

Appendix A – U.S. Small Business Administration

Guide to Entrepreneurship

The mission of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

The mission of the SBA Office of Veterans Business Development is to conduct comprehensive outreach to veterans, service-disabled veterans and Reserve and National Guard small business owners, formulate, execute and promote policies and programs of the Administration and act as an ombudsman for full consideration of veterans in all programs of the Administration.

In carrying out its mission, SBA offers programs and services designed to assist small business owners and entrepreneurs in starting, managing and growing successful small business concerns that are a source of competitive American strength in the global economy. These programs and services are defined by four distinctly identifiable phases of successful entrepreneurial development:

- Entrepreneurial self analysis
- Resources to assist entrepreneurs and small business owners
- Capital and Financing Resources
- Government Contracting Resources

To learn more about the programs, services and business assistance tools, SBA offers small business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as business and technical assistance specific to veteran and service-disabled veteran small business owners/entrepreneurs and Reserve Component members explore the links below.

Entrepreneurial Self Analysis

Phase 1 Entrepreneurial Self Analysis

This link provides access to entrepreneurial tests that will assist you in determining if owning a business is right for you.

- www.sba.gov/starting_business/startup/areyouready.html.

Entrepreneurial Development Resources

Phase 2 Resources to assist in starting, managing and growing successful small business concerns

This link provides access to SBA's network of resource partners that can assist you in starting, managing and growing successful small business concerns. Included in this network are Centers charged with providing assistance specific to veteran and service-disabled veteran business owners/entrepreneurs, as well as tools specifically designed to aid self-employed members of the Reserve and National Guard balance successful business ownership with Title 10 activations and deployment , including restarting or reestablishing their businesses upon de-activation from active duty.

- Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBO Centers)
www.sba.gov/VETS/vbop.html

- Veteran Business Development Officers (VBD Officers)
www.sba.gov/VETS/reprs.html
- Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)
www.sba.gov/sbdc/sbdcnear.html
- SCORE
www.score.org/findscore/
- Women's Business Centers
www.sba.gov/wbc.html/
- Native American Affairs
www.sba.gov/naa/
- Small Business Training Network
www.sba.gov/training/
- Reserve and Guard Tools
www.sba.gov/reservists
- Hire a Veteran
www.hirevetsfirst.gov/committee.asp
PNHVC website

Phase 3 Capital and Financing Resources

This link provides access to the various loan programs SBA offers small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. By clicking the links, a synopsis on the Agency's loan programs follows along with information on how to apply for an SBA-backed loan and criteria for qualifying.

- Basic 7(a) Loan Program
www.sba.gov/financing/index.html
- CDC/504 Loan Program
www.sba.gov/financing/sbaloan/cdc504.html
- Micro-Loans
www.sba.gov/financing/sbaloan/microloans.html
- Surety Bond
www.sba.gov/financing/bonds/whatis.html
- International Trade
www.sba.gov/oit
- Military Reservists Economic Injury Disaster Loans
www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/loaninfo/militaryreservist.html
- Small Business Investment Corporations
www.sba.gov/INV/

Phase 4 Government Contracting Resources

This link provides information on the various government contracting programs SBA offers in assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs in bidding on and winning federal government contracts.

- Government Contracting for Veteran Business Owners
www.sba.gov/GC/indexprograms-vets-html
- HUBZone Program
www.sba.gov/hubzone
- 8(a) Business Development Program
www.sba.gov/8abd
- Technology – SBIR/STTR Program
www.sba.gov/sbir
- Contract Assistance for Women-owned Businesses
www.sba.gov/GC/indexprograms-cawbo.html
- Small Disadvantaged Businesses
www.sba.gov/sdb/
- Procurement Center Representatives
www.sba.gov/GC/pcr.html
- Commercial Market Representatives
www.sba.gov/GC/indexcontact-crms.html
- Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
www.aptac-us.org
www.dla.mil/db/procurem.htm

OTHER RESOURCES

- SBA Office of Advocacy
www.sba.gov/ADVO
- SBA Office of Ombudsman
www.sba.gov/ombudsman
- Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services
www.vba.gov/bln/vre
- Department of Labor
www.dol.gov
- Office of Veterans Employment and Training Services
www.dol.gov/vets/programs/empserv/employment_services_fshtm
- Office of Disability Policy Initiatives
www.dol.gov/odep

- National Veterans Business Development Corporation
www.vetscorp.org