PROGRAMS & SERVICES
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Department of Commerce is the umbrella organization for all economic development activity in Philadelphia.

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

1 ON 1 ASSISTANCE FROM A BUSINESS SPECIALIST

The Commerce Department’s Office of Business Services is the City’s one-stop-shop for all business-related services. Our team of Business Services Managers are assigned throughout geographic sections of the City.

- Assistance with starting, expanding or relocating a business.
- Help with licensing, inspections, and permit requirements.
- Identifying financing options and incentives for your business.

Office of Business services provides assistance in over 150 languages.

Hotline:
+ (215) 683-2100

BUSINESS TRAINING & LENDING

The Department of Commerce partners with a number of local non-profits who specialize in providing classroom training, workshops and individualized support to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Several of these organizations also offer loans to small businesses. Our partners are:

Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation:
+ (215) 496-8020
Entrepreneur Works:
+ (215) 545-3100
FINANTA:
+ (267) 236-7000
The Enterprise Center:
+ (215) 895-4000
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians:
+ (215) 557-2626
Women’s Business Development Center:
+ (215) 790-9232
Women's Opportunities Resources Center:
+ (215) 564-5500

ONLINE BUSINESS SUPPORT CENTER

Our Online Business Support Center phila.gov/Business – offers customized information for your business needs. When you visit our site, a pop-up box will appear. This interactive wizard asks specific questions about your business so that we provide the most relevant resources to you.

The website includes information about:

- Registering your business
- Writing a business plan
- Licensing & Regulations
- Permits & Certificates
- Financing & Incentives
- Locations & Zoning
- Tax Obligations
- Hiring Employees
- International Trade
- Doing business with the City
The Storefront Improvement Program provides grants to beautify storefronts on eligible commercial corridors. The City provides reimbursements of up to $8,000 for single address properties and $12,000 for larger, multi-address, or corner properties.

Additionally, the InStore program provides forgivable loans to eligible commercial property or business owners to renovate commercial interiors. These loans range from $15,000 to $50,000 each.

10,000 Small Businesses Program (PHL 10KSB) offers a competitive, highly interactive, no-cost educational program for growth-stage businesses. Loans are also available through the program. PHL 10KSB is a partnership between the City of Philadelphia, Goldman Sachs Foundation, the Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and others. For more information:
+ ccp.edu/10KSB + (215) 683-2139

The Commerce SafeCam Program encourages businesses and property owners within neighborhood commercial corridors to install surveillance cameras, making these areas safer for shoppers and the community. The program reimburses owners of commercial buildings and businesses up to 50% of the total cost of eligible improvements, for a maximum reimbursement of $3,000 for a single commercial property. The digital camera security system must have the ability for remote login by the Philadelphia Police Department and be installed on the outside of the building.

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) assists Minority, Women and Disabled-Owned Enterprises (M/W/DSBES) with increasing access to procurement opportunities at the City and beyond. The City is committed to ensuring that at least 25% of contracts for the City are fulfilled by M/W/DSBES. OEO has compiled an online database – or registry - of certified M/W/DSBES. Companies that register with OEO can benefit from the City's efforts to increase participation of M/W/DSBES in Philadelphia.