

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES – U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Government – Small Business Administration

The **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** helps entrepreneurs start, build, and grow small businesses. The largest benefit of being certified by the SBA is preference for U.S. government contracts. The U.S. government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world. To diversify the providers of those goods and services, the U.S. Congress mandated that certain percentages of U.S. government contracts are awarded to disadvantaged business owners.

SBA's **Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA)** offers small business development assistance and resources to Native entrepreneurs. Both SBA and ONAA have a wide variety of resources regarding small business development generally and about the specific concerns of Native entrepreneurs and Native-owned businesses. To learn more about ONAA, visit their website: <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/headquarters-offices/office-native-american-affairs>.

Select U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) certification programs

The SBA has several programs that certify businesses to qualify for federal government contracts including:

- **8(a) Business Development Program**, which assists entrepreneurs who are socially and economically disadvantaged (<https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/8a-business-development-program>);
- **HUBZone program**, which assists businesses in historically underutilized business zones (<https://maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map#center=44.722800,-103.249700&zoom=4>);
- **Woman-Owned Small Business program** (<https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/women-owned-small-business-federal-contract-program>); and
- **Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business program** (<https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-contracting-assistance-programs>).

For more information about the SBA certification programs and eligibility, visit www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs. The Connecticut office of the SBA is in Hartford; visit their website here: <https://www.sba.gov/district/connecticut>. The Rhode Island office of the SBA is in Providence; visit their website here: <https://www.sba.gov/district/rhode-island>.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES – U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Select U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) resources for small businesses

The SBA offers a variety of assistance for small businesses to plan, launch, manage and grow their business.

- 10 steps to start your business: <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/10-steps-start-your-business>
- SBA 2024 small business resource guide: <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/2024%20SBA%20National%20Small%20Business%20Resource%20Guide%20English%20Digital%20508c.pdf>

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Resource Partners

The SBA partners with organizations (resource partners) around the country to provide training, opportunities, and funding to communities in their local area, including:

- **Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)**. SCORE is a non-profit that assists entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE's volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources and education. Please visit the Southeastern Connecticut SCORE website here: <https://www.score.org/easternct>. The Rhode Island SCORE can be found here: <https://www.score.org/ri>;
- **Women's Business Assistance Centers** provide free, to low-cost counseling and training and focus on women who want to start, grow, and expand their small business: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/womens-business-centers>;
- **Sister Sky, Inc.** is contracted by SBA's Office of Native American Affairs to offer entrepreneurial empowerment workshops for Native American communities: <https://nativesba.sisterskyinc.com/>;
- **APEX Accelerators**, provide technical assistance to businesses interested in selling products or services to federal, state, and local governments. For more information about APEX Accelerators, please visit their website: <https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/>. To find an APEX Accelerator in your area, please visit <https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/service-area-locator>;
- **Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs)**, which help small businesses win federal contracts. PCRs view many federal acquisition and procurement strategies before they are announced, which enables them to influence opportunities that should be set aside for small businesses. PCRs also conduct market research, assist small businesses with payment issues, provide counseling on the contracting process, and more. To locate a PCR in your area, please visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/counseling-help/procurement-center-representative-directory>; and
- To locate a resource partner near you, please visit the SBA website here: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find?type=Procurement%20Technical%20Assistance%20Center&pageNumber=1>.

The MERO provides information about select small business resources that is intended to be accurate but general information. These resources are not exhaustive and better resources may exist for the needs of a particular business. Each business is encouraged to conduct their own research and analysis. For additional information, please contact the organizations directly.

The links provided were active as of the document date. Nothing herein constitutes legal advice.