

# How to Start a Business

## 1. Conduct market research

Gather info about potential customers and businesses in your area.

## 2. Write your business plan

This is the roadmap for how to structure, run, and grow in your new business.

[NCC Small Business Center: How to Start a Business Plan](#)

## 3. Fund your business

If you don't have the amount of money on hand needed to start your business, you'll need to either raise or borrow the capital.

[Small Business Administration: Fund Your Business](#)

## 4. Pick your business location

Whether online or brick-and-mortar, location can affect taxes, legal requirements, and revenue

[See what sites are available at Nash County Economic Development](#)

## 5. Choose a business structure

The legal structure will impact your business registration requirements, amount you pay in taxes, and personal liability.

[Small Business Administration: Choose a Business Structure](#)

## 6. Choose your business name

Your name will reflect your brand. You'll want to make sure your name isn't already being used by someone else.

[NC Secretary of State: Business Registration Search](#)

## 7. Register your business

If doing business under a name different than your own, register with the federal government and possibly state government.

[Federal government business registration](#)

[North Carolina business registration](#)

## 8. Get federal and state tax IDs

Your employer identification number (EIN) is important for opening a bank account and paying taxes.

[Get your EIN here](#)

[NC Department of Revenue](#)

[Nash County Tax Department: business property taxes](#)

## 9. Apply for licenses and permits

Licenses and permits will vary by industry, state, location, and other factors

[If your business is in Rocky Mount](#)

[If your business is in Nash County and outside of Rocky Mount](#)

## 10. Open a business bank account

Handle legal, tax, and day-to-day issues

## Business Networking Resources

[Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Nashville Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Bailey Chamber of Commerce](#)