Our mission is to create an economic environment throughout Philadelphia that is conducive to business success & job creation.

WHO WE ARE

The Philadelphia Department of Commerce sets and leads policies to help businesses, from small shops to large corporations, in Philadelphia thrive. The Department coordinates activities along neighborhood commercial corridors, programs serving small businesses and entrepreneurs, major real estate development projects, large-scale business attraction and retention efforts, as well as efforts to increase contracting opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses. The Department is the umbrella organization for all economic development activity in the city and coordinates the work of related agencies, including the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) and the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA).

OUR GOALS

To make Philadelphia a business-friendly city where companies choose to start, stay, and grow.
To support sustained economic growth, fostering job creation.
To position Philadelphia as a sustainable and globally competitive city in the 21st Century.
To invest in growth sectors, quality of life amenities, vibrant neighborhoods, and exceptional transportation infrastructure, giving Philadelphia a competitive advantage.
To help ensure that our business community and its workforce reflect the diversity of the city.

WHAT WE DO

Attract businesses to Philadelphia and retain existing businesses

The Business Attraction and Retention unit actively works to attract businesses to the City of Philadelphia as well as retain existing businesses through joint efforts with the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation. This unit works directly with new and growing companies interested in learning more about relocation, workforce assistance, financing and incentive opportunities.

Assist real estate developers with large-scale projects

The Real Estate Development unit helps large real estate projects get through approval and regulatory processes more easily by connecting Developers to key City departments through Developer Services committee meetings. The Real Estate Development team can also serve as liaisons throughout the development process.

Ensure Economic Opportunity for Minority, Women & Disabled Owned Businesses

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) promotes the economic development of Minority, Women and Disabled-owned enterprises (M/W/DSBEs) through referrals to certification programs; contract review and monitoring activities; as well as ongoing interaction with other City departments, quasi-public agencies and the local marketplace.
**Ensure wage requirements are met**

The Labor Standards Unit ensures that companies doing business with the City are informed of and act in accordance with labor compliance laws. The unit serves as an advocate for employees who have not received wages in accordance with prevailing wage laws and works with businesses to ensure that they are compliant.

**Support Small Businesses**

The Office of Business Services is a concierge to small businesses, connecting them to public, nonprofit services and programs. Commerce’s Business Technical Assistance Program supports non-profits that provide training and lending to small businesses. Our Business Technical Assistance Providers include: Entrepreneur Works, FINANTA, The Enterprise Center, Women’s Business Development Center, Women’s Opportunity Resources Center, and the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. We also provide support to the African American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

**Revitalize neighborhoods through vibrant commercial corridors**

The Office of Neighborhood and Economic Development encourages neighborhood revitalization. Programs of this Office include: commercial corridor management, commercial corridor cleaning, small business storefront improvement grants, commercial development projects and business improvement district technical support. The Office of Neighborhood and Economic Development partners with Community Development Corporations (CDCs), business improvement districts (BIDs) and business associations to revitalize neighborhoods.

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**FEATURED INITIATIVES**

In 2012, we launched **Startup PHL** to support innovative efforts to boost entrepreneurship in Philadelphia. This program offers grants to organizations who work to improve Philadelphia’s entrepreneur ecosystem through the Startup PHL Call for Ideas. The program also includes the Startup PHL Seed Fund, a $6 million public/private partnership between Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and First Round Capital to help tech startups grow.

[@StartupPHL](https://twitter.com/StartupPHL)  [startupphl.com](http://startupphl.com)

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**Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses** is a partnership between the City of Philadelphia, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, the Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and others. The initiative offers a competitive, no-cost education program and loan fund for growth stage businesses.

[Visit ccp.edu/10KSB](http://ccp.edu/10KSB)

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