



Resources for Starting a Business in Aitkin County, MN

Getting Started

- The Minnesota Department Employment & Economic Development (MN DEED)
- The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Entrepreneur Fund

These Agencies have an excellent guide that covers all the steps you will need to take to get you on the road to a successful business launch. Whether you are experienced in starting a business or doing it for the first time, the guides cover everything from “Do I have what it takes” to “writing your business plan”.

MN DEED site: <http://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business>

SBDC site: <https://americassbdc.org/>

SBA site: <https://www.sba.gov/starting-business/how-start-business>

Entrepreneur Fund: <https://www.entrepreneurfund.org/>

Write Your Business Plan

A business plan is an essential roadmap for business success and a must in securing financing. This living document generally projects 3 years ahead and outlines the route a company intends to take to start and grow. Even if you are self-financing your entire business, a business plan forces you to put your ideas, financial projections and plans on paper. Some links to samples and guides.

MN DEED: <http://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/biz-plans>

SBA: <https://www.sba.gov/starting-business/write-your-business-plan>

Growth Innovations: <https://growthiv.org/>

Samples: http://www.bplans.com/sample_business_plans.php

Business Classification

You will need to decide what your business should be registered

- Sole Proprietorship



- Partnership
- Limited Partnership
- Corporation. ...
- Limited Liability **Company** (LLC) ...
- Nonprofit Organization. ...
- Cooperative.

MN DEED and the SBA have information on business classifications

MN DEED: <http://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/organizing>

SBA: <https://www.sba.gov/starting-business/choose-your-business-structure>

Registering Your Business

You will need to get a State and Federal Tax ID#.

State of MN registration:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/business-liens/start-a-business/how-to-register-your-business/>

and

<http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/Pages/Business-Center.aspx>

Federal registration: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

If your business is using a name other than the legal corporate name or your own full legal name, you will need a Certificate of Assumed Name:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/business-liens/business-forms-fees/assumed-name-sole-proprietorship-forms/?searchTerm=certificate%20of%20assumed%20name>

License and Permits

- Is the location you have in mind properly zoned for the type activity you are planning?
- Zoning and local permitting will depend on where you locate.
- If you are planning a location in one of the cities in Aitkin County, you will work directly with that city.
- If your location is outside city limits, Aitkin County Planning and Zoning will be the source for zoning and building permits.



City Links:

<http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/towns/towns-cities.html>

Aitkin County Planning and Zoning:

<http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/departments/enviro-svcs/enviromentalSvcs.html>

Hiring Employees

Employee withholding, state and federal taxes are an important consideration for any business, below are links to help as you hire employees:

- IRS Small Business and Self Employed site:
<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed>
- IRS understanding employment taxes site:
<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/understanding-employment-taxes>
- State of Minnesota business tax liabilities;
<http://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/taxes/tax-liabilities.jsp>
- MN Department of Revenue withholding site;
<http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/withholding/Pages/File-and-Pay.aspx>