Resources for Small Businesses

Survey of resources available for Small Businesses or potential Small Businesses in Louisiana

Compiled and Published by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Printed on Recycled Paper
First Stop Shop

Provides businesses and individuals with information on licenses, permits and other requirements for doing business in Louisiana. The First Stop Shop gives current and potential business owners a single place to call for the necessary contacts to start a business in Louisiana.

Secretary of State
First Stop Shop Division
P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
1-800-259-0001

Small Business Assistance Program

The Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBAP) is mandated under Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Its function is to provide information and technical assistance to small businesses regulated for the first time. Components of this program include informing businesses of their rights; providing small businesses with a list of qualified contractors; helping them deal with specific technical, administrative and compliance problems; assisting them in determining applicable requirements; and making application and receiving the required permits in a timely, efficient manner. A staff of engineers provide technical expertise regarding compliance methods and control technologies for small businesses throughout Louisiana.

SBAP
Department of Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135
1-800-259-2890

July, 1993
**Governor's Office of Permits**

The Governor's Office of Permits houses the Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) for the Air Quality Small Business Assistance Program. In this capacity, the SBO acts as the small business community's representative in matters that affect it under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The office is developing an information center to provide assistance in regards to the appropriate processes for proposed projects in Louisiana.

Governor’s Office of Permits  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
504-922-3252  
1-800-256-1488

**LaTAP**

The Louisiana Technical Assistance Program will be funded by the Department of Environmental Quality. LaTAP will provide information and technical assistance for pollution prevention and waste minimization to medium and small businesses and industries. Housed in the University of New Orleans, this non-regulatory multimedia program will provide opportunities for businesses to voluntarily reduce the amount of toxic chemicals and hazardous and non-hazardous waste they produce. The program is expected to become operational in the fall of 1993 and will be accessible through Louisiana Small Business Development Centers and by an 800 number.

LaTAP  
Urban Waste Management & Research Center  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA 70148

---

**Department of Economic Development**

The Office of Business Development Services aids Louisiana businesses as they start up and expand. It provides business owners with information on tax incentives and sources of financial/management assistance. The office opens doors for Louisiana businesses to network with one another for cost savings, access to new technology, training, total quality management and matchmaking opportunities. Information is maintained on business resources available at the federal, state, local and private levels.

The Department also provides procurement assistance to businesses and offers programs to assist minority and women business owners.

The Louisiana Economic Development Corporation (LDEC) is the financial arm of the Department of Economic Development. LDEC administers several financial programs for small and medium sized businesses, ranging from loan guarantees to venture capital.

LA Department of Economic Development  
P. O. Box 94185  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185  
504-342-3000

---

**US Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created by Congress in 1953 to "aid, counsel, assist, and protect" the interests of American Small Businesses. The Agency's basic mission is to stimulate economic development by helping small businesses start and grow.

SBA accomplishes its mission by providing financial services, counseling, training and technical assistance to small companies, working with other Federal agencies to ensure that small businesses receive a fair proportion of Government purchases and contracts, and providing financial assistance to disaster victims. The SBA also makes special efforts to assist women, minorities, the handicapped and veterans to encourage their equal participation in the free enterprise system.

US Small Business Administration  
1661 Canal St., Suite 2000  
New Orleans, LA 70112-2890  
504-589-6685, FAX 504-589-2339  
hearing impaired TDD number 504-589-2053
SCORE is a national volunteer program sponsored by the US Small Business Administration. The program matches volunteers with small businesses that need expert advice. These men and women business executives, whose collective experience spans the full range of American enterprise, share their management and technical expertise with present and prospective owners/managers of small businesses. Every effort is made to match a client's needs with a counselor experienced in a comparable line of business. Score counseling is by appointment and without charge.

SCORE
Baton Rouge: 504-381-7125 Ext 39
Hammond: 504-345-4457
Lake Charles: 318-433-3632
New Orleans: 504-589-2356
Alexandria: 318-442-6734
Shreveport: 318-226-8521
Slidell: 504-643-5678

Louisiana Small Business Development Center
The Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) provides information, counseling, and assistance to individuals who plan to start or update a small business. The Center is staffed by professionals with the knowledge and experience to provide expert counseling and training to address the problems inherent in the startup and operation of a small business.

Comprised of fourteen centers located at universities throughout the state, the LSBDC links the resources of its consortium members with those of local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector. These resources are utilized to assist small businesses in areas which promote growth, expansion, innovation, increased productivity and management improvement.

State Director
Louisiana Small Business Development Center
Northeast Louisiana University
Monroe, LA 71209
318-342-5506

Urban Waste Management and Research Center, UNO
The Urban Waste Management and Research Center (UWMRC) was established to address the environmental needs of urban areas. Outreach activities designed to promote community involvement and education, and policy and technology transfer are key elements of the Center's programs. The UWMRC has established a technical library and is developing a data base on pollution prevention material. This library will serve as the basis for the new LaTAP program established at UNO by LDEQ. Plans include expanding the system to respond directly to specific requests for assistance utilizing the existing multidisciplinary technical capabilities of the Center.

Urban Waste Management
and Research Center
University of New Orleans
Engineering Building, Room 802
New Orleans, LA 70148
504-286-6071

Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, SU
The Center for Energy and Environmental Studies (CEES) is a multidisciplinary team of engineers, policy professionals, computer scientists, and social and natural scientists. The objectives of the Center include developing and disseminating environmental and energy information and strategies, technology transfer of environmental and energy sciences, and outreach programs. Researchers work to achieve these through education and training programs, basic and applied research, community service programs, and environmental policy and analysis.

Center for Energy and Environmental Studies
Southern University A & M College
P.O. Box 9764
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
504-771-4723
Louisiana/Gulf Coast Waste Exchange

The Louisiana/Gulf Coast Waste Exchange is committed to helping businesses and industries of all sizes find alternative uses for their waste products. The exchange is a non-profit service whose funding is based on grants and sponsorship, not fees. Each listing published in the waste exchange catalog will contain information about the material, including a brief description of the waste, its quantity, frequency of generation and its present location. Each waste will be assigned a code number, insuring confidentiality for the listing industry. The catalog will publish only the code number, followed by all pertinent data on the waste material. Letters of inquiry about listed materials will be coded and listed in the catalog or forwarded to a specific listing company. The listing party then contacts the interested party to begin negotiations for the material.

The Louisiana/Gulf Coast Waste Exchange
1419 CEBA, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
504-388-4594

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) delivers researched-based environmental education programs to agricultural, forestry and fisheries producers and processors through offices located in each parish. Faculty work with DEQ and other agencies on point and nonpoint source water quality, best management practices and pollution prevention. The LCES has worked with small businesses and municipalities in land application of solid wastes and wastewater and in developing compost programs.

Louisiana State University
Agricultural Center
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1900
504-388-4141

Louisiana Productivity Center

Located on the campus of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), the Louisiana Productivity Center (LPC) has assisted thousands of Louisiana businesses as well as economic and industrial development groups, public agencies, and individuals seeking out business opportunities. This assistance has been essential to expanding Louisiana's business base and to the success of new and existing companies throughout the State. LPC has also served to provide opportunities for many small and disadvantaged Louisiana businesses.

LPC provides personal interaction with business and industry over a wide range of activities, including applications, demonstrations, research, and education. LPC is composed of several departments and centers: Technical Information Services; Business, Manufacturing Application, and Continuing Education Departments and; the Center for Plastics, Composites, and Polymers Technology.

LPC maintains an on-line business information system. The database component of this system contains information on 3500 Louisiana businesses who are LPC clients and general information on another 105,000 Louisiana businesses. This extensive database also contains listings of manufacturing and service opportunities from the private and public sectors, and finally, a "shopping list" of needed support industries. The system has unified the State by combining islands of information and data into a common networked database accessible to anyone via remote computer access.

Louisiana Productivity Center
P. O. Box 44172
Lafayette, LA 70504-4172
318-231-5789
Questions Small Business Owners Frequently Ask

- Where can I get information on tax credits for recycling equipment and pollution control equipment? How do I know what is qualified?
  LaTAP

- Who can I talk to about expanding my business?
  SCORE
  Small Business Development Center

- Who can tell me how to find out about government contracts?
  Louisiana Productivity Center

- Where do I find out what licenses, permits, taxes and other requirements will affect the business I want to start?
  First Stop Shop

- My business generates a waste that could be used as part of the process for a different kind of operation. Is there a way to find a business that could use it rather than pay for its disposal?
  Institute for Recyclable Materials

- Is there someone who can tell me if there is any current environmental research on cost-effective environmentally responsible practices I can use in my business?
  Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
  LaTAP

- What advantages are there for minority or woman-owned businesses?
  Department of Economic Development
  Small Business Administration

- Where do I get assistance in understanding air emission rules and permit compliance?
  Small Business Assistance Program

- Who can I call for a non-enforcement environmental audit for my business?
  Small Business Assistance Program
  LaTAP

- Where can I obtain commercial, industrial, federal and military specifications and standards?
  Louisiana Productivity Center

- Who can help me prepare a request for proposal or an invitation to bid on a project?
  Louisiana Productivity Center

- I've just been told that my company is going to undergo a Pre-award Survey. Is there anyone who can help me get ready?
  Louisiana Productivity Center

- What is source reduction? How can I implement source reduction in my business?
  LaTAP

- Where can I buy a small quantity of another company's waste products for my business?
  Institute for Recyclable Materials
Questions Small Business Owners Frequently Ask

• I'm thinking of starting a business. Where can I find financial help?
  
  Small Business Administration
  Department of Economic Development
  Governor's Office of Permits
  Louisiana Small Business Development Centers

• Where can I find advice on expanding my business?
  
  SCORE
  Louisiana Small Business Development Center

• How do I find out if the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments affect my business? I don't want to talk to a regulator.
  
  Small Business Assistance Program
  Governor's Office of Permits

• Where do I get information on environmental laws affecting my business? How do I know if my business needs an environmental permit?
  
  Small Business Assistance Program
  LaTAP

• Where can I get help in filling out an environmental air permit?
  
  Small Business Assistance Program
  Governor's Office of Permits

• I've just discovered I need a permit from DEQ. What will happen if I go along as before without one? Will I be fined for not having had one?
  
  Small Business Assistance Program
  LaTAP