



Guide to Starting and Growing a Business in Nevada

Nevada Department of Business and Industry

Click anywhere on this page to begin

The Road Map – Click a Topic



Nevada Department of
Business and Industry
Guide to Starting & Growing a Business in Nevada



GETTING HELP

Starting, running and growing a business is hard work. Having a great idea may not be enough.

Many organizations exist to help with information, counseling and other needs. This help is often free.

You don't have to go it alone. If you want help, click on the links to see what these groups have to offer. You can also start with our Learning Center [HERE](#).

For a general overview of Nevada's business support resources, check out our Ecosystem Chart [HERE](#).

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U.S. Small Business
Administration

Business
Guide

SCORE
FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

[SCORE Northern Nevada](#)

[SCORE Las Vegas](#)

[SCORE Startup Roadmap](#)

AMERICA'S
SBDC
NEVADA

Nevada
SBDC
Services

Nevada
WBC

Women's Business
Center Services



Nevada
Veterans Business
Outreach Center

Nevada
Chambers of
Commerce



Office of
Entrepreneurship

A Few of the Many Business Support, Planning,
Training and Networking Groups in Nevada

PLANNING

A business plan can help you better organize, manage, and understand your business. A business plan is also required by many lenders if you want to borrow money. To think through things before writing your plan, use a 'business model canvas.' Click on the links for YouTube and Canvanizer for help.

SCORE, Strategyzer, and other groups offer business planning assistance. Click on the icons to learn more.

You may also want to consider taking a 'Lean Startup' approach. Click on the link to learn more.

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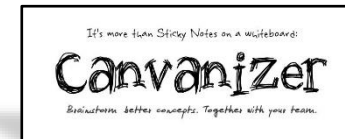
BUSINESS PLANNING TEMPLATES

**BUSINESS
NEWS DAILY**
Small Business Solutions & Inspiration



A Business Model Canvas in 5 Minutes
Gabrielle Benefield

Business Model Canvas Explained
Strategyzer



Strategyzer

LEARN ABOUT THE LEAN STARTUP APPROACH

**A Few of the Many Business Support, Planning,
Training and Networking Groups in Nevada**

Lean Startup

A new type of thinking about starting a business has become popular in recent years. It is called the 'Lean Startup' approach.

'Lean Startup' emphasizes concepts such as defining value, minimizing waste, deploying a minimal viable product, and using a build-measure-learn approach to improving your product and growing your business.

To learn more about the 'Lean Startup' philosophy, check out the links to the right.

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WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

[LEAN STARTUP – AN OVERVIEW](#)

Harvard
Business
Review

[WHY THE LEAN
STARTUP CHANGES
EVERYTHING](#)



Medium

[HOW TO APPLY
LEAN STARTUP METHODOLOGIES
TO SMALL BUSINESSES](#)

Entrepreneur

[FOUR COMMON
MISCONCEPTIONS
ABOUT LEAN STARTUP](#)



[THE MINIMUM VIABLE
PRODUCTS \(MVP\)
DESIGN PROCESS EBOOK](#)

TRAINING

Many groups offer training, workshops and webinars to help you become better prepared to start, run and grow your business.

The links to the right are a few of the many resources available. Use the Business Resource Center of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry to identify others – or contact your local chamber of commerce, college or university, library, etc.

Remember – success depends on you!

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[SCORE Northern Nevada](#)

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U.S. Small Business
Administration

Online
Learning
Center



Statewide Training
Calendar



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

Small Business
Education Program



NV Department of Business and Industry

Welcome to the
Business Resource Hub

A Few of the Many Business Support, Planning,
Training and Networking Groups in Nevada

NETWORKING

Building and maintaining relationships is critical to the long-term success of any business.

In Nevada, many groups are available to provide advice, assistance, mentoring or other forms of opportunity to expand your contacts and turn those contacts into productive relationships.

To get tips on how to improve your networking ability, learn more about available groups, and see a calendar of upcoming events, click the buttons to the right.

NETWORKING TIPS

GROUPS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Networking Tips

Good networking involves more than talking to people or groups that can help you start, fund or expand your business. It also involves building relationships with customers, suppliers, and the community. Each of these can play an important role in your company's success.

For tips on how to be more effective at networking, click through the various articles and links to the right.

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Inc.

HOW TO NETWORK LIKE YOU
REALLY MEAN IT

Entrepreneur

12 NETWORKING GROUPS
EVERY SMALL BUSINESS
OWNER SHOULD BE
INVOLVED IN

NEILPATEL

TEN WAYS TO MAKE
CUSTOMERS FALL IN LOVE
WITH YOUR BUSINESS

 **Money
Crashers**

BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS
ARE MORE THAN
A ROLODEX

Business Relationships – More Than A Rolodex

Your Fellow Business People Might Be Able To:

- Share their business advice and experience.
- Provide leads to people, information or resources.
- Help with money or financing for your business.
- Refer customers to your business.
- Direct you to job opportunities for your business.
- Help you find business partners, coworkers or employees.
- Create more contacts for you through people they know.

Develop Good Relationships By:

- Networking! Get out to events and meet with people.
- Staying in touch. Follow up on what contacts are doing.
- Building trust. Never take advantage of someone.
- Showing a genuine interest in people. Learn what's important to them. Listen to them. Ask questions.
- Being the first to act or do a favor. A giving attitude is rewarded with relationships more than a taking attitude. Give more than asked.
- Focusing on quality of relationships, not quantity. Be open to all, but invest in the relationships that are mutually beneficial.

Don't Make These Mistakes:

- Being impersonal (all business, all the time).
- Not showing appreciation.
- Forgetting to update people who have helped you on how things are going.
- Being inconsistent in how you treat people.
- Acting unprofessionally when things don't go as expected.
- Not admitting your mistakes.
- Not being careful in what you say or how you say it.
- Surrounding yourself with untrustworthy people.
- Keeping too many secrets. People trust transparency.

Adapted from "Business Relationship Building Skills – Benefits & Tips for Success," by Kalen Smith, MoneyCrashers.Com.

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[Back to Networking Tips Page](#)

A Few of the Many Business Support, Planning, Training and Networking Groups in Nevada



BUSINESS STRUCTURE

The business structure you choose will have legal and tax implications. The links to the right provide more information and help on this important topic. Do your research, seek the advice of an accountant or attorney, and pick the structure that will work best for you and your business.

When you're ready, register your business structure with the Nevada Secretary of State by using the ORION Business Portal, Nevada's only online site to handle all your licensing and registration needs in one place. Click the relevant logo and button on the right to get started.

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Entrepreneur

CHOOSE YOUR
BUSINESS STRUCTURE



U.S. Small Business
Administration

CHOOSE A
BUSINESS
STRUCTURE



FORMS OF
BUSINESS
OWNERSHIP



FILE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE

NAMING YOUR BUSINESS

When you set up and license your business at the Nevada Secretary of State's ORION Business Portal, you will establish a legal name for the business. Be sure to select a name that is not already being used in the state. You can check existing business names using the Nevada Secretary of State's "[Business Entity Search](#)" feature .

After establishing the legal entity name, you can use another name for the business by filing a Fictitious Firm Name Form (also known as a "Doing Business As" or "DBA" form) with the county in which you plan to do business under that different name. For information on county DBA filings, use the map on the Business Licensing Page in this Guide to connect with the filing contacts for each Nevada county. See the buttons below to get started.

After establishing a legal entity name and DBA name, you might want to reserve a web domain name if you plan to have an online presence for your business. For help with that, go to the Getting Help topic of this Guide, click on the button for the U.S. Small Business Administration's "10 Steps to Start," and read Step 6.

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BUSINESS LOCATION

Where you open shop can play a critical role in the success or failure of your business operation. For tips on handling this aspect of your business, click on the links to the right.

BEFORE locating your business anywhere in Nevada, first verify the zoning requirements of the jurisdiction in which you want to put it and then ask whether the jurisdiction offers any programs or incentives for locating the business in certain redevelopment areas.

Use the map on the Licensing Page of this Guide to connect with the jurisdiction(s) you are considering.

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TIPS FOR
CHOOSING YOUR
BUSINESS
LOCATION

Entrepreneur

HOW TO FIND
THE BEST LOCATION

The logo for "the balance" features a stylized graphic of three overlapping circles in green, blue, and orange to the left of the text "the balance" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

the balance

HOW TO FIND A LOCATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS:
12 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The logo for SCORE features the word "SCORE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized graphic of three parallel blue lines that curve upwards and to the right, ending in a registered trademark symbol (®).

SCORE

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT LOCATION
FOR YOUR NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS LICENSING

You **MUST** license your business with the state. To do that, use the **ORION Business Portal**, Nevada's only online site to handle all your licensing and registration needs in one place. Click the Nevada Secretary of State button below to get started.

You **MAY** need to license your business with the city and/or county where the business is based and in every city and/or county where it will operate. Click a county on the map to learn about local license requirements in that area.

Are you based outside Nevada? Then click [HERE](#).

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Map courtesy of Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., copyright 1998; used with permission.

Carson City

If you plan to locate or operate a business in Carson City, you must license it with the city. Click on the city logo for more information.

To register a Fictitious Firm Name in Carson City, obtain and file the relevant forms [HERE](#).

To learn more about other business resources, click on the logos for the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, Northern Nevada Development Authority, and Western Nevada Development District.



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Churchill County

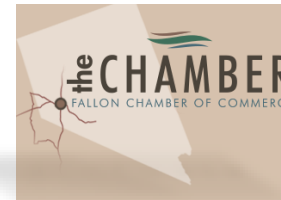
A county business license is required in addition to your State of Nevada license. A separate city license is also required in the City of Fallon. Click on the county or city logos to learn more.

For Fictitious Firm Name filings, click [HERE](#).

For other business help, click on the logos for the Fallon Chamber, Churchill Entrepreneur Development Association, Churchill Fallon Economic Development, Northern Nevada Development Authority, or Western Nevada Development District.

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Clark County

Each city in Clark County – and Clark County itself – has different licensing requirements for businesses. These are in addition to requirements of the State of Nevada. [Click on each entity's logo for licensing information.](#) [Click on each entity's adjoining button for other business support.](#)

Click on the Jurisdictional Finder Tool if you need to know what entity applies to your business location. Click on the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance logo to explore other programs and resources available to businesses.

Fictitious Firm Name Forms must be submitted to the Clark County Clerk. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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Clark County
Comm. & Econ. Development



City of Boulder City
Community Development



City of Henderson
Economic Development



City of Las Vegas
Economic Development



City of Mesquite
Business Center



City of North Las Vegas
Economic Development



SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL BUSINESS LICENSE
JURISDICTIONAL FINDER TOOL

Douglas County

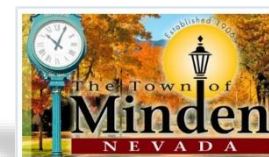
A local or county business license is not required in addition to the state license. For general business information, click the Douglas County logo.

For Fictitious Firm Name filings, click [HERE](#).

To learn about other available business support, click on the logos for Douglas County; towns of Minden, Gardnerville or Genoa; Northern Nevada Development Authority; Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce; or the Western Nevada Development District.

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Elko County

A county business license is not required.

The City of Elko and communities of Carlin, Wells and West Wendover do require their own business licenses - click on their logos to learn more. For Wells, call the city at (775) 752-3355.

Fictitious Firm Name Forms must be filed with the county clerk. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

For other resources, click on the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority logo.



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Esmeralda County

A county business license is not required, nor are licenses required by any of the towns (Dyer/Fish Lake Valley, Goldfield, Silver Peak). To learn more about the county, click on the county logo.

Click [HERE](#) for Fictitious Firm Name Form information.

To explore resources in Goldfield, click on the link to the Goldfield Chamber of Commerce.



Goldfield
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Eureka County

A county business license is not required, nor are licenses required by the communities of Eureka, Crescent Valley and Beowawe.

For Fictitious Firm Name filings, click [HERE](#) .

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Humboldt County

A county business license is needed unless the business is only conducted within the city limits of Winnemucca, in which case only a city license is required. Click on the county button or city logo to learn more.

Fictitious Firm Name filings must be done through the county clerk. Click [HERE](#) for the clerk's webpage.

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**HUMBOLDT
COUNTY NV**



**CITY OF
WINNEMUCCA, NV**



HDA
Humboldt
Development
Authority
winnemucca, nevada



Lander County

A county business license is required in addition to a State of Nevada business license. Click on the county seal for business license information.

Click [HERE](#) for Fictitious Firm Name filings.

To explore other business resources, click on the Battle Mountain Chamber of Commerce or Lander County Economic Development Authority logos.



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Lincoln County

A county business license is required. Click on the Lincoln County logo for information on the county license and Fictitious Firm Name filings.

A separate city license is also required in the City of Caliente. Click on the Caliente icons to learn more.

For other business resources in Lincoln County, click on the link to the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority. For general information on the county, click on the Primitive Man logo.

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[CITY OF
CALIENTE](#)

[Caliente Business
License Form](#)



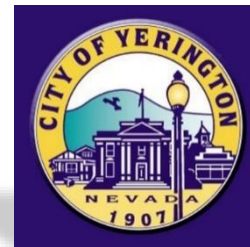
[LincolnCountyNevada.com](#)
get primitive

Lyon County

A county business license is required. Click on the Lyon County logo to get information on licensing, fees and Fictitious Firm Name Forms.

Separate city licenses are required in Yerington and Fernley. Click on the city logos to learn about requirements in those jurisdictions.

To learn about other business support in the area, click on the logos for the Yerington or Fernley chamber of commerce, or the Northern Nevada Development Authority.



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NDA | Northern Nevada
Development Authority

Mineral County

The application for a county business license is available through the Mineral County Recorder's Office. Click on the county logo to access it. For Fictitious Firm Name Forms, click [HERE](#) .

To learn about other business resources in the area, contact the county directly or click on the logos for the Northern Nevada Development Authority or Western Nevada Development District.

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Nye County

The county does not require its own business license.

The towns of Pahrump and Tonopah do.

For information on filing a Fictitious Firm Name Form, click [HERE](#) .

For licensing requirements in Beatty, Gabbs and Round Mountain, contact Nye County directly – click on the county seal for phone and address.

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Pershing County

For county licensing, click on the Pershing County logo for the application packet and contacts.

For licensing in Lovelock, contact the city directly by using the button at right.

For a Fictitious Firm Name filing, click [HERE](#) .

To learn about other business resources in the area, contact the Pershing County Economic Development Authority or Western Nevada Development District.

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Pershing County
Economic Development Authority



Storey County

A county business license is required in addition to your state license. Click on the county logo to learn more.

To file a Fictitious Firm Name, contact the County Clerk [HERE](#) .

For information on other business resources in the area, contact Storey County Business Development or the Western Nevada Development District. Click on their links to learn more.

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[Storey County
Business Development](#)



Washoe County

Washoe County, Reno, and Sparks have different licensing requirements for businesses. [Click on their logos for licensing information.](#) [Click on their adjoining buttons for other business support.](#) A single regional licensing portal called “One” is also available. Click on its logo to learn more.

DBA forms (another name for Fictitious Firm Name Forms) must be filed with the Washoe County Clerk. To learn more about the county’s DBA process, click [HERE](#).

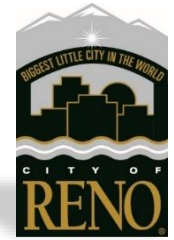
To explore other business resources, click on the logos for Northern NV Now Economic Development and the Western Nevada Development District.

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Washoe County
Community Services



City of Reno
Economic Development



City of Sparks
Community Services



Western Nevada Development District

White Pine County

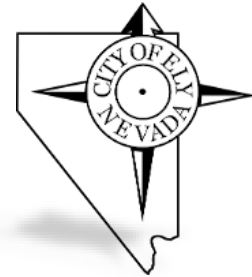
A license is required to do business in the City of Ely, but no county business license is required outside the city, except for marijuana businesses. To learn more, click on the county and city logos to the right.

To file a Fictitious Firm Name Form with the county, click [HERE](#).

For economic development assistance, click on the logos for the Nevada Rural Development Corporation or Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority.

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Not Based Here?

If your business is already licensed and based in another state, you must still license your out-of-state business with the State of Nevada if you want to operate in Nevada.

Use the ORION Business Portal link below to get started.

You may also need to license your business in every Nevada city and/or county where it will operate. The requirements for every city and county are listed in this guide.

Click on “Back to the Licensing Page” below and use the map to learn what city and/or county licenses are required in different parts of Nevada.

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OTHER LICENSES & PERMITS

Depending on the type of business you plan to operate, you may need other licenses or permits in addition to your business license. These other licenses or permits typically fall into one of three categories: Professional, Environmental, and Public Health.

For example, certain professions require a license from a special board before you can do business in Nevada. Some businesses require environmental permits to address air, water or hazardous waste aspects of the business operation. Other activities may require public health licenses or permits to ensure public safety.

To learn about these categories and whether any of their requirements might apply to you, click the buttons on the right.

PROFESSIONAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

PUBLIC HEALTH

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Professional

Some professions require additional licensing approvals from an independent board.

Some professions and businesses are regulated by state agencies.

Other businesses or occupations rely on local officials or civil action for enforcement.

To learn whether a profession or business activity might require additional licensures or regulatory compliance, use the buttons below to search for a profession.

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- [Embalmers](#)
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- [Engineers](#)
- [Environmental Health Specialists](#)
- [Escrow Agencies & Agents](#)
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- [Transfer Agents \(Securities\)](#)
- [Transportation Related Businesses Other Than Taxi \(includes autonomous vehicle networks, charter limos and buses, employee van pools, movers, rideshare firms, and tow cars\)](#)
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Environmental

You may need special environmental permits if your business is going to produce air emissions, generate hazardous wastes, store hazardous materials, or discharge wastewater. In some cases, these permits may be needed before you can begin operating.

For free help in figuring out what environmental permits apply to your business situation and where to get them, contact the Nevada Business Environmental Program (BEP) at the University of Nevada Reno – they provide statewide assistance in this area. Click their logo at the top on the right.

To learn more about federal, state and local environmental rules and regulations, check the other agencies and resources listed on this page.

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NEVADA DIVISION OF
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Air Quality Permits](#)

[Washoe County
Waste Mgmt.](#)

Southern Nevada

[Clark County
Air Quality Permits](#)

[Southern Nevada
Waste Mgmt.](#)

Public Health

Health permits or licenses may be required if your business is going to involve certain aspects of public health – for example, aquatics, body art/tattoos, childcare, food service, etc.

The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Nevada Health Authority provide state licenses/permits in this area. Click their boxes on the right to see the types of businesses they regulate.

Generally, the state issues health permits for these activities in all parts of Nevada except (1) Carson City / Douglas County, (2) Clark County, and (3) Washoe County. For those areas, links to the relevant local health agencies are provided on the right. If your business is in Churchill, Eureka, Mineral, or Pershing county, check with the Central Nevada Health District as well. In some instances, you may need both a state and local permit. Review the state and/or local agency websites for guidance.

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[Applications and Forms](#)

[Food Safety Resources](#)



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Services](#)

[Public Information](#)

TAX STUFF

Not planning to operate your business under your own Social Security Number? You will need an Employer Identification Number issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Click the IRS logo on the right to learn more.

You must also register your business with the Nevada Department of Taxation. You can do this when applying for your state business license online at the ORION Business Portal – click the Nevada Secretary of State logo to get started. For more information on business taxation in Nevada, click on the Nevada Department of Taxation logo.

You must also file Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) of your business with the Federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Click the BOI logo at right to learn more.

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[FILE YOUR BUSINESS HERE](#)



HIRING PEOPLE

Employment Laws. Do you plan to hire people? If so, you need to know about state and federal rules on wages, payment of overtime, workers compensation, occupational safety, health insurance, workplace posters, etc. The links to the right provide information on these topics and more.

You also need to know the difference between an employee and an independent contractor. Click on the IRS link to find out.

Finding Workers. Once you understand the employment laws, how do you find the workers? For links to some state and local resources that assist businesses in finding qualified people to train or hire, click [HERE](#) .

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[FAQs About Nevada Labor Laws](#)

[Employer Information](#)



State of Nevada
Division of Industrial Relations

[Workers Compensation](#)

[Occupational Safety & Health](#)

[Safety Consulting & Training Section](#)



[Work Hours](#)

[Workplace Safety & Health](#)

[Workplace Posters](#)



[Employee or Independent Contractor?](#)



Finding Workers

Finding good employees can be a challenge, but state and local resources are available to help. EmployNV is the statewide brand for Nevada's public workforce system, which includes the state's website for workforce services ([EmployNV](#)) and a network of American Job Centers that help job seekers and employers with no-cost employment, training, and financial incentive programs like Silver State Works.

To see how employers can benefit from Nevada's workforce development efforts, click on the links to the EmployNV Business Hub, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the Nevada Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN). Or check out the EmployNV Career Hub or EmployNV Youth Hub to see how the EmployNV workforce system helps individuals prepare and connect to the right work opportunities.

For more hiring assistance, click on the link to the Nevada State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

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[Back to
Hiring People Page](#)



CERTIFICATIONS & CONTRACTS

A “certification” is formal acknowledgement by an authorized entity that your business has a certain status or compliance to defined standards. Certifications can help a business qualify for preferential bidding processes, compete for public or private sector procurements, or gain access to additional capital.

Here in Nevada, there are several entities that can help you understand and acquire certifications, as well as identify business opportunities related to them. Click the “Getting Certified” and “Finding Contracts” buttons to learn more.

GETTING CERTIFIED

FINDING CONTRACTS

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Getting Certified

Many different types of certification exist today:

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB)
- Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)
- Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
- 8(a) Small Business
- Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone)
- Emerging Small Business (ESB)

To learn about specific certifications and to receive help in getting certified, click on the icons listed to the right.

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[Back to Certifications & Contracts Page](#)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Contracting
Assistance Programs



Finding Contracts

Here in Nevada, there are many contracting and subcontracting opportunities in both the private and public sectors. To aid in identifying available public sector procurement solicitations at the local, state and federal government level, several resources exist.

For example, the Nevada APEX Accelerator is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and can help established organizations in their pursuit of government-related contracts or subcontracts. Click the GOED Nevada APEX Accelerator button to learn more.

To explore additional resources that can help identify contracting opportunities, click the other buttons on the right of this page.

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[Back to Certifications & Contracts Page](#)



NEVADAePro
The State of Nevada
Electronic Procurement System

Nevada State
Public Works
Division

NGEM
Nevada Government eMarketplace



SBA U.S. Small Business
Administration

SBA Federal
Contracting
Guide

FUNDING

Funding - also known as “capital” - is essential to starting, operating and growing a business. The links at right provide resources and tools for business owners looking for funding. For example, the Access to Capital Directory offers a list of contacts for grants, incentives, traditional financing, and other money sources. Click on each icon to learn more.

We’ve also provided a link to several articles with helpful hints about borrowing, loans, and managing cash flow.

For other sources of capital and support, click [HERE](#).

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Nevada Department of
Business and Industry
[Access to Capital Directory](#)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Nevada
Lender List

SBA Loans

SBA Lender Match –
Connecting Borrowers
and Lenders



Helpful Hints about Money and Small Business

Helpful Hints on \$\$

There are many challenges associated with financing a business.

The articles to the right provide helpful advice on what to look for, what to avoid, and what to do when you need money for your business.

Also, check out the Networking and Helpful Hands pages of this Guide to find advice and assistance in developing your Nevada business.

[Back to Guide Menu](#)

[Networking Page](#)

[Getting Help Page](#)

[A GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT SMALL BUSINESS LOAN
– *Business News Daily*](#)

[FIVE WORST CASH FLOW MISTAKES MADE BY
SMALL BUSINESSES – *Entrepreneur Magazine*](#)

[SEVEN DEADLY CASH FLOW MISTAKES - *LinkedIn*](#)

[AVOID THESE FIVE COMMON SMALL-BUSINESS FINANCING
MISTAKES – *Entrepreneur Magazine*](#)

[20 CASH HANDLING BEST PRACTICES FOR BUSINESS
– *Small Business Trends*](#)

[Back to Funding Page](#)

Other Support

Nevada has a growing network of entrepreneurial support resources for startups and their founders. These resources include incubators, accelerators, angel/venture investors, coworking spaces, and other sources of capital and support.

The links on the right highlight several of these new and innovative resources – click on an icon to learn more.

For a more complete list of entrepreneurial support resources available in Nevada, [click this bar](#).

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**STARTUP
NV**

[AccelerateNV](#)

[IncubateNV](#)

gener8tor

[Reno-Tahoe](#)

[Las Vegas](#)

SAGE
Sierra Accelerator
for Growth &
Entrepreneurship

[North](#)

[South](#)



GOED

NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[Office of
Entrepreneurship](#)



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
innovation center
POWERED BY SWITCH

BLACK FIRE
INNOVATION

Ozmen Center
for Entrepreneurship

elevateblue

**LAS VEGAS
ENTREPRENEUR
ACCELERATOR**

Blackstone LaunchPad



SIERRA ANGELS



MARKETS & MARKETING

To start or grow a business, you need to understand your market. What need does your product or service satisfy? Who and where are the customers for that? How do you reach them? Do you plan to export/import? And so on.

Data resources can help you figure things out. Then, once you understand your market, you'll want a marketing plan to guide sales of your product/service into that market and to customers. Help exists for export/import issues.

For information pertaining to data resources, marketing, and export/import, click the applicable button to the right.

[DATA RESOURCES](#)

[MARKETING](#)

[EXPORT/IMPORT](#)

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Data Resources

This page provides links to resources that can help with data research on potential markets and customers.

The U.S. Census Bureau offers free training and workshops on how to use its large data sets. The Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, and Las Vegas-Clark County Library District offer data portals to assist businesses. Nevada Grow, the Business Services Group at UNR, and the Center for Business and Economic Research at UNLV provide a range of business information services.

You can also check with your local chamber of commerce or other business support, training, planning and network group for data insights.

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Census
Academy –
Free Courses

[Surveys and Programs](#)

[Data Tools and Apps](#)



University of Nevada, Reno
Business Services Group



[Other Business Support, Planning, Training
and Networking Groups in Nevada](#)

Marketing

A business, product or service seldom sells itself. Think about what you are selling. Think about who will need it or want it. Why will they need it or want it? Why should they buy it from you? Think about how and where you tell that story. Put together an outline of your thoughts. This is the start of your marketing plan.

Click on the “Basics of a Marketing Plan” button for more information on developing a plan. To learn more about marketing challenges in the 21st century, click on the “Marketing Tools and Tips” button.

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FOCUS ON:

- ✓ YOUR BUSINESS GOAL
- ✓ YOUR CUSTOMER AND AUDIENCE
- ✓ YOUR MARKETING BUDGET
- ✓ YOUR UNIQUE SELLING PROPOSITION
- ✓ YOUR MARKETING TOOLS AND TACTICS
- ✓ HOW YOU WILL MEASURE OUTCOMES

BUT REMEMBER:

THE PLAN IS ONLY A GUIDE

FREE PUBLICITY IS AS GOOD
AS PAID PUBLICITY

CHANGE THINGS THAT DON'T WORK

THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IS
EVERYTHING

[THE BASICS OF A MARKETING PLAN](#)

[MARKETING TOOLS & TIPS](#)

The Basics of a Marketing Plan

Your Plan Should Identify Six Things:

- Your Mission or Vision Statement
- Your Company Objective
- Your Market Environment – Research and Analysis
- Your Target Customers – Research and Analysis
- Your Competition and How They Match Up to You – Research and Analysis
- Your Action Plan

The “Action Plan” is About Media Mix:

- What media tools are best for reaching your target customers
- Advertising, public relations, sales strategies – all of these tools (and more) need to be considered, studied and figured out.
- Research and analysis are critical to putting the pieces together in a way that will work for your business objective, market environment and target customers.
- Your own insight into customers, environment, and competition is important too. Ask intelligent questions, be open to facts that may be different than you expected, and adjust accordingly.

Marketing Tips:

- Have a clear intention – know what you want to be, do, or have.
- Take consistent action – do the things necessary to achieve the desired outcome.
- Transform your passion into a market position.
- Market position evolves from your understanding the defining characteristics of your product or service. The primary elements of positioning are Pricing, Quality, Customer Service, Distribution and Packaging.
- You must define your product or service – or a competitor will do it for you.
- Identify your greatest strength and use it to position your product or service.

Adapted from information provided by the Las Vegas office of the Nevada Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Contact Nevada SBDC

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Back to Marketing Page

Marketing Tools & Tips

The tools and techniques of marketing are changing. New technologies and the rise of social media are leading many businesses to rethink their traditional approaches to building customer relationships. While traditional methods may still work in some situations, other situations require new and innovative thinking.

Be willing to think about your business and its marketing in a new way. On this page are some tools, tips and professional groups to help you begin that journey. Click on a link to get started.

[Back to Guide Menu](#)[Back to Marketing Page](#)[SEVEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MARKETING
IN THE 21ST CENTURY](#)[MOZ BEGINNERS GUIDE TO SOCIAL MEDIA](#)[MOZ BEGINNERS GUIDE TO SEO
\(SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION\)](#)[PRODUCT-MARKET FIT – THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS
\(PMARCA BLOG ARCHIVES\)](#)[Las Vegas Chapter](#)[Reno-Tahoe Chapter](#)

Export/Import

You may want to export or import with your business. If so, federal, state and local resources are available to help. For example, Nevada is home to two Foreign Trade Zones, two Ports of Entry, and two Export Assistance Centers to assist with international trade.

To learn the basics, start with the USA.Gov button at the top right. Then, depending on what you want to do, you can review the other links for assistance on specific issues such as exporting, importing, financing transactions, getting training, etc.

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Importing &
Exporting Basics



[Export Solutions \(Advice & Tools\)](#)

[Research Center](#)

[Regulations and Agreements](#)

[U.S. Commercial Service - Las Vegas](#)

[U.S. Commercial Service - Reno](#)



[Guide for Commercial Importers](#)

[Nevada Ports of Entry](#)

COMMON MISTAKES

You'll make mistakes along the way. We all do.

Before you start your business, read the articles to the right to learn about the three phases of building a business, and about common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Another mistake is not knowing how to handle the personal stress that comes with running a small business. Click the Self-Care button for more information on ways to do this.

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Entrepreneur

The Three Phases
of Building a
Business

Inc.

Seven Mistakes to Avoid When
Starting Your First Business

 **the balance**

10 COMMON SMALL BUSINESS START-UP MISTAKES



Dos and Don'ts
of Starting
a Business

Self Care –

Tips for Handling Personal Stress

SELF CARE

Starting and running a business can be physically, mentally and emotionally demanding.

As a result, stress management and other forms of self care are important tools for small business owners.

Read the articles to the right for some tips and techniques on how to deal with this hidden challenge of being a small business owner.

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[Back to Common Mistakes Page](#)

Inc.

The Psychological Price of Entrepreneurship

delegated

Stress Management Tips
for Small Business Owners

Forbes

Tools to Help
Entrepreneurs
Stay Healthy

NEVADA SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Seven Ways Business Owners
Can Find Work/Life Balance



National
Business
Association®

Nurturing
Mental Health in
Small Businesses

NORTHERN OFFICE
1830 College Parkway, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Phone: (775) 684-2999
Fax: (775) 684-2998
Email: biinfo@business.nv.gov



Nevada Department of Business and Industry

“Growing business in Nevada”

SOUTHERN OFFICE
2300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 770
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Phone: (702) 486-2750
Fax: (702) 486-2758
Email: biinfo@business.nv.gov

Thank you for using our Guide!

**Whatever your goal, this Guide is only a starting point
for the many resources available to help you with your business.**

**Check out our Business Resource Hub (with Learning Center, Access to Capital Directory,
Calendar of Events and other business-related information) on our website:**

www.business.nv.gov

...and best of luck in your business adventure!

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