



## Internet Resources for Starting a Small Business

### Research Guide

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#### SCOPE OF GUIDE

This guide is intended to help people wanting to start a small business in California, with resources specific to the County and City of San Diego.

#### WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION CAN I FIND IN THIS GUIDE?

- A listing of national, State of California, County and City of San Diego websites;
- Information about the process of starting and managing a small business in San Diego;
- Web resources about tax issues associated with starting a small business in California and the County and City of San Diego;
- National, state and local websites with small business mentoring and consulting resources.

#### RESOURCES:

##### **CITY OF SAN DIEGO RESOURCES**

*City of San Diego – Office of Small Business*

<http://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/business-assistance/small-business/>

A local Office of Small Business dedicated solely to helping small businesses succeed. The City sets aside millions of dollars each year for programs to help small businesses prosper. Their “10 Key Steps to Starting a Business” is a guide for those starting businesses within the San Diego city limits, with helpful resources and local information.

*Office of the City Treasurer – Business Tax Certificate*

[www.sandiego.gov/treasurer/businessstax/index.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/treasurer/businessstax/index.shtml)

All businesses in the City of San Diego are required to have a Business Tax Certificate, including home-based businesses, self employed persons, and independents contractors. This website explains the San Diego City Business Tax application process, required fees, application forms, and links to other business resources.

##### **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESOURCES**

*SCORE: Counselors to America’s Small Business – A Partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)*

[www.score-sandiego.org](http://www.score-sandiego.org)

SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" is a volunteer, non-profit organization providing free and confidential business counseling to both prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners throughout San Diego County. They also conduct a variety of low-cost workshops for establishing



and managing a successful business.

Entrepreneurs can receive counseling via e-mail, telephone, at one of the San Diego SCORE offices, or at your place of business.

### *San Diego County Fictitious Business Name Statements*

[http://www.sdarc.com/arcc/services/fbn\\_info.aspx](http://www.sdarc.com/arcc/services/fbn_info.aspx)

This is the San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk's Office website. Any person who regularly transacts business for profit, UNDER A FICTITIOUS NAME, in the County of San Diego is required to file a Fictitious Business Name Statement with the Recorder/County Clerk. This site will explain the definition of a Fictitious Business Name and who is required to file one.

## **STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES**

### *State of California Business Portal*

[www.calbusiness.ca.gov/default.asp](http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/default.asp)

This website provides links to a number of resources for starting, growing, financing, expanding or relocating a business in California. Information is organized by category and provides links to public and private organizations, Federal, State and County agencies, and non-profit organizations.

### *CalGOLD – Business Permits Made Simple*

[www.calgold.ca.gov/](http://www.calgold.ca.gov/)

This website provides links and contact information directing you to agencies that administer and issue business permits, licenses and registration requirements from all levels of government.

The listings include descriptions of the requirements, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the agencies that administer those requirements and issue the permits and licenses. CalGOLD does not issue permits or licenses, nor does it offer information on specific license numbers.

### *California Tax Service Center – State of California*

[http://www.taxes.ca.gov/Small\\_Business\\_Assistance\\_Center/index.shtml](http://www.taxes.ca.gov/Small_Business_Assistance_Center/index.shtml)

This website is a “Small Business Assistance Center,” a partnership of tax agencies, including the State Board of Equalization, Employment Development Department, State Franchise Tax Board, and the Internal Revenue Service.

This resource is a one-stop source for small business tax information that is organized by category and provides links directly to the appropriate tax agency.

## **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

### *The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)*

[www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html)

The Small Business Administration offers programs and services to help your small business. The “Small Business Planner” includes information and resources



that will help you at any stage of the business lifecycle: business planning; starting and financing a business; or managing and dissolving your business.

This website contains a lot of useful, detailed information, such as online training, forms, local resources and links, and more. There is also a Spanish version of the website available: <http://www.sba.gov/espanol/>.

*Business.gov – The Official Business Link to the U.S. Government*

<http://www.business.gov/>

This website helps small businesses understand legal requirements, locate government services supporting the nation's small business community, and tools and resources for finding loans and grants, obtaining licenses and permits, downloadable forms, and energy efficient information. Local resources available.

*Business Owner's Toolkit*

[www.toolkit.cch.com](http://www.toolkit.cch.com)

This website provides information about starting a small business, including practical tips (samples and forms), tax and legal information. The site offers more than 5,000 pages of free cost-cutting tips, step-by-step checklists, real-life case studies, startup advice, and business templates to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

There is some commercial advertising on this website, but all of the information is free, detailed and extremely helpful. This is a Commerce Clearing House (CCH) resource sponsored by CCH Tax and Accounting, published by Wolters Kluwer.

*Biz Tool Kit*

<http://biztoolkit.org>

This website provides free access to business information tools, databases and resources to help you research Business Plans, Financing, Demographics, Marketing and Managing for your small business. They also provide free access to sample documents and business tools.

This is a website of links to other business website resources. The information is gathered and organized for the convenience of the user. It is sponsored by the James J. Hill Reference Library and designed for any business.

*Small Business Development Center – National Information Clearinghouse*

<http://sbdcnet.org>

This website contains links to sample business plans, industry information, business documents and publications. SBDC Business Advisors are available for free, confidential business counseling.

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*Please consult a Law Librarian for further assistance.*