

SMALL BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Small business is the backbone of our state's economy. More than 97 percent of businesses in Louisiana are small businesses, and Louisiana Economic Development is committed to connecting small businesses with the services and resources they need to grow and succeed. We help new entrepreneurs realize the dream of business ownership and existing businesses remain competitive.

PROGRAM NAME	BENEFIT	ELIGIBILITY (NOT COMPREHENSIVE)
SMALL AND EMERGING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	<p>Provides developmental assistance including entrepreneurial training, marketing, computer skills, accounting, business planning, legal and industry specific assistance.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/small-and-emerging-business-development-program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 51 percent of the company must be owned by a Louisiana resident, whose personal net worth cannot exceed \$400,000 Business' net worth at the time of application may not exceed \$1.5 million
BONDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	<p>Provides bond guarantees up to 25 percent or \$100,000, whichever is less, for qualifying contractors requiring surety bonds for private or public jobs.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/bonding-assistance-program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business must be certified in the Small and Emerging Business Development Program
LOUISIANA CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION INSTITUTE	<p>Provides business training focusing on expanding understanding of the construction industry.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/louisiana-contractors-accreditation-institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have the intent to start or currently have an established construction based Louisiana business
ECONOMIC GARDENING INITIATIVE	<p>Provides Louisiana-based small businesses with accelerated technical assistance and research from an experienced national economic gardening team.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/economic-gardening-initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have annual revenue between \$600,000 and \$50 million Must have at least five employees but not more than 99 employees Must demonstrate growth in annual revenue and/or jobs in two of the last five years
CEO ROUNDTABLES	<p>Provides peer-to-peer learning that gives executives the opportunity to discuss business practices and management strategies with other executives who deal with similar growth challenges.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/ceo-roundtable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should typically have annual revenue between \$600,000 and \$50 million Should typically have at least five but not more than 100 employees

<p>HUDSON INITIATIVE</p>	<p>Provides small businesses with greater potential for access to state procurement and public contract opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/ HUDSON INITIATIVE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be certified by LED, a Louisiana resident and have fewer than 50 full-time employees
<p>VETERAN INITIATIVE</p>	<p>Provides veteran-owned and disabled, service oriented veteran-owned small businesses with greater potential for access to state procurement and public contract opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/veteran-initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 51 percent owned by a veteran or disabled, service-oriented veteran • Must be certified by LED, a Louisiana resident and have fewer than 50 full-time employees



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