



**Department of Commerce**  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
LIFE • LIBERTY • AND YOU™



## 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](http://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



## STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

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.

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

A Business Improvement District (BID) is an organization that serves a specific geographic area to ensure cleanliness and physical improvements. These organizations are primarily funded through an assessment that is billed to businesses within the BID. A formal process must be followed to create a BID. The Commerce Department is ready to assist businesses and neighborhood stakeholders who are considering starting a Business Improvement District.

## PHL 10KSB GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES

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](http://ccp.edu/10KSB) + (215) 683-2139

## ENSURING ACCESS FOR MINORITY & WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

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.



## COMMERCE SECURITY CAMERA GRANTS

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.

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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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