

STARTING A BUSINESS IN BRISTOL, CT

A great deal of effort goes into starting a new business. It can be very rewarding as well as challenging.

The BDA staff is happy to explain these steps to you and, by appointment, will guide you through them.

“I want to start a small business, what are my first steps?”

Your first step should be to attend the free SBDC Entrepreneur Education Workshop Series. These free workshops teach entrepreneurs what it takes to open and manage a successful business. Visit our workshop page to find and register for upcoming workshops. Also, visit our [Starting a Business](#) page for additional steps to take when starting a business in Connecticut.”
(Quoted from the Connecticut SBDC, Website <http://ctsfdc.org>)

STEP 1: Getting a business going

All businesses including retail and retail services will want to develop a business plan. Obtaining financing will depend upon the strength of the plan. You should expect to contribute some of your own resources (equity) to a business. It is normally easier to finance tangible assets.

STEP 2: Financing and counseling

Doing this for new start-ups are specialized tasks but there is help available. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can provide expert counseling and **no cost** or **low cost** workshops. The SBDC office serving Bristol is located at the Department of Economic and Community Development in Hartford.

SBDC at Connecticut Dept. of Economic & Community Development

Rosita Forte-Dobson, Business Development Advisor

<http://ctsfdc.org/folder.aspx?f=203&doc=1024>

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Toll Free Phone: 855.702-3279

Phone: 860.832-0650

Fax: 860.832-0656

Business Counseling

To work with an expert counselor at the SBDC you can fill out an online request form. Once submitted, you will be contacted by your assigned counselor within 2 business days.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) sessions are available nearby. Visit <http://hartfordscore.org>. Experienced retired professionals mentor both one-on-one and in seminars. These meetings can be invaluable for people starting out in business.

For general information on state permitting, registering a corporation and licensing contact the **Connecticut's Business Response Center** at the **CT Economic Resource Center (CERC)**, www.cerc.com

Free, personal assistance during business hours, 800.392-2122

Business Information email: solutions@CERC.com

Licensing Information email: info@CT-CLIC.com

Follow them on Facebook and Twitter

http://www.facebook.com/pages/ct_brc_clic/135080703209411

<http://twitter-icon.com/site/cerc.com/>

Please note: *There are few cash grants available. Such funding is increasingly scarce. When available, these grants are normally economically and geographically-based for brick and mortar repairs for such things as historic preservation, exterior façade work and handicapped accessibility.*

New *Technology*-based businesses may wish to contact:

- Connecticut Innovations (CI) <http://ctinnovations.com/>
865 Brook Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: 860.563-5851
Fax: 860.563-4877
- Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) <http://www.ccat.us/>
222 Pitkin Street, Suite 101
East Hartford, CT 06108
Phone: 860.291-8832
Fax: 860.291-8874

New *Manufacturing*-based Businesses may wish to contact:

- Connecticut Development Authority (CDA)
<http://www.ctcda.com/Default.asp>
999 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: 860.258-7800
Fax: 860.257-7582
- Dept. of Economic & Community Development (DECD)
<http://ct.gov/ecd/site/default.asp>
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-7106
Phone: 860.270-8000

Downtown and Neighborhood Retail businesses in Bristol that are looking to make exterior improvements should check for the availability of rehabilitation funds. Design regulations may apply.

Enterprise Zone tax abatement may also apply.

Funds are limited. Both owners and tenants may be eligible.

Call the Bristol Development Authority at 860.584-6185

jonathanrosenthal@ci.bristol.ct.us

Ask about the Downtown and CDBG Commercial Rehabilitation Programs