



"Where Friends and Rivers Meet"

Business One Stop

Business One Stop provides resources to aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners to plan, develop and expand their businesses. The Virginia Business One Stop website and the Business Information Hotline is maintained by the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD).

- Take a look at their Steps to Starting A Business Chart here: <https://bos.sbsd.virginia.gov/Home/AspiringEntrepreneur>
- Get started here: <https://bos.sbsd.virginia.gov/Home/BusinessResources>
- Aligned within Virginia's Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority (VSBFA) offers programs to provide businesses, not-for-profits, and economic development authorities with the financing needed for economic growth and expansion throughout the Commonwealth. To accomplish this goal, we offer loans directly to businesses & non-profits, credit enhancements to banks that are lending to businesses & non-profits, as well as bond financings to benefit for-profit businesses

Contact VSBFA: 804-786-1049 or contact a staff member from the Directory <https://www.sbsd.virginia.gov/virginia-small-business-financing-authority/vsbfa-staff-contact-listing/>

- SBSD also manages The Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) certification program. The purpose is to enhance procurement opportunities for SWaM businesses participating in state-funded projects. Learn more about SWaM Certification here:

Business Counseling and Courses

- The Small Business Development Center (Longwood/Eastern Region) The Virginia SBDC is an organization of 27 local Small Business Development Center offices across Virginia providing professional business advising, training, and business resources to help grow and strengthen Virginia businesses. Start by signing up for free counseling here: <https://sbdclongwood.com/eastern-region/>.
Contact - Vandy Jones JONESVV@longwood.edu (804) 518-2003
- Virginia State University Minority Small Business Launch Center
Powered by the VSU Center for Entrepreneurship in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, the center is open to all but exists to increase the self-employment rate of minorities and the performance of early stage minority-led firms in Region by providing a comprehensive suite of entrepreneurship-facilitating resources and supportive services. Enroll for free



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here <https://minoritysmallbusinesslaunchcenter.com/> to access courses, webinars, experts, interns, microgrants and more.

Comprehensive list of resources:

<https://www.vsuentrepreneurship.com/toolsforentrepreneurs.html>

Contact - Dr. Perry-Rivers pperry-rivers@vsu.edu (804) 504-7080

- The City Point Innovation Resource Center in Petersburg is operated by the Metropolitan Business League is an incubator for entrepreneurs and small business owners. Schedule an Appointment, here: calendly.com/hmilesii.

Contact - Hal Miles hmilesii@thembl.org (804) 356-9377.

- BizWorks is a non-profit nonprofit business incubator based in Chesterfield County, Virginia that helps small businesses navigate the path to success.

Contact - Tanner Collins tanner.collins@bizworkscenter.org (804) 275-5190.

Business Registration, Licensing and Networking

- The State Corporation Commission is a state agency with regulatory authority over many business and economic interests in Virginia. Created in 1902, its powers are outlined in the state constitution and state law. These include regulation of public utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, and railroads. It is also the state's central filing office for corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies and Uniform Commercial Code.

Learn how to register your business, get approved and file annually, here: liens.scc.virginia.gov/pages/New-Business-Resources.

- The Hopewell Commissioner of Revenue is the Chief Tax Assessing Officer in the City of Hopewell and is responsible for assessment and administration of business licenses and fees, personal property tax, real estate tax, machinery and tools tax and more. View tax rates here: <https://hopewellva.gov/tax-rates/>.

Contact - Makenna Harrison mharrison@hopewellva.gov

Address: 300 N Main St., Ste 100 Hopewell, VA 23860. Hours 8:30AM – 5:00PM

- The City of Hopewell's Department of Development has four divisions, including: Building Safety & Inspections, Planning and Zoning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and the Community Development Block Grant Program. Downtown Hopewell is a state and federally recognized Historic District and also falls within designated Enterprise and Opportunity Zones which offer investment incentives to business owners and property owners.

Contact - Chris Ward cward@hopewellva.gov (804) 541-2221.

Address: 300 N Main St., 1st Floor Hopewell, VA 23860



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- The Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce is a community collective or membership organization that aggregates business, local government, and other enterprises to develop ideas and bring solutions to our community.

Contact - Becky McDonough becky@hpgchamber.org (804) 541-2461.

Address: 4100 Oaklawn Blvd. Hopewell, VA 23860

Business Financing In addition to working with the entities above or local banks on financing or small business loan programs and incentives...

- LISC Virginia is offering 0% financing through their Tri-Cities Small Business Capital Access Program to small businesses in the Cities of Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights to unlock potential, create jobs, and fuel wealth creation.
<https://www.lisc.org/virginia/what-we-do/economic-development/tri-cities-small-business-capital-access-program/>

Through LISC's partnership with the online crowdfunding platform Kiva, small business owners can apply for loans up to \$15,000, with 0 fees and 0% interest.

<https://www.lisc.org/virginia/what-we-do/economic-development/kiva-loan-program/>

Keep an eye open for the next round of The BIPOC Small Business Capital Access Fund for access to growth capital for small Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color (BIPOC)-owned businesses.

<https://www.lisc.org/virginia/what-we-do/economic-development/bipoc-small-business-capital-access-program/>

- Community development financial institutions (CDFIs) are private financial institutions that are dedicated to delivering affordable support to help low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged people and communities join the economic mainstream. Here is a comprehensive list for Virginia:
<https://www.vacdficoalition.org/>.
- Local Credit Unions - Homebase Credit Union (formerly Fort Lee) in Prince George <https://www.homebasecu.org/>, People's Credit Union in Petersburg <https://www.peoplesadvfcu.org/>, Virginia Credit Union in Colonial Heights or Chester <https://www.peoplesadvfcu.org/>