

Business Assistant Resources

Business Finance Corporation of St. Louis County:

A division of the St. Louis County Economic Council, they assist businesses in St. Louis County and across Missouri to secure the best financing available for small to medium sized businesses. They specialize in the purchase of owner occupied commercial real estate or pieces of equipment with a useful life of over 10 years, but also have other programs for anything from working capital, furniture and fixtures, inventory, smaller equipment, etc. We can even often work with your bank to get you better rates and terms as well as help you take advantage of any state or local incentives may be available for your business.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 615-7681 Email: sgrelle@slcec.com

Business Links – international Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis:

The international institute provides linguistically and culturally customized training and technical assistance to refugee and immigrant entrepreneurs. They help with business plan development, business management, and access to financing and compliance with business licensing and regulations.

Contact Information: Phone: 773-9090

Grace Hill:

The center provides St. Louis entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn how to start and run a small business. A three-module training program teaches participants skills needed to run a small business and develop management, marketing plans, and business plans. They also provide assistance for Women owned businesses.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 539-9840

Justine Petersen:

Their Microenterprise Program stresses individualized business and credit counseling focusing on the strengths of the business and entrepreneur. Businesses receive counseling to increase their ability to succeed in business and to help them obtain financing. They also have a quick microloan program up to \$50,000 and can help entrepreneurs to increase their credit and their business credit.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 664-5051

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE):

SCORE offers free Small business counseling services to start-ups and existing businesses. SCORE is a great resource for assistance in putting together a business plan, as well as, help with determining strengths and weaknesses of your business as well as helping you come up with a plan to fix any issues and build on strengths. They help businesses to increase their ability to succeed in business and to help them obtain financing.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 539-6600 ext 242 or 243 Email: info@stlscore.org

St. Louis County Community College:

The institute offers a variety of training programs, workshops, and seminars for entrepreneurs. They also offer specialized training for employees to meet the specific needs of a business. They have programs to help employers keep up with technology changes, meeting licensing and certification requirements, computer literacy and solving organizational problems. They can access a special state training fund for job training for you and your employees for new and expanding Missouri industries.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 595-4288

St. Louis County Commercial Real Estate Department:

This organization provides assistance to help entrepreneurs in locating a property, for purchase or lease, to locate their business. Whether you are looking for a prime retail location, or looking to maximize incentives for your warehouse, they provide a wide range of services to help you find the right location.

Contact Information: (314) 615-1629 Email: AZeidler@slcec.com

St. Louis Enterprise Centers:

This organization provides low cost locations throughout the St. Louis Region for start-up and growing businesses at below market rents. They also contain some shared office equipment as well as other equipment such as lab equipment, commercial kitchen equipment, and other equipment to help your business as well as warehouse space. It is a great way for businesses to save money and realize the demand for their product or services to better plan for future growth and space needs.

Contact Information: (314) 615-7621 Email: DBreite@slcec.com

St. Louis Minority Business Council:

This organization links the corporate purchasing community with minority entrepreneurs operating in the St. Louis Area. They also offer Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification, business and marketing plan assistance, financial planning, and loan programs.

Contact Information: (314) 241-1143 Web Site: www.slmbc.org

St. Louis Small Business Development Center:

They offer a range of training programs and personalized consulting to meet specific business needs. They can help finalize business plans and offer suggestions for putting together marketing plans. They help entrepreneurs to understand what it takes to be a small business owner as well as understand important aspects of owning a business such as financial statements, human resources, and building relationships with banks. They can also help business owners to identify problems and come up with solutions.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 631-5374

Technology Entrepreneur Center:

This is a technical and communications incubator whose mission is to educate, provide affordable office facilities, and mentor start-up companies. They provide affordable office facilities in the Bandwidth Exchange Building and offers backup power and connectivity resources that are ideal for startup information technology companies.

Contact information: Phone (314) 436-3500 Web Site: www.tecstl.org

University of Missouri- Outreach and Small Business Development Center:

The business and industry specialists provide potential and existing business owners with training and information on starting, or managing a business. They also offer individual counseling to current and prospective business owners. They also offer a wide variety of business workshops and seminars to help educate business owners in a wide variety of business planning, training, marketing, tax issues, and customer service. Individual training is typically free of charge, and the classes and workshops are very low fee.

Contact Information: (314) 615-2911

Washington University Hatchery:

The Olin School of Business connects businesses, students, and venture capitalists. Student teams complete business model assistance, not-for-profit fund-raising strategies, and help to write business plans as well as prepare investor presentations for select entrepreneurs from outside the school. The work of you and the students is presented to a panel of business leaders for review and additional advice and assistance. The hatchery teams work on commercial, early-stage science, corporate innovation, and social entrepreneurship venture projects.

Contact Information: (314) 935-8829 Web Site: www.olin.wustl.edu/cel/

Washington University Entrepreneur and Innovator Workshop Series:

The Skandalaris center offers more than 10 Friday afternoon workshops in commercial and social entrepreneurship. They typically offer up to six different topics over a three-hour period. Topics include a broad range of issues around the formation and growth of a start-up company to growing or creating a social venture. Subject experts from throughout the community and Washington University staff lead the workshops.

Contact Information: Phone: (314) 935-4512 Web Site: www.sces.wustl.edu

World trade Center St. Louis:

This is a regional organization available to companies pursuing international business opportunities. They specialize in providing export and import assistance, tariff and quota information, identifying suppliers and distributors as well as offering trade educational events. If you are thinking about trading abroad, but do not know where to start, this is a great resource.

Contact Information: (314) 615-8141 Email: info@worldtradecenter-stl.com