



## Helpful Website Links for **Starting a Business**

### *Small Business Development Program Links*

#### ***City of Austin's - Small Business Development Program***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sbdp/> - We provide counseling and assistance to small businesses. Our focus, as our name implies, is to develop and empower small businesses in order to strengthen their business capability and survivability.

#### ***City of Austin's - Small Business Development Program: Calendar of Events***

<http://www.austinsmallbiz.com/WebCOE/calofevents.php?SponsorType=S> - Check out our upcoming events and register online.

#### ***City of Austin's - Small Business Development Program: Gold Pages***

[http://www.austinsmallbiz.com/gold\\_pages/goldpageview.php?SPCatgID=0](http://www.austinsmallbiz.com/gold_pages/goldpageview.php?SPCatgID=0) - Find helpful resources and contacts provided by the Small Business Development Program.

#### ***City of Austin's - Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/redevelopment/> - View economic development policies and development zoning maps.

#### ***City of Austin's - Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/#emerging> - View emerging downtown projects.



## *Zoning, Permitting, Regulations, and Inspections*

### ***City of Austin, Development Assistance Center***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development>

### ***City of Austin, Health and Human Services Department***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/> - Our purpose is to work in partnership with the community to promote health, safety, and well being. We provide Public Health, Social, and Environmental Health services for **Austin and Travis County**

### ***City of Austin, Purchasing Department***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/purchase/>

### ***Hazardous Waste Disposal Program for Small Businesses***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/cesqg.htm>

## *Certification of Minority-Owned or Woman-Owned Businesses*

### ***City of Austin, Small and Minority Resources Department***

<http://www.cityofaustin.org/smbr>

### ***Central & South Texas Minority Business Council***

<http://www.cstmbc.org>

### ***South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency***

<http://sctrca.org>

### ***Travis County, HUB Program***

<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/hub.asp>

## *City of Austin Utilities Links*

### ***Austin Energy***

<http://www.austinenergy.com/Commercial/index.htm> - An Austin Energy top priority is to help Austin businesses succeed. We have invested tens of millions of dollars over recent years in our electric system to ensure the highest level of reliability. Also, you will find small business rebate information.

### ***City of Austin, Utility Services***

<http://www.coautilities.com/> - Online Customer Care allows you to complete many routine tasks at your convenience: view bills, access consumption information, enter a service request, update account information, and establish a new service.

### ***City of Austin, Water Utility***

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/> - The purpose of the City of Austin Water Utility is to provide effective management of our water resources for the community in order to protect the public health and environment.



## *Federal Government Links*

### ***The Business Gateway to the U.S. Government***

<http://www.business.gov> - Business.gov is the official business link to the U.S. Government. It is a Presidential E-government initiative that provides a single access point to government services and information to help the nation's businesses with their operations.

### ***U.S. Government***

[http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All\\_Agencies/index.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml) - As the U.S. Government's official web portal, USA.gov makes it easy for the public to get U.S. government information and services on the web.

### ***Department of Health and Human Services***

<http://www.hhs.gov/> - The U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services.

### ***Department of Labor***

<http://www.dol.gov/index.htm> - The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States; as well as administers a variety of federal labor laws including those that guarantee workers' rights.

### ***Food & Drug Administration***

<http://www.fda.gov/> - The FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.

### ***USDA***

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome> - Find information regarding nutrition, dietary health, food safety, recalls, as well as quality and technology.

### ***Food Safety & Inspection Service***

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/index.asp> - The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

### ***Small Business Administration – SBA***

<http://www.sba.gov/index.html> - Programs and services to help you start, grow, and succeed as a small business.

### ***Small Business Administration – SBA San Antonio Office***

<http://www.sba.gov/tx/sanantonio/index.html> - Programs and services to help you start, grow, and succeed as a small business.

### ***Better Business Bureau***

<http://www.bbb.org/> - The Better Business Bureau (BBB) system in the U.S. has proven that the majority of marketplace problems can be solved fairly through the use of voluntary self-regulation and consumer education.



## *State of Texas Links*

### ***State of Texas***

<http://www.state.tx.us/>

### ***State of Texas – List of County and City Government Websites***

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/state-tx.cfm>

### ***Texas Department of State Health Services – Food Establishment Groups***

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/foodestablishments/default.shtm> - Food safety is serious business in Texas. The DSHS efforts are dedicated toward elimination of food borne illness in the Lone Star State through personal and professional excellence.

### ***Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission***

<http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/> - Regulatory control of the alcoholic beverage industry is established through the process of issuing more than 60 different types of licenses and permits.

### ***Texas Workforce Commission***

<http://www.texasworkforce.org> - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is the state government agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers of Texas. For employers, TWC offers recruiting, retention, training and retraining, and outplacement services as well as valuable information on labor law and labor market statistics.

### ***Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations***

<http://www.license.state.tx.us/> - The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is responsible for issuing licenses, conducting inspections, investigating complaints, assessing penalties, setting rules and standards and holding hearings.

### ***Texas Legislature Online***

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> - Get the latest information from the legislative process in Texas.

### ***State of Texas, Real Estate Commission***

<http://www.trec.state.tx.us>

### ***Secretary of State***

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/businessstructure.shtml> - Select the right business structure for you and file online.

## *Travis County Links*

### **Travis County**

<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/>

### **Travis County Departments**

<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/departments/default.asp>

### **Travis County Clerk – Doing Business As (DBA) / Assumed Name**

[http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county\\_clerk/dba.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/dba.asp) - Complete the Assumed Name Records Certificate of Ownership for Unincorporated Business or Profession.

## *Informational Tax Links*

### **IRS - Small Business and Self-Employed One-Stop Resource**

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html> - Find links to major business subjects such as sole proprietorship and corporations.

### **IRS: Forms and Publications**

<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>

### **Social Security Administration – Information and Resources for Employers**

<http://www.ssa.gov/employer1.htm>

### **Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

<http://www.window.state.tx.us> – Information regarding Texas' taxes and finances.

### **Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts – Sales Tax and Your New Business**

[http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/new\\_business.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/new_business.html) - Find information and resources regarding business taxes.

## *Business Plan Links*

### **BPlans.COM**

[www.bplans.com](http://www.bplans.com)

### **Business Plan Pro Software**

<http://www.businessplanpro.com>

### **Gaebler Ventures' Help for Entrepreneurs**

<http://www.gaebler.com/Writing-a-Business-Plan.htm>

### **StartUp Biz**

<http://www.startupbiz.com>

### **U.S. SBA – Business Plan Basics**

[http://www.sba.gov/starting\\_business/planning/basic.html](http://www.sba.gov/starting_business/planning/basic.html)



## *Other Website Links that Could Help Your Business*

### ***Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants***

<http://www.tscpa.org/> - The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants exists to support its members in their professional endeavors and to promote the value and high standards of Texas CPAs.

### ***Texas Association of Businesses***

<http://www.txbiz.org/> - The Texas Association of Businesses is an organization that helps track and inform its' members about legislative issues that effect businesses in Texas, as well as provide educational programs and networking opportunities.

### ***Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce***

<http://www.austinchamber.com/index.html> - The mission of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership that will help create regional economic prosperity and success for its member in Central Texas.

### ***Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce***

[www.hispanicaustin.com](http://www.hispanicaustin.com) - The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will lead the efforts that strengthen and support small, minority and women-owned businesses; stimulate and advocate for business growth, development and opportunities; promote educational excellence; and promote awareness and preservation of the Hispanic heritage.

### ***Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce***

[www.capcitychamber.org](http://www.capcitychamber.org) - promotes the development of African American businesses and the expansion of the business community by providing resources, technical assistance, and leadership on policy issues that enhance economic growth and by promoting convention and tourism.

### ***Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas***

<http://www.austinlrs.com/> - LRS is a non-profit public service organization designed to help you find an attorney or other legal resources or community service organizations.

### ***Texas A&M University – Center for Retailing Studies***

<http://www.crstamu.org> - To support its mission as a bridge between the academic and retailing communities, the Center's objectives are: to interest more college students in retailing as a career, to better prepare college students for a retailing career, as well as to serve the needs of retail firms.

### ***Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer***

<http://txsdc.utsa.edu> - The Texas State Data Center was initiated in 1980 to establish a state level liaison to the U.S. Bureau of the Census for better dissemination of Texas census data.

### ***Small Business Administration (SBA) - Office of Surety Guarantees***

<http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/osg/index.html> - The mission of the Office of Surety Guarantees is to provide and manage surety bond guarantees for qualified small and emerging businesses.



***Small Business Administration (SBA) – Veteran Loan Program***

<http://www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/> - The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the SBA's Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses.

***HillSearch***

[www.hillsearch.org/training/fasttrac](http://www.hillsearch.org/training/fasttrac) - The entrepreneur's source for information on Business Plan, Market Research, Financials, etc.

***SME Toolkit***

[www.smetoolkit.org](http://www.smetoolkit.org) – Online business toolkit and entrepreneurial guide.

***Workforce Solutions Capital Area***

[www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com) – Workforce Solutions offers a wide array of “no cost” services to the Travis County business community including Job Posting, Career Center Services, Outplacement Services, Skills Assessments, Labor Market Information (LMI), and Business Seminars.