

HOW TO START A BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

EVERYTHING IN BOLD IS HYPERLINKED TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

1 CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN

Get started with the **Small Business/Entrepreneurship Readiness Survey**.

For support and business plan guides, contact your **Small Business Center (SBC)**.

The **Business Start-Up Guide** by the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) offers step-by-step assistance.

2 IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES

Research and apply for loans and grants. There are opportunities based on regions, minority-ownership and business type, to name a few.

Find a **Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)** near you. Many offer lending options for new businesses.

3 DECIDE ON A BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Choosing the right structure depends on your business goals, financial needs and tax implications.

Consult a tax professional to walk you through the pros and cons of each structure. You can also work with an **EDPNC Small Business Advisor**.

4 REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS

Choose your business name and check name availability with the **North Carolina Secretary of State**.

Once you have your business name, **register** and then **complete the appropriate business forms**. Depending on your business structure (DBA, LLC, etc.) you will fill out different forms.

5 GET LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

What licenses and permits do you need to run your business? The Department of Commerce offers the **North Carolina Business & Occupational License Database**.

For assistance, contact **EDPNC Small Business Advisors**.

6 OBTAIN NECESSARY TAX INFORMATION

Get a Federal and State Tax ID Number with the IRS. The **North Carolina Secretary of State** offers links to help.

You'll need your Tax Id number (also called an Employer Identification Number or EIN) for new business accounts.

7 ENSURE ACCURATE COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Are you going to have employees? If so, determine if you need unemployment insurance or workers compensation.

Information about wages, hours, and working conditions can be found at the **North Carolina Secretary of State**.

Review applicable reporting responsibilities there as well.

8 BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Grow your business with resources from **EDPNC** and the NC Business Council's Training on **Sustainable Business Growth**.

Resiliency and recovery resources are available:

SBTDC's Disaster Preparation and Recovery
CSBDF's Small Business Recovery and Resiliency Kit

