

INTERNET RESOURCES

GRANTS: SBDC Business Consultants get questions several times a day about grants.

WWW.SBA.GOV In the top right corner, enter the word “Grants” in the search box. You will see: “The U.S. Small Business Administration does not offer grants to start or expand small businesses.” However, grants are offered by other government agencies. Most grants are available only to non-profits, universities, municipalities, or states.

WWW.GRANTS.GOV A site that can be used to search for grants.

WWW.CFDA.GOV The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium of Federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. It contains financial and nonfinancial assistance programs administered by departments and establishments of the Federal government.

BUSINESS PLAN SITES: These sites offer resources writing the business plan and have sample business plans that may be downloaded. These are only sample plans; your business plan may need extra sections or may not need some of the sections in these plans. Use caution when using these examples.

WWW.BIZPLANS.COM Largest single online collection of free sample business plans, helpful tools and expertise for managing your business, practical advice on planning, interactive tools and calculators, and a panel of experts.

WWW.BUSINESSPLANS.ORG Presents your business plan to a panel of investors.

WWW.PALOALTO.COM Business Plan Pro is their flagship product.

COMMERICAL SITES: These sites are created as advertising for products for small businesses. These sites do contain a great deal of useful information. They are worth a visit as some of their products might be just what your small business needs.

WWW.LEASESMART.COM Site designed to give expanding companies information, tips and trends on how to save money and reduce risk when leasing or purchasing property.

WWW.JAXWORKS.COM Free Excel workbooks and spreadsheets, and MS Word, PDF and HTML documents that cover financial, accounting and sales functions at all skill levels.

WWW.BIZFILINGS.COM Professionally forms corporations, limited liability companies, and nonprofits faster than anyone else. They charge a fee for their services.

FRANCHISE SITES:

WWW.FRANCHISESOLUTIONS.COM Lists of franchises and small business opportunities for sale.

WWW.FRANCHISE.ORG International Franchise Association. Offers a comprehensive guide to buying a franchise. Contains helpful information on franchising basics.

WWW.FRANCHISEADVANTAGE.COM Tools to search, research, and request additional information about franchise opportunities and businesses for sale across all industries.

WWW.FRANCHISEFORSALE.COM Online franchise advertising industry.

WWW.BESTFRANCHISEOPPORTUNITIES.COM Identifies, creates, and distributes valuable information regarding franchising and small business opportunities.

WWW.FRANCHISE-CHAT.COM Established to bring franchise news stories and resource articles from around the world to one convenient location.

WWW.ENTREPRENEUR.COM Great Site for information about starting your own business.

WWW.FRANCHISEEXPO.COM Franchises and franchise business opportunities.

HOME BUSINESS: These sites offer help on setting up a business at home. They are a good source for information concerning the decision of where to locate the business and how to make a home business successful

WWW.POWERHOMEBIZ.COM Find useful information, tips and expertise on starting your own home-based business.

EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS:

WWW.SLED.STATE.SC.US The website of "State Law Enforcement Division" for South Carolina.

www.codeamber.org/sor.html Code Amber Sex Offender Registries by State.

WWW.NSOPR.GOV A cooperative effort between Jurisdictions hosting public sex offender registries and the federal government. Search tool allowing a user to submit a single national query to obtain information about sex offenders through a number of search options.

GENERAL SITES: General small business information. Start-up information and links to more specialized information. This is a good place to start your research.

WWW.BUSINESS.GOV The US government's website for business topics. Contains advice on how to run a business, business forms, financial statements, and more.

WWW.BIZCOACH.ORG Provides business advice on how to resolve problems, increase productivity, and improve profitability.

WWW.STARTUP.WSJ.COM Wall Street Journal. Articles about starting and running a business.

WWW.COEXPRESS.COM A search portal that provides links to various websites related to the operation of a business.

WWW.ENTREPRENEURMAG.COM Information on small businesses and related topics.

WWW.ENTREPRENEURSHIP.ORG Partnership between the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade.

WWW.FINDLAW.COM Site for free legal information.

WWW.IRS.GOV US Internal Revenue Service.

WWW.MELISSADATA.COM A pay-site with tools for research on demographics, zip codes, and phone numbers.

WWW.MISSOURIBUSINESS.NET Provides hundreds of links to internet resources.

WWW.MOREBUSINESS.COM Info on starting and running a business, as well as daily news for small businesses. Downloadable templates, worksheets, and interactive features.

WWW.SBA.GOV SBA website. Has information about starting a business. This site also links to different SBA resources, such as SBDC sites across the United States.

WWW.SCSOS.COM SC Secretary of State. Business names can be registered, or searched.

WWW.SCBOBOS.SC.GOV South Carolina Business One Stop is the official South Carolina business web portal. It enables anyone with an existing business or anyone starting a new business to file permits, licenses, registrations, or pay taxes.

WWW.SEARCHENGINEWATCH.COM Provides tips and information about searching the web, analysis of the search engine industry, and help to site owners trying to improve their ability to be found in search engines.

WWW.SCTAX.ORG SC Department of Revenue.

WWW.SUCCESS.ORG American Success Institute.

WWW.TOOLKIT.CCH.COM Provides information in various areas pertaining to starting a business and writing the business plan.

WWW.USPTO.COM US Patents Office.

MISCELLANEOUS SITES:

WWW.MELBYCOMMERCIALREALESTATE.COM Site designed to give expanding companies information, tips and trends on how to save money and reduce risk when leasing or purchasing property. Specializes in real estate in North Carolina.

WWW.BANKRATE.COM Everything you need to know about loan rates. Some small business articles.

MARKET RESEARCH: These sites can help you answer who and where your customers are.

WWW.BLS.GOV Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept of Labor.

WWW.CENSUS.GOV Census Bureau. Contains demographic information.

WWW.SC.GOV Everything about SC government agencies, counties, etc. Contains demographic information.

WWW.SBA.GOV

WWW.SCCOMMUNITYPROFILES.ORG Can be used to find demographic information.

WWW.SMALLBUSINESSNOTES.COM Can be used to conduct research.

WWW.FEDSTATS.GOV Federal & State demographics & maps.

SITES FOR INEXPENSIVE WEB-TOOLS:

WWW.EMACHINESHOP.COM A site for light manufacturing for items such as prototypes. Pricing varies.

WWW.CAFEPRESS.COM E-commerce and promotional items. Pricing varies.

WWW.ASSOCIATE-O-MATIC.COM Online retail stores. Light version is free.

WWW.MTURK.COM Conduct market research at pennies per question.

WWW.GMAIL.COM Free web-based email.

WWW.HOTMAIL.COM Free web-based email.

WWW.OPENOFFICE.ORG XML access to platforms such as Microsoft Office. Free access.

WWW.SALESFORCE.COM Customer relationship management software. Has a free trial, but pricing varies.

WWW.PAD2PAD.COM Custom circuit boards. Pricing varies.