useful information on defining, and securing venture capital. Includes a link to venture capital associations and angel investors.

- **National Association of the Self-Employed.**
http://benefits.nase.org/show_benefit.asp?Benefit=ABCsofFinance

This is a professional association for the self-employed and micro businesses (up to ten employees). The website offers a section on the ABCs of Finance that provides an overview of topics such as setting up a chart of accounts, inventory basics, financial ratios, and Small Business Administration loans. You can also submit a finance question that will be answered by an "experienced consultant."

- **Small Business Administration SBA –Financing Your Business**
<http://www.sba.gov/financing/>

Provides information about raising capital for your business. Includes information about eligibility and preparation, SBA loans, contract, surety bonds, equity capital, and special purpose loan programs.

Books

- **Financing your small business / James E. Burk, Richard P. Lehmann** Naperville, Ill. : Sphinx Pub., 658.15224 Burk, J. 2006 Main Nonfiction.
- **OPM : other people's money : how to attract other people's money for your investments--the ultimate leverage / Michael A. Lechter.** New York : Warner Business Books, c2005 658.15224 Lechter, M. 2005 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.
- **Extraordinary entrepreneurship : the professional's guide to starting an exceptional enterprise / Stephen C. Harper.** Hoboken, N.J. : Wiley, c2005. 658.11 Harper, S. 2005 Harmony Nonfiction
- **How to raise capital : techniques and strategies for financing and valuing your small business / Jeffrey A. Timmons, Stephen Spinelli, and Andrew Zacharakis.** New York : McGraw-Hill, c2005. 658.1592 Timmons, J. 2005. Main and Harmony Nonfiction.

Databases

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Websites

- **Doing Business in...** http://www.hlb.com/DBI_list.asp

A set of 60+ booklets prepared by accounting giant HLB International for their staff and clients. Covering countries from Argentina to Vietnam, each booklet is designed to provide general information to those contemplating doing business in that country. They are not intended to be comprehensive documents. Booklets include general information on the country and its population, investment factors, types of organizations, workforce regulations, and taxation regulations.

- **Colorado International Trade Directory** http://www.wtcdn.com/intl_trade_dir.html

The WTC Denver maintains the Colorado International Trade Database (CITD), which lists approximately 1,000 manufacturers and service providers. The CITD is a partnership of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, U.S. Commercial Services, World Trade Center Denver. A detailed CITD search list can be generated based on either the Country or Industry of a targeted export destination. For example, it had information for a Colorado company exporting to Germany or a Colorado textile company exporting to Spain.

- **Colorado International Trade Office** <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/1165009699722>

The Colorado International Trade Office (ITO) promotes the export of Colorado goods and services and attracts foreign investment that will create jobs for Coloradans. Includes export counseling services, trade and catalog shows, seminars, workshops and classes offered. General export assistance services.

- **Export.gov** <http://www.export.gov/>

This site brings together resources from across the U.S. government “to assist American businesses in planning their international sales strategies and succeeding in today’s global marketplace.” The site offers an Export Basics primer as well as international market research, trade leads from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Service, export finance information from Export-Import Bank and Small Business Administration, and agricultural export assistance from USDA.

- **GlobalEDGE** <http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/>

Created by the Center for International Business Education and Research at Michigan State University, this site offers information on global business activities. A section of Country Insights provides current information on the business climate, news, history, political structure, economic landscape, and relevant statistical data for around 200 countries. The site offers Market Potential Indicators for Emerging Markets, which ranks the market potential of 27 countries identified as an “Emerging Market” by the *Economist* magazine. A useful feature of the site is an annotated and rated list of global, regional and country-specific statistical data sources.

- **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development** <http://www.oecd.org>.

Issues demographic and economic reports on an ongoing basis for 30 OECD member countries, as well as occasional reports for an addition 70 non-member countries. These resources cover gross domestic product, international trade statistics, price statistics, economic projections, labor force statistics, and many more topics. The site also offers a free online version of the *OECD Factbook: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, as well as economic and statistical glossaries. You can browse the site by topic, country or OECD department.

- **StatUSA** <http://www.stat-usa.gov/>

A low-cost subscription service (\$200/year) offered by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The site's State of the Nation library contains files and data relating to the U.S. economy, including general economic indicators, employment data, information about the housing and construction industry, quarterly financial reports on manufacturing and retail, and monetary statistics.

- **U.S. International Trade Administration** <http://trade.gov/index.asp>

Find trade statistics, export counseling, forms, international trade updates.

- **U.S. International Trade Statistics** <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>

Provides a broad and comprehensive range of foreign trade statistics that are available on a monthly, annual and historical basis. Statistics include quantities, values, shipping weights, methods of transportation (air or vessel), duties collected, unit prices, and market shares

- **World Trade Center Denver** . <http://www.wtcdn.com/index.html>

The World Trade Center Denver (WTC Denver) is the premier international business resource in the Rocky Mountain region. WTC Denver centralizes trade and business activities while bringing together influential business people from around the world, and provides international programs and services for both members and non-members. This site includes the Colorado International Trade Directory, foreign and international trade law, international relations links, and links to government resources for international trade.

Books

- **Start your own import/export business : your step-by-step guide to success /**

Entrepreneur Press and Jennifer Dorsey. Irvine Calif.] : Entrepreneur Press, c2007. 658.11 Dorsey, J. 2007 Main and Harmony Nonfiction.

Registering a Business Name or Limited Company or Partnership

Websites

- **Starting a Business in Colorado – Checklist for the State of Colorado :**
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CO-Portal/CXP/1165693060244>

- **Colorado Secretary of State** <http://www.sos.state.co.us/>
Register here for Limited Partnerships, Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships, Limited Partnership Association, Nonprofit Organizations.

- **Colorado Business Resource Guide**
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/1154721645662>

This is the pdf format for the published guide on starting and growing a business in Colorado. Link to Legal Structure and Registration. Free print guides available at the Library.