

# South Carolina Business Resource Guide

January 2018



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce

Just right for business.



## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The South Carolina Business Resource Guide is designed to provide all types of businesses with tools and resources – including access to a variety of state, regional and local outlets – to increase their opportunity for business success. The South Carolina Department of Commerce Small Business and Existing Industry Team supports many aspects of the state’s existing and small business community including: export development, recycling market development, a Small Business Development office, supplier development assistance and comprehensive support to existing industry. This guide provides information that companies can employ for immediate results. It includes basic descriptions of the resources and specific contact information. The guide is laid out to address important elements of business success in each section, paired with the supporting resources.

### HOW CAN THIS GUIDE HELP YOU?

This guide is intended to help South Carolina business owners start or maintain a company, sell a product, provide a service and/or grow their company.

South Carolina provides services and support for companies that are starting a business or expanding an existing operation. South Carolina also works with entrepreneurs to develop business plans, helps companies access start-up resources and alternative financing opportunities and pairs existing businesses with service providers and suppliers.

### WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION WILL YOU FIND?

**Getting Started** explores the steps necessary to begin a business.

**Licenses, Permits & Regulations** outlines special requirements associated with certain businesses, particularly small businesses.

**Financing** describes ways to best prepare for financing a small business.

**Marketing & Growing Your Business** introduces tactics that increase awareness about products and services.

**Workforce Development** provides useful information regarding employment, training and retention opportunities.

**Business Operations** includes operational and administrative resources – every thing from insurance to recycling opportunities, to production and process planning.

**Local Area and Other Resources** includes professionals around the state who are available to assist South Carolina’s businesses as well as other beneficial resources for business owners.

**Frequently Asked Questions** addresses questions often raised by business owners.

## NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?

Commerce Representative  
(803) 737-0651 | nbrown@SCcommerce.com





## GETTING STARTED

Starting any business takes a significant amount of planning and research. Exploring and evaluating your business and personal goals before starting a business is extremely important. The following resources can help a business develop those goals and assist in building a concise, yet comprehensive business plan.

### START-UP CHECKLIST

**This check list will help you evaluate your position as you begin getting your business off the ground. Understanding your business goals from the beginning will help you along the path to success.**

- ◆ Do you know what kind of business you want to start?
- ◆ Have you created a business plan, outlining your goals and expectations?
- ◆ Type of Business Structure? (e.g., LLC, Partnership, Sole Proprietorship, etc.)
- ◆ Do you have a need for financing?
- ◆ Have you picked a location?
- ◆ How many employees are you going to hire?
- ◆ Do you need occupational permits?
- ◆ Have you registered your business with the state of South Carolina?
- ◆ Do you need a business license?
- ◆ Have you handled the insurance components of your small business?
- ◆ How are you going to market your business?

### BUSINESS PLANNING ASSISTANCE

#### **Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The SBA is an independent agency of the federal government created to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns. The SBA helps South Carolinians start, build and grow businesses through a first rate Web site, financing options and partnerships with public and private organizations (e.g., the Small Business Development Centers).

#### **Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)**

The goal of the SBDC is to meet small business needs for managerial and technical assistance at little or no cost to the entrepreneur. The SBDC provides advice on business planning and strategic small business growth.

#### **Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)**

SCORE is a volunteer, nonprofit association focused on helping small businesses succeed. SCORE, a division of the SBA, matches clients with an expert counselor best suited to their needs. SCORE counselors are current or former business owners and executives who have achieved high levels of professional success.

#### **NxLevel, Fastrac**

This program is for entrepreneurs with an idea for a new business. Topics include Exploring Entrepreneurship, Setting Financial Goals, Planning the Product, Reaching the Market, Building the Team, and Planning for a Profitable Business.

#### **South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS)**

SCBOS is the official South Carolina business Web portal. It enables anyone with an existing business, or anyone starting a new business, to file permits, licenses, registrations or to pay taxes. From the convenience of your computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, you can take care of important state filings, and pay for multiple filings and/or taxes with one payment.



## GETTING STARTED RESOURCES

### ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

**Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership,  
Clemson University College of Business and Behavioral Science**

**Web:** [www.clemson.edu/spiro](http://www.clemson.edu/spiro)

The mission of the Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership is to support educational, research, and outreach programs that promote entrepreneurial activity and economic development of the region, state, and nation. The focus is on wealth creation through entrepreneurial activity. Here inventors and entrepreneurs may find assistance with market analyses and business planning. Also, the Institute conducts a mentoring program to link entrepreneurs with experienced business executives.

**Alerion Ventures**

**Web:** [www.alerion.ventures.com](http://www.alerion.ventures.com)

Alerion Ventures is an evergreen venture capital firm focused on early stage investments in scalable startups. Based in Charleston, South Carolina, Alerion prefers to partner with entrepreneurs in the Southeast.

**Benedict College Business Development Center**

**Web:** [www.benedict.edu](http://www.benedict.edu)

The goal of the Business Development Center is to increase the number of African American owned businesses in and around SC. The center houses a business incubator and a minority development entrepreneurial development program, as well as providing current and potential business owners the opportunity to participate in business issues work- shops and seminars. The center also offers a revolving loan fund to minority owned businesses.

**Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Councils, Inc. (CVMSDC)**

**Web:** [www.cvmsdc.org](http://www.cvmsdc.org)

The Council works to expand business opportunities for minority-owned companies in an effort to build stronger and more equitable society by supporting and promoting minority business development. CVMSDC's Business Innovation Center offers a wide range of capacity building business tools for your business. These include Project Planner Plus, Certified Payroll, Merger Analytics, Capital Investment Alternative Analysis, Breakeven Analyzer, Management Capacity Analyzer, Debt Capacity Analyzer, Factoring Analyzer, Valuation Analyzer, and Supplier Capacity Analysis Tool.

**Clemson Institute for Economic and Community  
Development (CIECD)**

**Web:** [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu)

CIECD offers small business and business planning classes from various curriculums including NewVenture FastTrac, FirstStep FastTrac, and eCommerceSC as well as specialized business curriculums including rural, food and farming, and new farmer initiatives.

**EngenuitySC**

**Web:** [www.engenuitysc.com](http://www.engenuitysc.com)

Headquartered in Columbia, *EngenuitySC* is public/ private partnership formed to develop and grow the South Carolina Midlands' knowledge-based economy by fostering an environment where entrepreneur- ship, innovation, and the creation of knowledge are fundamental elements of the region's culture, identity, and economic development strategy. Through collaboration with business, government, and higher education, *EngenuitySC* leads initiatives that support research development, promote commercialization, and leverage the region's assets.

**Entrepreneur Network York Technical College**

**Web:** [www.yorktech](http://www.yorktech)

The Entrepreneur Network assists, informs, and encourages local small business owners, entrepreneurs, and potential entrepreneurs to network, share experiences, and engage in valuable educational opportunities. The EN also sponsors seminars featuring speakers on a variety of entrepreneurial topics.

**Francis Marion University Center for Entrepreneurship**

**Web:** [www.fmarion.edu](http://www.fmarion.edu)

Francis Marion University Center for Entrepreneurship is dedicated to provide mentoring and business planning services to start-up and existing businesses. The Center for Entrepreneurship provides one-on-one mentoring services to guide prospective and current business owners with sound business advice. Our business planning services include but not limited to business plans and feasibility studies, market research/analysis, financial analysis, and human resource development. Through our partnership with other programs, we often hold entrepreneurial and/or workforce training programs throughout the year.



## **ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT**

### **Grand Strand Technology Council**

**Web:** [www.gstechcouncil.org](http://www.gstechcouncil.org)

The Grand Strand Technology Council (GSTC) is a non-profit organization with members comprised of technology-driven businesses, government and educational entities, technology associations, entrepreneurs, and individual professionals. All are working toward building a better environment for technology-related business, and increasing their own results through the ever more important networking among the individuals to develop partnerships and cooperative business efforts.

### **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

**Web:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

IRS Resources:

Business and Specialty Helpline: (800) 829-4933

### **Electronic Federal Tax Payment System:**

[www.eftps.gov](http://www.eftps.gov) or 1-800-555-4477

### **Tax Forms and Publications:**

[www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs) or 1-800-829-3676

### **IOP Capital**

2113 Middle Street Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

**Web:** [www.iopcapital.com](http://www.iopcapital.com)

IOP Capital partners with passionate entrepreneurs by investing expertise and capital to grow their business. Their typical investments are geared toward pre-seed to start-up stage companies.

### **Michelin Development Next Innovation Center**

**Web:** [www.michelindevelopment.com](http://www.michelindevelopment.com)

Michelin Development Upstate, SC is a job creation program, which focuses on social and/or economically disadvantaged businesses in 10 upstate counties. Michelin Development in North America works in conjunction with regional development agencies, local government and business support agencies.

### **Mountain Lakes Business Development Corp.**

**Web:** [www.mountainlakesbdc.com](http://www.mountainlakesbdc.com)

Mountain Lakes Business Development Corporation (MLBDC) is here to assist entrepreneurs in taking their ideas from concept to reality, from garage office to Main Street and from relative unknown to a mainstream brand. Check out the Volunteer Directory to see what our team of SCORE certified mentors has to offer. MLBDC, working closely with Tri-County Technical College, also offers Courses to budding entrepreneurs and small businesses.

### **NxLevel**

**Web:** [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)

NxLevel is a program for the entrepreneurs with an idea or a new business. Topics include, Exploring Entrepreneurship, Setting Financial Goals, Planning the Product, Reaching the Market, Building the Team, Planning for a Profitable Business.

### **Rebel Capital Advisors, LLC**

Rebel Capital Advisors, LLC provides capital to early stage technology companies. To date, Rebel Capital has invested in more than forty companies with potentially disruptive technologies.

### **South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS)**

**Web:** [www.scbos.sc.gov](http://www.scbos.sc.gov)

South Carolina Business One Stop or SCBOS is the official South Carolina business web portal. It enables anyone with an existing business or any- one starting a new business to file permits, licenses, registrations, or pay taxes. From the convenience of your computer at any time, 24 hours a day – 7 days a week, you can take care of your important state filings, and pay for multiple filings and/or taxes with one credit, debit, or EFW payment.

### **South Carolina Department of Commerce**

Ashely Teasdel

Manager of Small Business 1201 Main Street, Suite 1600

Columbia, SC 29201

**Phone:** (803) 737-0325

**Fax:** (803) 737-0538

**Email:** [ateasdel@sccommerce.com](mailto:ateasdel@sccommerce.com)

**Web:** [www.SCcommerce.com](http://www.SCcommerce.com)

### **South Carolina Department of Revenue**

**Web:** [www.sctax.org](http://www.sctax.org)

### **SC Launch!**

**Web:** [www.sclaunch.org](http://www.sclaunch.org)

SC Launch is a collaborative initiative involving SCRA and South Carolina's university research foundations: Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, and the Medical University of South Carolina. It was created to facilitate applied research, product development and commercialization programs and to strengthen South Carolina's Knowledge Economy by creating high wage earning jobs. SC Launch provides entrepreneurs with key tools for success to help build technology startups, jobs and equity in the future for South Carolina as well as access to business, academic and economic development entities through the SC Launch Resource Network.



## **ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT**

### **Silicon Harbor Ventures**

**Web:** [www.siliconharborventures.com](http://www.siliconharborventures.com)

Silicon Harbor Ventures (SHV), founded in 2013, is an investor managed venture fund targeting investments in early and growth stage companies in Charleston, South Carolina and the southeastern United States. The fund is designed to provide the benefits of angel investor clubs through the investor managed structure with the benefits of a venture fund with committed capital.

### **Small Business Administration (SBA) South Carolina District Office**

**Web:** [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

The SBA offers a myriad of services to small businesses. It provides financial assistance for new or existing businesses through guaranteed loans made by area bank and non-bank lenders. Seminars and free small business counseling is available through SCORE, Small Business Development Centers, and Women's Business Centers. In addition, special loan programs are available for businesses involved in international trade. Federal government contracting assistance is also available.

### **South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)**

**Web:** [www.scmep.org](http://www.scmep.org)

The South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) is a private, non-profit group that serves as a proven resource to South Carolina businesses, providing them with a range of innovative strategies and solutions. An affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), SCMEP operates under the US Department of Commerce to promote innovation and industrial competitiveness.

### **Minority Business Development Agency**

**Web:** <http://columbiambdacenter.com/>

MBDA aims to increase the growth of minority owned business and strengthen existing ones. Its professional consultants offer a wide range of services including initial counseling, government/ private sector contracting assistance, financial management, access to capital, access to markets, and international trade franchising. The center also maintains strategic partnerships so you can have immediate access to unlimited information tailored to your trade or specialty.

### **South Carolina Office of the Secretary of State**

**Web:** [www.scsos.com](http://www.scsos.com)

### **South Carolina State Library**

**Web:** [www.search.ebscohost.com](http://www.search.ebscohost.com)

**Small Business Reference Center** This section of the South Carolina State Library offers users a collection of state specific resources supported with demographic data and other local information. Completing the database are business videos to help foster success in all aspects of managing a business.

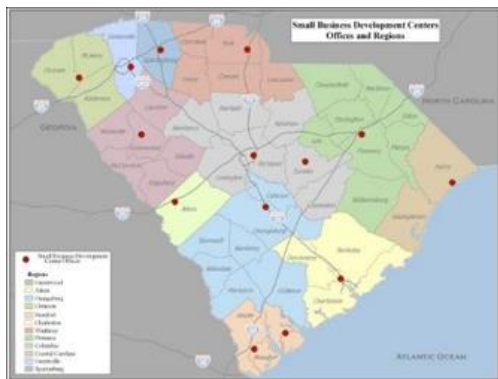
### **South Carolina Technology Alliance**

**Web:** [www.sctech.org](http://www.sctech.org)

The South Carolina Technology Alliance is a non-profit / private public non-partisan technology orientated Think Tank. It works diligently with stake- holders to assist in identifying and developing technology workforce skills. The management team works with all types of innovative technology companies provides access to consultants, mentors, and senior business leaders, as well as access to lists of services, companies and professionals that will ensure your business a much stronger opportunity for success. SCTA also has strategic partnerships with various venture capital companies and other investor partnerships.



## **SC SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (SC SBDC)**



### **Small Business Development Center**

1014 Greene Street  
Columbia, SC 29208  
**Phone:** (803) 777-3130

The SBDC aims to advance the state's economic development by helping entrepreneurs grow successful businesses. We provide private business consulting services at no charge and affordable educational programs for a small charge.

### **Aiken Area SBDC**

USC-Aiken  
School of Business -  
471 University Parkway  
Aiken, SC 29801  
**Phone:** (803) 641-3646

**Satellite Center** – The Mill on Park  
237 Park Avenue  
Aiken, SC 29801

### **Allendale Area SBDC**

465 James Brandt Blvd.  
Allendale, SC 29810  
803.584.3446 Ext 190

### **Beaufort Area SBDC**

Martin Goodman  
USC-Beaufort, Historic Beaufort Campus  
801 Caterer Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
**Phone:** (843) 521-4143

### **Charleston Area SBDC**

256 Bond Hall, Citadel School of Business  
171 Moultrie St.  
Charleston, SC 29409  
**Phone:** (843) 740-6160

### **Cheraw Area SBDC**

Northeastern Tech  
Continuing Education Dept.  
1201 Chesterfield Highway  
Cheraw, SC 29520  
**Phone:** 843.910.7352

### **Clemson Area SBDC**

Clemson University  
413 Sirrine Hall  
Clemson, SC 29634-1392  
**Phone:** (864) 710-4717

### **Columbia Area SBDC**

1225 Laurel Street, Room 326  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** (803) 777-5118

### **Florence Area SBDC**

Florence/Darlington Technical College  
P.O. Box 100548  
Florence, SC 29501  
**Phone:** (843) 661-8256

### **Georgetown Area SBDC**

Georgetown Library  
405 Cleland Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
**Phone:** 843.606.0116

### **Greenville Area SBDC**

1 North Main Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
**Phone:** (864) 370-1545

### **Greenwood Area SBDC**

Lander University  
Laura Lander Hall LL209  
320 Stanley Avenue  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
**Phone:** (864) 388-8492

### **Hilton Head Area SBDC**

USC-Beaufort South Campus  
One University Boulevard  
Bluffton, SC 29909  
**Phone:** (843) 208-8259





## **SC SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (SC SBDC)**

### **Myrtle Beach Area SBDC**

Coastal Carolina University  
Atlantic Hall  
P.O. Box 261954  
Conway, SC 29528-6054  
**Phone:** (843) 349-4010

### **Newberry Area SBDC**

1814 College Street  
Newberry, SC 29108-2126  
**Phone:** (803) 321-5689

### **North Charleston Area SBDC**

6296 Rivers Avenue  
Suite 300  
North Charleston, SC 29406  
**Phone:** (843) 740-6160

### **Orangeburg Area SBDC**

South Carolina State University  
College of Business & Applied Professional Sciences  
Algernon S Belcher Hall  
300 College Street  
Campus Box 7176  
Orangeburg, SC 29117  
**Phone:** (803) 536-8445

### **Rock Hill Area SBDC**

Winthrop University  
118 Thurmond Building  
Rock Hill, SC 29733  
**Phone:** (803) 323-2283

### **Spartanburg Area SBDC**

Spartanburg Community College - Tyger River  
Campus  
1875 E Main Street, Suite 4  
Duncan, SC 29334  
**Phone:** (864) 592-6318

### **Sumter Area SBDC**

USC Sumter  
200 Miller Road, Room 216  
Sumter, SC 29150-2498  
**Phone:** (803) 938-3833

### **Union Area SBDC**

103 West Main Street  
Union, SC 29379  
**Phone:** 864.427.8864

## **SCORE CHAPTERS**

### **Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)**

Norman Paige State Director  
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1425  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** (803) 253-3124

SCORE is a volunteer nonprofit association helping small businesses succeed. SCORE matches clients with the expert counselor best suited to their needs. The SCORE counselors are current or former business owners, and executives who have achieved high levels of success.

### **Aiken South Central Region Chapter 683**

Aiken Chamber of Commerce  
121 Richland Avenue E  
Aiken, SC 29801  
**Phone:** (803) 641-1111  
**Fax:** (803) 641-4174  
**Web:** [www.aikenchamber.net](http://www.aikenchamber.net)

### **Beaufort Carolina Lowcountry Chapter**

2348 Boundary Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
**Phone:** (843) 470-0800  
**Web:** [www.scorebeaufort.com](http://www.scorebeaufort.com)

### **Camden Chapter**

Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce  
607 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29021  
**Phone:** (803) 765-5131

### **Chapin Midlands Chapter**

Chapin Chamber of Commerce  
302 Columbia Avenue  
Chapin, SC 29036  
**Phone:** (803) 345-1100  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Charleston Coastal Chapter 285**

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce  
4045 Bridge View Drive B-151  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
**Phone:** (843) 727-4778  
**Web:** [www.charlestonsc.score.org](http://www.charlestonsc.score.org)





## **SCORE CHAPTERS**

### **Cheraw Chapter**

Greater Cheraw Chamber of Commerce  
221 Main Street  
Cheraw, SC 29520  
**Phone:** (843) 537-7681

### **Columbia Midlands Chapter 230**

1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1425  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** (803) 765-5131  
**Fax:** (803) 765-5962  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Florence Midlands Chapter**

Florence Chamber of Commerce  
610 W Palmetto Street  
Florence, SC 29503  
**Phone:** (843) 665-0515  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Greenville Piedmont Chapter 232**

300 E Washington Street, Room B-31  
Greenville, SC 29601  
**Phone:** (864) 271-3638  
**Fax:** (864) 271-3638  
**Web:** [www.piedmontscore.org](http://www.piedmontscore.org)

### **Greenwood Piedmont Chapter**

Piedmont Technical College  
620 N Emerald Road  
Greenwood, SC 29648  
**Phone:** (864) 941-8414  
**Web:** [www.piedmontscore.org](http://www.piedmontscore.org)

### **Hartsville Midlands Chapter**

Hartsville Chamber of Commerce  
214 N 5th Street  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
**Phone:** (843) 332-6401  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Hilton Head Carolina Lowcountry Chapter 650**

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce  
1 Chamber of Commerce Drive  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
**Phone:** (843) 785-7107  
**Fax:** (843) 785-3673  
**Web:** [www.scorehiltonhead.com](http://www.scorehiltonhead.com)

### **Lexington Midlands Chapter**

Lexington Chamber of Commerce  
321 S Lake Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072  
**Phone:** (803) 359-6113  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Myrtle Beach Grand Strand Chapter 381**

605 10th Avenue  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
**Phone:** (843) 918-1079  
**Fax:** (843) 918-1080  
**Web:** [www.mbscore.org](http://www.mbscore.org)

### **Northeast Chapter**

Village at Sandhill  
110-6 Forum Drive  
Columbia, SC 29229  
**Phone:** (803) 765-5131

### **Orangeburg Midlands Chapter**

Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce  
1570 John C. Calhoun Drive  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
**Phone:** (803) 534-6821  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)

### **Piedmont SCORE Chapter 232**

300 E. Washington Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
**Phone:** (864) 271-3638 or (864) 646-1700  
**Email:** [info@piedmontscore.org](mailto:info@piedmontscore.org)

### **Spartanburg Piedmont Chapter**

Spartanburg Community College - Tyger River Campus  
1875 East Main Street  
Duncan, SC 29334  
**Phone:** (864) 592-6317  
**Web:** [score@sccsc.edu](mailto:score@sccsc.edu)

### **Summerville Coastal Chapter**

Summerville Chamber of Commerce  
402 N Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
**Phone:** (843) 873-2931  
**Web:** [www.score285.org](http://www.score285.org)

### **Sumter Midlands Chapter**

Sumter Chamber of Commerce  
32 E Calhoun Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
**Phone:** (803) 775-1231 or (803) 775-0915  
**Web:** [www.scoremidlands.org](http://www.scoremidlands.org)



## **BUSINESS INCUBATORS, RESOURCE CENTERS & ACCELERATORS**

### **Abbeville County Industrial Incubator**

**Web:** [www.abbevillecountysc.com](http://www.abbevillecountysc.com)

**Counties Served:** Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick, Laurens, and Anderson

The Abbeville County Industrial Incubator is a manufacturing incubator offering 5,000 square foot bays (expandable to 10,000 feet). Any entrepreneur is eligible to apply for space.

### **Applied Research Center**

**Web:** [www.archydrogen.com](http://www.archydrogen.com)

A primary mission of the facility is the sharing of practical, useful knowledge that will advance our understanding of energy and technology. The Applied Research Center (ARC) is a program of the Economic Development Partnership, which is a non-profit public-private development corporation serving the needs of new and existing businesses in Aiken and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina.

### **Benedict College Small Business Incubator**

**Web:** [www.benedict.edu](http://www.benedict.edu)

The Benedict College Small Business Incubator welcomes start-up businesses for two years as clients and tenants within the Business Development Center. Businesses selected to be participants in the incubation program are entrepreneurs interested in providing innovative new products, services, or approaches to business within the African American Community.

### **Bushy Park Incubator**

**Web:** [www.bushyparkindustrialcomplex.com](http://www.bushyparkindustrialcomplex.com)

Bushy Park Incubator provides access to high tech laboratories, technological equipment, state of the art communication networks and a wide variety of office, collaboration and manufacturing space.

### **Catalyst Center (Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce)**

**Web:** [www.charlestonchamber.net](http://www.charlestonchamber.net)

Located on the second floor of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, is a space where aspiring and existing entrepreneurs can connect, receive information, identify resources, meet with mentors and take advantage of programs designed for their business' start-up and growth.

### **Charleston Digital Corridor**

**Web:** <http://www.charlestondigitalcorridor.com>

Charleston Digital Corridor is a creative effort to attract, nurture & promote Charleston's knowledge economy by facilitating a business, physical and social environment where technology companies thrive. Initiatives include office & meeting space, a talent portal, educational forums, site acquisition help, funding, and networking.

### **Clemson Apparel Research (CAR)**

**Web:** [www.car.clemson.edu](http://www.car.clemson.edu)

Clemson Apparel Research was established to revitalize the domestic sewn-products industry through the proper application of advanced technology and management practices. It offers consulting services to address specific manufacturing problems, research services to create new technologies and management systems for the sewn-products and textile industries, as well as manufacturing services through a 6,000 square foot model apparel plant to demonstrate state-of-the-art technology.

### **Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF)**

**Web:** [www.clemson.edu/curf](http://www.clemson.edu/curf)

CURF manages the technology transfer functions of Clemson University by taking assignment of inventions, obtaining Intellectual property protections, working with faculty to evaluate commercial potential of discoveries, and licensing inventions to the private sector for public use. CURF owns and operates several facilities dedicated to business incubation that enable start-up companies to accelerate their growth through access to office and wet-lab space as well as other support service.

### **CU-ICAR Center for Emerging Technologies**

**Web:** [www.cuicar.com](http://www.cuicar.com)

### **CUBEInC**

**Web:** [www.cucubeinc.com](http://www.cucubeinc.com)

The Clemson University Biomedical Engineering Innovation Campus (CUBEInC) develops high-impact medical technology and devices for disease management and technology transfer from bench to bedside.

### **Dirt Works Incubator Farm**

**Web:** [www.lowcountrylocalfirst.org](http://www.lowcountrylocalfirst.org)

Provides infrastructure and support to reduce the risk for new farmers launching their new farm businesses. Land lease, tractor access, packing facility, walk-in cooler, tool storage, irrigation and assistance from a mentor.



## **BUSINESS INCUBATORS, RESOURCE CENTERS & ACCELERATORS**

### **Don Ryan Center for Innovation**

**Web:** [www.ryan-innovation-center.com](http://www.ryan-innovation-center.com)

The Don Ryan Center for Innovation is designed to support new technology company formation and development in Bluffton, SC by helping technology innovators and small technology companies successfully develop and grow. To do this, the program links innovators to intellectual property, technology evaluation, product development services, seed financing, business mentorship, corporate relationships and recruiting. The program blends the attributes of hands-on consulting support, resource identification and availability, and distance learning to help increase the probability innovators will be successful.

### **Duke Energy Center for Innovation**

**Web:** [www.decenterforinnovation.com](http://www.decenterforinnovation.com)

**Counties Served:** Darlington, Florence, Chesterfield, Dillon, Marlboro and Marion

Representing a unique public-private collaboration, the Center's partners, including Clemson University, the City of Hartsville, Duke Energy, and others, work to bring innovators together with needed business development and support services so they may commercialize emerging technology products and services. The Center provides office space to entrepreneurs and links them to a variety of hands-on support in developing and evaluating tech-focused products, protecting intellectual property, locating financing opportunities and cultivating business relationships.

### **eMerge @ the Garage**

**Web:** [www.emergeandersonsc.com](http://www.emergeandersonsc.com)

The City of Anderson is creating an entrepreneurial space and program(s) that will focus on a public/private collaborative with local industry partners. e-Merge @ the Garage consists of incubator/accelerator programs providing entrepreneurial flexible work space and access to capital for startups in Health Care, IT Intelligence, Culinary Arts/AgriBusiness and Education opportunities.

### **EngenuitySC**

**Web:** [www.engenuitysc.com](http://www.engenuitysc.com)

Created in 2003, EngenuitySC is an active public/private partnership focused on the knowledge-based economy in the Columbia, South Carolina region. It is comprised of business and industry leaders, along with representatives from local government and academia. Its goal is to encourage entrepreneurship to commercialize ideas, technology, research, and public policy in an effort to help knowledge-based companies and create access to start-up investment capital.

### **The Enterprise Campus at Midlands Technical College**

**Web:** [www.mtcenterprisecampus.com](http://www.mtcenterprisecampus.com)

The Enterprise Campus allows for interaction between the corporate community, faculty and students; thereby creating a seamless integration of innovative companies, emerging technologies and education. Benefits include access to applied learning and laboratory space, office space and resources, faculty resources, training facilities, continuing education, and customized workforce training.

### **The Faber Entrepreneurship Center at the Moore School of Business**

**Web:** [www.mooreschool.sc.edu](http://www.mooreschool.sc.edu)

The Faber Entrepreneurship Center, endowed with a \$1 million gift from University of South Carolina alumni Tim and Karen Faber, seeks to provide USC students with intensive exposure to entrepreneurial concepts, small business management training, and interaction with a network of successful entrepreneurs in South Carolina. The Faber Entrepreneurship Center has recently focused on providing companies in South Carolina with support at the intersection of New Venture Formation, Global Business, and Intellectual Property Strategy & Management

### **firedUP Accelerator Program**

**Web:** [www.cse.sc.edu](http://www.cse.sc.edu)

At firedUP, we love building great companies. Our program is six months of high-intensity action designed for one thing: to quickly propel a choice group of promising startups into the market.

### **The Flagship**

**Web:** [www.charlestonflagship.com/#home](http://www.charlestonflagship.com/#home)

Located in Historic Downtown Charleston, the Flagship is Charleston's premier business incubator for tech and tech-related businesses. The Flagship offers enterprise-class business spaces at cost-effective rates and flexible terms ideally suited for start-up stage companies. The Flagship also supports the visual arts community through the Flagship Gallery - a venue for Charleston's up-and-coming contemporary artists.



## **BUSINESS INCUBATORS, RESOURCE CENTERS & ACCELERATORS**

### **The Harbor Entrepreneur Center**

**Web:** [www.harborec.com](http://www.harborec.com)

The Harbor Accelerator is a business accelerator program designed with the entrepreneur in mind. We have one goal... build scalable business for the Charleston region. Each start up is provided tremendous resources and support to grow quickly, test the market quickly, and become viable. Our program is designed to introduce high impact business concepts to an intense curriculum led by successful mentor entrepreneurs. These mentors will walk side by side with the startup team throughout the 14 week program to keep them focused on the critical elements needed to grow their business. At the end of the program, the starts ups know what is needed to take the next step and are introduced to possible capital sources to help them grow.

### **Local Works Coworking Space**

**Web:** <http://lowcountrylocalfirst.org/>

The space, community and services you need to thrive. Affordable/flexible co-working space for established and start-up entrepreneurs, with mentoring, networking and business development workshops. Local Works is a project of Lowcountry Local First.

### **LowCountry Innovation Center**

**Web:** [www.lowcountryinnovationcenter.com](http://www.lowcountryinnovationcenter.com)

Combines state of the art infrastructure, quality construction, unparalleled service, and a flexible office to create the environment for a companies' continued success.

### **Medical University of South Carolina Foundation for Research Development**

**Web:** [www.academicdepartments.musc.edu](http://www.academicdepartments.musc.edu)

MUSC's affiliated not for profit research foundation, the MUSC Foundation for Research Development (FRD) interfaces with industry in the area of technology transfer. These activities result in a contribution to MUSC's overall economic impact for our state and nationally. Most importantly, by collaborating with industry, cutting edge discoveries have the opportunity to become real life solutions to today's medical problems.

### **Michelin North American Incubator**

**Web:** [www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)

At Michelin we have a name for incubation: Incubator Program Office (IPO). Launched in 2014, this program aims to activate projects that are linked to mobility and which gravitate around our core business. The role of the IPO is to detect relevant projects that are liable to support growth at Michelin in the future. We are

looking for ideas, both internally and externally, that can be quickly implemented and have definite objectives. We grow them as far as possible and test them on the market to make sure of their viability.

### **Minority Business Accelerator**

**Web:** [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org)

The MBA program prepares minority-owned Businesses, for growth and expansion to create a competitive advantage for Upstate, SC to become the most inclusive business community in the world. The MBA program grows the economic success of disadvantaged organizations through business development services, mentoring, and access to large corporations for partnership opportunities. The program is focused on reducing disparity in the region's business community by driving economic activity for high-potential minority owned firms. Compelling evidence exists in other comparable areas that this type of program can lead to more viable and competitive MBEs that have the ability to grow and create meaningful job opportunities.

### **NEXT**

#### **Greenville**

**Web:** <http://www.nextupstategsc.org/>

NEXT clients are fast growth technology companies that own their intellectual property and have high potential for national and international growth. Sectors currently served include Internet technology, electronic device, biomedical, software, nanotechnology, and pharmaceutical. NEXT offers entrepreneurs access to an entrepreneurial community, angel investors, SBIR/ STTR consultation, office space, a talent portal, a CEO Best Practice Forum, as well as hosting for a functional company web page on the NEXT website.

### **North Dargan Innovation Center**

**Web:** [www.florence downtown.com](http://www.florence downtown.com)

We are a mixed use, Office/Professional Business Incubator. We are here to help startup companies, or home based businesses that are ready to expand into the local business community, thereby creating jobs. We offer physical support with office space, internet access, copy and fax service, a phone line and office furniture, as well as mentoring and business counseling, business plan development, financial projections and benchmarks, market research and more.





## **BUSINESS INCUBATORS, RESOURCE CENTERS & ACCELERATORS**

### **Savannah River Research Campus**

**Web:** [www.aikencountysc.gov](http://www.aikencountysc.gov)

Aiken County's Carrol H. Warner Savannah River Research Campus is a 422-acre site, owned and operated by Aiken County. It is specially designed to play host a wide range of technology-based business ventures from the largest international firm to the smallest entrepreneurial start-up. Office space ranges from 2,500 to 3,000 square foot suites. on the first and second floors, and single offices are available on the first floor. Third floor is rentable as a complete floor. In addition to the office suites, the Research Campus also offers prime building sites. Sites are available from 5 to 40 acres and may be selected to best suit the needs of each company.

### **SC Biotechnology Incubation Facility**

**Web:** [www.greenwoodscchamber.org](http://www.greenwoodscchamber.org)

A 22,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art-facility. In addition to six laboratory modules with related office and support space, the incubator houses a conference room, library, and 124-seat auditorium. Outfitted with the latest technology, the building contains T-1 telecommunications and video conferencing capabilities to link you to resources around the state and the world.

### **SC BIO**

**Web:** [www.scbio.org](http://www.scbio.org)

SCBIO is a member organization that exists to support and advance South Carolina's life science industry through collaboration, advocacy, workforce development, enhanced purchasing power and education. This mission furthers our goal of ensuring that South Carolina's companies, research institutions, and citizens reap the economic and societal benefits of a world-class life sciences cluster.

### **SEBIO**

**Web:** [www.sebio.org](http://www.sebio.org)

Southeast BIO (**SEBIO**) is a regional non-profit organization that fosters the growth of the life sciences industry in the Southeastern United States through efforts that promote entrepreneurship and bring together the key players active in the development of the industry. SEBIO's geographic footprint includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. We focus on key industries within the life sciences, including: bio/pharma, medical devices and technology, agricultural biotechnology, animal health, bioinformatics and biomaterials.

### **SC Launch Innovation Centers**

**Web:** [www.sclaunch.org](http://www.sclaunch.org)

SCRA's flagship SC Launch program contributes to the formation and growth of early-stage technology companies and supports the relocation of established technology companies to the state. SCRA improves the development and growth of South Carolina's Innovation Economy by supporting entrepreneurs, enabling university research commercialization and connecting to innovators.

### **SCRA Innovation Centers:**

#### **SCRA USC Innovation Center at Columbia**

**Web:** [www.scra.org](http://www.scra.org)

1000 Catawba Street  
Columbia, SC 29208

The innovation center is designed to house high-tech companies emerging from research at the University of South Carolina and entering commercialization and light manufacturing stages. This facility is situated and designed to stimulate and sustain clean next-generation manufacturing.

#### **SCRA MUSC Innovation Center at Charleston**

**Web:** [www.scra.org](http://www.scra.org)

645 Meeting Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

The innovation center is designed to support Charleston's growing biotechnology cluster. The 28,400 square foot facility will consist of flexible use, multi-tenant laboratory and office space supporting biopharma, biomed and biotech research and commercialization. The building was opened in December 2009 and leasing applications are currently being accepted.

#### ***SCRA/Applied Technologies Center***

**Web:** [www.scra.org](http://www.scra.org)

315 Sigma Drive  
Summerville, SC 29486

The innovation center offers wet laboratory, meeting, office, and conference space. The facility hosts companies conducting research and development as well as community events and meetings. A full genetics and biotechnology focused library, support staff, and close proximity to researchers at the Greenwood Genetic Center provide a hub for diagnostic, therapeutic, and pharmaceutical companies.

#### **SCRA Duke Energy Innovation Center**

**Web:** [www.scra.org](http://www.scra.org)

81 Technology Drive  
Anderson, SC, 29486



## **BUSINESS INCUBATORS, RESOURCE CENTERS & ACCELERATORS**

### **Spartanburg Entrepreneurial Resource Network (SERN)**

**Web:** [www.spartanburgentrepreneur.com](http://www.spartanburgentrepreneur.com)

SERN is a collaborative effort between several organizations in Spartanburg County whose mutual goal is to promote a vibrant entrepreneurial environment in Spartanburg. The members are Spartanburg Community College, USC Upstate, Wofford, SBDC, SCORE, the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Spartanburg. Together, the group offers a wide variety of programs and support for startups and growing businesses resulting in one of the most formidable business assistance programs in the nation.

### **Technology Incubator @ Knowledge Park**

**Web:** [www.tirockhill.org](http://www.tirockhill.org)

The Technology Incubator is designed for entrepreneurs who anticipate a 12 – 18 month development cycle. Once we have helped you launch your idea to market, we'll continue to help you grow.

### **ThinkTEC**

**Web:** [www.thinktec.com](http://www.thinktec.com)

ThinkTEC is a Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce initiative that facilitates start-up companies, grow existing business and attract new business in the high-tech arenas. These efforts include industry- specific conferences, public policy and legislative initiatives, program development, and educational events. Entrepreneurial training programs are offered through NxLevel.

### **Tri-County Entrepreneur Development Corporation**

**Web:** [www.oconeescedc.com](http://www.oconeescedc.com)

The TCEDC initiative seeks to stimulate economic development by working with entrepreneurs and/or small businesses in helping to grow their ideas in the Oconee area from concept to flourishing businesses. Assistance comes through mentoring services, providing incubator space and conducting training programs in partnership with Tri-County Technical College.

### **USC/Columbia Technology Incubator**

**Web:** [www.usccolainc.org](http://www.usccolainc.org)

The USC-Columbia Technology Incubator is for entrepreneurs who have a technology-based product or service and who wish to have interaction with the university R&D enterprise. It is expected the entrepreneur will have technical education or business experience to exploit the technology, as well as have a documented business plan that includes market analysis, financial projections, and funding requirement. For such entrepreneurs, the USCCTI will provide a broad scope of services including cost- effective office/laboratory space and support, prototype manufacturing facilities, product realization and development services and business consultation.



## LICENSES, PERMITS & REGULATIONS

Various types of licenses, permits and registrations may be required in order to conduct business in South Carolina. Federal, state and local laws and ordinances establish guidelines such as occupational matters, business licensing, environmental permitting and tax withholdings.

### BUSINESS LICENSES & PERMITS

#### BUSINESS LICENSE BASICS

South Carolina does not have a statewide business license requirement; therefore companies must apply for local business licenses. Most towns and municipalities require a business license. The following counties also require business licenses:

Beaufort County  
Charleston County  
Dorchester County  
Horry County  
Jasper County  
Marion County  
Richland County  
Sumter County

To obtain a license in one of these counties, contact the local business license office or visit [www.SCBOS.com](http://www.SCBOS.com) for a complete listing of offices.

- ⇒ **Depending on the type of business, registration with the State of South Carolina** can be accomplished through the **Secretary of State's Office**, the **Department of Revenue** or through the **South Carolina Business One Stop**. [www.SCBOS.com](http://www.SCBOS.com)
- ⇒ **Federal Tax ID Number** which can be applied for at the **IRS Web site**. [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or through links at [www.SCBOS.com](http://www.SCBOS.com)
- ⇒ **Local Business Licenses** are often necessary for businesses located within city or town limits. Check with the local municipality for business license requirements. **SCBOS** lists Web site connections for each county and municipality. [www.SCBOS.com](http://www.SCBOS.com)
- ⇒ **Occupational Permits & State Licensing** may be required. New business owners should check with the **South Carolina Department of License, Labor and Regulation** to determine if an occupational permit is required for their business. [www.llr.state.sc.us](http://www.llr.state.sc.us)
- ⇒ **The Department of Health & Environmental Control's (DHEC) Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)** team is available to answer questions on environmental permitting and compliance issues for small businesses. Their services are free and non-regulatory. [www.SCDHEC.gov](http://www.SCDHEC.gov)
- ⇒ **State Certifications for Women and Minorities** promote the growth and development of small and minority owned businesses in South Carolina. Visit their Web site to find about how to become certified. [www.govoepp.state.sc.us/osmba](http://www.govoepp.state.sc.us/osmba)

### SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Small Business Regulatory Review Committee reviews new and existing state agency regulations that may adversely impact small businesses. The Committee, which is comprised of private-sector small business owners, was chartered to ensure that South Carolina's small business community has a voice and a level playing field on which to compete. Small businesses facing problems with a state agency regulation can call or write to the Committee at the Small Business Development office of the South Carolina Department of Commerce to explain their concerns.

Visit Small Business and Existing Industry at [www.sourcesc.com](http://www.sourcesc.com) for more information.



## LICENSES, PERMITS & REGULATIONS RESOURCES

### **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

**Web:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Other helpful IRS resources:**

- **Business and Specialty Helpline: 1-800-829-4933**
- **Electronic Federal Tax Payment System:**

[www.eftps.gov](http://www.eftps.gov) or 1-800-555-4477

**Tax Forms and Publications:** [www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs) or 1-800-829-3676

### **Small Business Regulatory Review Committee (SBRR)**

**Web:** [www.sccommerce.com](http://www.sccommerce.com)

The Committee is made up of 11 business owners who have volunteered their time to review current regulatory issues facing small businesses. They have the ability to either work with the agency or the General Assembly, when necessary, in getting an alternative regulation adopted if it appears that the regulation puts undue pressure on small business.

### **South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS)**

**Web:** [www.scbos.sc.gov](http://www.scbos.sc.gov)

South Carolina Business One Stop or SCBOS is the official South Carolina business web portal. It enables anyone with an existing business or anyone starting a new business to file permits, licenses, registrations, or pay taxes. From the convenience of your computer at any time, 24 hours a day – 7 days a week, you can take care of your important state filings, and pay for multiple filings and/or taxes with one credit, debit, or EFW payment.

### **South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs**

**Web:** [www.cma.sc.gov](http://www.cma.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs provide the minority community, consisting of African Americans, Native American Indians, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and others with a single point of contact for statistical data and technical assistance in the areas of research and planning for a greater economic future. Working with officials on the state, county and local levels of government in disseminating statistical data and determining its impact on their constituencies.

### **South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs**

**Web:** [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (“DCA”/ “Department”) is the state’s consumer protection agency. Established in 1974, DCA has more than forty years of experience in protecting South Carolina consumers while recognizing those businesses that act honestly and fairly. The Department accomplishes its mission by: 1.) acting as an effective regulator, 2.) providing complaint mediation services that are unmatched at

both state and federal levels, 3.) saving millions for both consumers and small businesses through insurance rate filing intervention, 4.) serving as an educational portal for consumers and businesses alike, and 5) informing the public on effective ways of preventing and mitigating identity theft situations.

### **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)**

**Web:** [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is the state regulatory agency charged with promoting and protecting the state's public health and its land, air, coastal resources and water quality as authorized by federal and state law. The agency provides a wide range of resources and services that support a vision of healthy people living in healthy communities. The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program is part of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. S.C. SBEAP's primary goal is to effectively communicate to small businesses the information they need to comply with environmental regulations. We provide multimedia compliance assistance with an emphasis on air emission reporting and permitting requirements. Our services are free and non-regulatory.

### **South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation**

**Web:** [www.llr.state.sc.us](http://www.llr.state.sc.us)

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) is to promote the health, safety and economic well-being of the public through regulation, licensing, enforcement, training and education.

### **South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Office of OSHA Voluntary Programs**

**Web:** [www.llr.state.sc.us](http://www.llr.state.sc.us)





## **LICENSES, PERMITS & REGULATIONS RESOURCES**

### **South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**

**Web:** [www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org)

The purpose of SCDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program is to assist potential contractors in their efforts to identify and utilize DBEs that are participating in the Department's DBE Program. Certification is granted through the Department as verification that a business is bonafide in its claim to be a disadvantaged business enterprise. Certified firms are used to meet goals on federally assisted contracts. The SCDOT is required to provide a list of certified contractors to firms bidding on prime contracts who in turn, agree to utilize certified minority businesses on construction projects throughout the state.

### **South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce**

**Web:** [www.dew.sc.gov](http://www.dew.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), a proud partner of [the American Job Center network](#), is responsible for paying unemployment insurance benefits, collecting unemployment taxes, helping people find jobs, matching businesses with qualified candidates, and collecting and disseminating state/federal employment statistics. Our main goal is to match jobseekers with employers quickly, efficiently, and effectively, and we offer a variety of services to assist both groups.

### **South Carolina Film Commission, Production Guide**

**Web:** [www.filmsc.com](http://www.filmsc.com)

### **South Carolina Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance (OSMBA)**

**Web:** [www.osmba.sc.gov](http://www.osmba.sc.gov)

### **South Carolina Office of the Secretary of State**

**Web:** [www.scsos.com](http://www.scsos.com)

The Secretary of State is responsible for the statewide registration of corporations, Uniform Commercial Code interests, business opportunities, employment agencies, trademarks and notaries. The Office handles the incorporation of municipalities and special purpose districts, the annexations of land, and the escheatment of real property in South Carolina.

### **South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission**

**Web:** [www.wcc.sc.gov](http://www.wcc.sc.gov)



## FINANCING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

### ARE YOU READY FOR FINANCING?

#### Develop a Business Plan:

Create a written document describing your business, including type of business and legal form, annual sales, number of employees, length of time in business and the ownership structure.

#### Determine Financing Needs:

Identify all startup expenses, estimate the costs of your business for at least the first several months, and create a realistic startup budget and cash flow model.

#### Discuss Your Credit Score:

Creditors use your credit score to determine if you qualify for additional lending. Credit scores help predict who is most likely to repay debt and make payments on time.

### TYPES OF FINANCING AVAILABLE

- ⇒ **Debt Financing** involves lenders such as banks, commercial finance companies and government-related lending. Depending on financial plans and goals, one of the following programs may suit your needs.
- ⇒ **The Small Business Administration (SBA)** is a group of independent agencies of the federal government created to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small businesses. The SBA operates a loan guarantee program which can assist with up to \$2 million dollars in potential financing. [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)
- ⇒ **Community Express Loan Programs** help small businesses owned by minorities, women and veterans, or companies located in low-to-moderate income areas. [www.superiorfg.com](http://www.superiorfg.com)
- ⇒ **Council of Governments Loan Programs** partner with local counties, cities and towns to provide resources to foster economic development, usually in the form of a revolving loan program. [www.state.sc.us](http://www.state.sc.us)
- ⇒ **The SC Capital Access Program (SC CAP)** is designed to provide financial institutions with a tool to assist with business loans in which public resources are used to generate financing. [www.bdcfsc.org](http://www.bdcfsc.org)
- ⇒ **Equity Funding** requires selling an ownership interest in the business in exchange for capital. There are several options when considering who should invest in your company.
- ⇒ **Seed Capital Funds** may assist your financial goals through funding in the form of loans and equity. **SC Launch!** offers technology based companies commercialization support and guidance, as well as up to \$200K in seed funding. [www.SCLaunch.org](http://www.SCLaunch.org)
- ⇒ **Angel Networks** are a good place to begin your search for funding. They are member-driven organizations that work to help support high-growth economic development in the region.

## FINANCING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

#### **Appalachian Development Corporation**

**Web:** [www.adcloans.com](http://www.adcloans.com)

The ADC is organized for the primary purpose of furthering the economic development in the Counties that the Appalachian Development Corporation serves. The Appalachian Development Corporation provides business lending programs through the US Small Business Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Appalachian Development Corporation has been providing business loans since 1982.

#### **Catawba Regional Development Corporation (CRDC)**

**Web:** [www.catawbacog.org](http://www.catawbacog.org)

CRDC is a 'gap' economic development lender, partnering with local banks, federal and state funders such as the Small Business Administration, the US Department of Agriculture, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. Catawba Regional has worked with local businesses and governments to provide debt capital for business start-up, expansion, and brownfields cleanup. CRDC's work has resulted in multiple benefits: over \$50 million of loans have been made throughout state, leveraging \$120 million of private capital and creating over 2,000 South Carolina jobs. CRDC is a certified statewide SBA 504 lender, making fixed-asset loans of up to \$5.5 million. CRDC also provides small business loans (up to \$300,000) through its Revolving Loan Fund in the following SC counties: Chester, Lancaster, Union, York, Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, Clarendon, Hampton, Allendale, Aiken, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Barnwell and Calhoun.

#### **Charleston LDC**

**Web:** [www.charlestonldc.com](http://www.charlestonldc.com)

The LDC, established in 1979, is a non-profit small business lending organization whose mission is to offer opportunity by assisting the growth and development of microenterprise and small business concerns, thereby creating and retaining employment opportunities in its service market. As a federal and state certified CDFI, the LDC provides flexible business lending products, along with extensive technical assistance, to women-owned, minority-owned, low-income, veteran, and other underserved business owners in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester Counties in SC.

#### **CommunityWorks Carolina**

**Website:** [www.communityworkscarolina.org](http://www.communityworkscarolina.org)

CommunityWorks provides financing and specialized training for small startup or existing businesses in the Upstate of South Carolina. Through the Micro-Loan Program eligible business owners can qualify for a loan up to \$15,000 and receive one on one business coaching to help them grow and sustain their business. If you are interested in applying for the program, please read the additional program requirements listed in the MicroLoan Fact Sheet on the CommunityWorks website, and then complete the Initial Contact Form also located on the CommunityWorks website.

#### **South Carolina Community Loan Fund**

**Website:** [www.sccommunityloanfund.org](http://www.sccommunityloanfund.org)

Lowcountry Housing Trust (LHT) is a regional affordable housing and community development financier that works with local governments, developers, community leaders, non-profits, and businesses to build strong, healthy communities. Since inception in 2004, LHT has infused more than \$13 million in community development financing into the community, resulting in the development of over 850 affordable housing units for Lowcountry families. Recognizing that viable, sustainable communities include more than affordable housing, LHT recently expanded its mission to support the fundamental needs of underserved communities. While affordable housing will remain a priority, LHT now finances community facilities, community businesses, and healthy food retail outlets.

#### **Santee-Lynches Regional Development Corporation, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**

**Web:** [www.santeelynchescog.org](http://www.santeelynchescog.org)

The corporation's RLF funds are administered by Catawba Regional Development Corporation (CRDC). The RLF funds are a source of capital for assisting startup and growing businesses. It is used primarily as gap financing to help leverage private sector loans and investments to fulfill an applicants' total capital needs companies to promote the economic development goals of the state.

#### **Carolina Small Business Development Fund**

**Web:** [www.carolinasmallbusiness.org](http://www.carolinasmallbusiness.org)

The Carolina Small Business is a statewide nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides small business loans and financial training to start-ups and existing businesses and lending services to community-based organizations.



## **COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT**

**South Carolina's Councils of Governments (COG)** efforts include focusing on regional planning, keeping track of all types of statistical information, obtaining and administering grants, and supporting regional economic development.

**Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester (BCD) Council of Governments, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)** (*Serving Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties*)  
Web: [www.bcdkog.com](http://www.bcdkog.com)

**Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Economic Development, Revolving Loan Fund**  
Web: [www.lscog.org](http://www.lscog.org)

**Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, Revolving Loan Fund**  
Web: [www.peedeecog.org/service.html](http://www.peedeecog.org/service.html)

**Upper Savannah Council of Governments, Revolving Loan Fund**  
Web: [www.uppersavannah.com](http://www.uppersavannah.com)

**Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, Revolving Loan Fund**  
Web: [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org)

## **EQUITY FINANCING**

**Angel Partners (CHAP)**  
Web: [www.chapsc.com](http://www.chapsc.com)

CHAP is an organization composed of Charleston business professionals who screen and evaluate qualified startups looking for seed capital to support economic growth of the region.

**Electric City Angels**  
Web: [www.scangelnetwork.com](http://www.scangelnetwork.com)

**Capital Angels**  
Web: [www.venturesouth.vc/capital-angels](http://www.venturesouth.vc/capital-angels)

**Spartanburg Angels**  
Web: [www.scangelnetwork.com](http://www.scangelnetwork.com)

**InvestSC, S.C. Venture Capital Program**  
InvestSC was formed for the purpose of assisting the Venture Capital Authority in meeting the goals and objectives of the program. It consists of four capital funds chosen to invest in South Carolina-based

**Johnson Magrath & Partners, LLP**  
Web: [www.johnsonmagrath.com](http://www.johnsonmagrath.com)

Johnson Magrath & Partners, LLP is a private investment group founded in 2006 and managed by partners in Charleston. Johnson Magrath invests in select public companies and in small, private companies with tremendous growth potential.

**SCLaunch**  
Web: [www.sclaunch.org](http://www.sclaunch.org)

SCLaunch! accelerates entrepreneurial growth for advanced technology startups by providing seed-funding of up to \$200,000 in loans or investments, ongoing mentoring and business counseling, and access to Resource Network Services.

**Upstate Carolina Angel Network**  
Web: [www.upstateangels.com](http://www.upstateangels.com)

The Upstate Carolina Angel Network, LLC (UCAN) is a group of accredited investors located in Upstate South Carolina who invest in and support start-up and early-stage, high-growth businesses in the Southeastern United States. Our members possess a broad array of business experiences and skills they bring to bear in helping to screen and evaluate potential portfolio companies. They also serve as a valuable resource for guidance and advice to entrepreneurs and their businesses once an investment is made. Since its inception in 2008, UCAN has invested \$5.6 million in 22 companies.

## **OTHER GOVERNMENT FINANCING (LOANS)**

**Business Development Corporation (BDC) of South Carolina**  
Web: [www.BDCofSC.org](http://www.BDCofSC.org)  
BDC is a non-bank commercial lending company specializing in the SBA 7(a) loan guaranty program.

**City of Columbia**  
**Office of Business Opportunities**  
Web: [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)

Small businesses drive the U.S. economy by providing jobs for over half of the nation's private workforce. Yet small businesses also face many obstacles that stall or prevent their growth and development, including access to capital, effective marketing strategies, adequate accounting systems, and comprehensive business plans.

**Charleston Local Development Corporation**  
Web: [www.charlestonlde.org](http://www.charlestonlde.org)

The LDC is an alternative lender that fosters economic development by promoting and assisting in the creation, growth and development of small business concerns through its technical and financial assistance programs. Its service area encompasses Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, and Colleton counties.



## **OTHER GOVERNMENT FINANCING (LOANS)**

loans can accommodate projects between \$300K to \$20 million.

### **South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (JEDA)**

**Web:** [www.scjeda.com](http://www.scjeda.com)

JEDA's mission is to promote the business and economic welfare of South Carolina by assisting in the financing of public and private projects throughout the state. JEDA serves as a statewide conduit issuer of special obligation revenue bonds and acts on behalf of the borrower to access financial markets and capital.

### **S.C. Capital Access Program (SC CAP)**

**Web:** [www.businessdevelopment.org](http://www.businessdevelopment.org) SC CAP is used to promote economic development and job creation through small business in South Carolina by providing financial institutions with a flexible non-bureaucratic resource.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program**

**Web:** [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

The USDA B&I Guaranteed Loan Program helps to create jobs and stimulates rural economic by providing financial banking for rural businesses. The program provides up to 80 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender.

### **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan Programs**

**Web:** [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

SBA's loan programs provide long-and short-term loans for small businesses that might not qualify through normal lending channels.

## **NON-PROFIT LENDING INSTITUTIONS**

(See also: Community Development Corporations and Councils of Government.)

### **Business Carolina, Inc. (BCI)**

**Web:** [www.bcilending.com](http://www.bcilending.com)

BCI provides financial assistance for the expansion and purchase of fixed assets (such as real estate or equipment), business acquisitions, replenishing working capital, and debt restructuring for the owner managed businesses throughout the Southeast.

### **Certified Development Corporation (CDC) of South Carolina**

**Web:** [www.bdcpsc.org](http://www.bdcpsc.org)

CDC is a non-profit statewide certified development company that can arrange 100% government-guaranteed debenture financing under the SBA 504 lending program, helping promote economic development and create jobs in South Carolina.

### **Provident Business Financial Services**

**Web:** [www.providentbfs.com](http://www.providentbfs.com)

Provident provides fixed asset financing for land, building and equipment throughout SC to small business. Our fixed rate, 20 year



## MARKETING AND GROWING YOUR BUSINESS RESOURCES

In today's competitive marketplace, success is dependent upon clear and consistent marketing plans that make a business' products and/or services stand out from the competition. This section highlights public sector marketing resources available throughout the state.

### CREATING A MARKETING PLAN

- Make a list of your businesses goals, strengths and weaknesses.
- Analyze potential customer base for particular products.
- Consider product advantages and how they will be leveraged.
- Determine a pricing strategy for services and products.
- Create promotional programs, media outreach and advertising to reach preferred customer base.
- Evaluate short and long-term goals to ensure the best results.

### HOW TO MARKET YOUR BUSINESS

- ⇒ Market your business through print, Web and radio media if possible. This can be done through purchasing advertising or via strategic public relations. Convince the customer why your company and your services would be their optimal choice. If your budget allows, utilize the services of a marketing firm to get your plan started.
- ⇒ Target customers that are most likely to benefit from your services and will provide you with the most sales.
- ⇒ Understand market size and trends that will affect your customer base.
- ⇒ Know your competition by realistically assessing and comparing your strength and weaknesses. Compare products, services and performance.

### STATE AND FEDERAL CONTRACTING

- ⇒ Materials Management Office (MMO)
- ⇒ Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)
- ⇒ The FedBizOpps for Federal Business Opportunities
- ⇒ The Carolinas' Minority Supplier Development Council
- ⇒ The Minority Business Enterprise Center of South Carolina

## GROW YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE SOURCECSC PROGRAM

**SourceSC** is a product, material and service locator program designed to help new and existing South Carolina companies connect with South Carolina vendors and suppliers. The program utilizes resources from the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Technical College System, economic development allies, and national databases to match a company's needs with in-state resources.

**SourceSC** relies on extensive knowledge of the state's existing supply chains, and works in concert with numerous economic development allies, which receive in-state supplier inquiries, to best serve a company's needs. To learn how **SourceSC** can help your business grow, visit [www.sourcecsc.com](http://www.sourcecsc.com)



## **BUSINESS RESOURCES**

### **SourceSC Program**

**Web:** [www.sourcesc.com](http://www.sourcesc.com)

### **Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development (CIECD)**

**Web:** [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu)

CIECD offers Small Business and Marketing Plan classes from various curriculums including FastTrac GrowthVenture, FastTrac Techventure and eCommerceSC.

### **ECI-Find New Markets**

**Web:** [www.findnewmarkets.com](http://www.findnewmarkets.com)

At ECI, we specialize in the development and implementation of business, marketing and global trade strategies. Our customized approach enables us to assist with all of the elements necessary to grow your business regardless of where you are in the market development process. Through in-depth market research and creative marketing solutions, we help you identify and develop new markets, new customers and new products and services.

### **Procurement Technical Assistance Center**

**Web:** [www.scsbdc.com](http://www.scsbdc.com)

### **South Carolina Women's Business Center**

**Web:** [www.scwbc.net](http://www.scwbc.net)

### **South Carolina Budget and Control Board Division of Procurement Services**

**Web:** [www.procurement.sc.gov](http://www.procurement.sc.gov)

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE RESOURCES**

### **City of Columbia**

#### **Office of Economic Development**

**Web:** [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)

### **SBA Export Trade Finance Officer**

**Web:** [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

### **South Carolina Department of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.sccommerce.com](http://www.sccommerce.com)

### **Minority Business Development Agency**

**Web:** [www.columbiambdacenter.com](http://www.columbiambdacenter.com)

### **Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Councils, Inc. (CVMSDC)**

**Web:** <http://www.cvmsdc.org/>

### **U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEAC)**

**Web:** [www.buyusa.gov/southcarolina](http://www.buyusa.gov/southcarolina)

### **Charleston Export Assistance**

**Website:** [www.export.gov/southcarolina](http://www.export.gov/southcarolina)

### **Greenville Office**

**Web:** [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The South Carolina Department of Commerce is committed to ensuring that South Carolinians have the education and training necessary to fill the most in-demand jobs. This section provides valuable insight into workforce resources offered in the state of South Carolina.

- **Regional Workforce Advisors:**

The South Carolina Department of Commerce is proud to introduce our newest addition to workforce development. Our 12 Regional Workforce Advisors bring together those who educate our students and those in the business community who rely on a talented labor pool in efforts to strengthen South Carolina's workforce.

- **ReadySC™**

The readySC™ program, offered through the South Carolina Technical College System, can coordinate training needs at no cost for eligible new or expanding companies throughout the state. The program works with the state's 16 technical colleges to develop training curriculum tailored to meet a company's workforce requirements. More than a quarter million workers have been trained since the program's inception. [www.readysc.org](http://www.readysc.org)

- **Apprenticeship Carolina Program**

Apprenticeship Carolina's primary mission is to ensure that all employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create their own demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs by working with the 16 technical colleges across the state. [www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com](http://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com)

- **Enterprise Zone Retraining Credit Program**

Manufacturing companies located in South Carolina may have the opportunity to utilize the Job Retraining Tax Credit (E-Zone) program in order to be reimbursed for certain training and education provided to employees. Subsequent to approval by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, companies may claim a credit of \$1,000 per employee credit against withholding taxes. [www.sctechsystem.edu](http://www.sctechsystem.edu)

- **Incumbent Worker Training**

Funds may be available to train current employees to meet changing skill requirements due to new technology, restructuring, new product lines and many other factors. An employer match is required. Funding priority is given to training that will lead to significant upgrades in employee skills or wages, or that will result in layoff aversion and better retention opportunities. Funding for this program is allocated annually.

- **On-the-Job Training**

On-the-Job training provides wage/salary reimbursement of up to 50-90 percent (depending on the size of the business) to compensate for costs associated with training new employees. The percentage and length of reimbursement varies by the size of a company, specific skills to be acquired for the job and local workforce area.

- **SC WorkReady Communities Initiative**

The SC Work Ready Communities provides a verifiable pool of workplace skills and is a tool used to measure the quality and capability of a county's workforce. The basic infrastructure builds upon ACT WorkKeys® a valid jobs skills assessment system and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is certifies workplace competencies in Applied Math, Reading for Information and Locating Information. [www.scworkready.org](http://www.scworkready.org)





## BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Many issues must be addressed when running a business – from insurance to process improvements, to taxes and supply chain relationships. Business operations are all activities associated with running a business that produce value for the business. Generating revenue efficiently and effectively is a vital part of owning and running a business – which makes it extremely important to consider all aspects of running a business when building a business plan.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Insurance to protect businesses as well as employees.
- Business tax filings and Certified Public Accountants.
- Operating efficiently and staying profitable.
- Energy costs and how businesses can reduce them.
- Business continuity and disaster planning. How will the business recover?
- Can a recycling program help your business?

### BUSINESS OPERATIONS RESOURCES

**Insurance:** Consider and research the different types of insurance related to running a business – Property & Casualty, Employee Health and Workers' Compensation to name a few. The South Carolina Insurance News Service provides insurance related information from around the state and country for business owners. Learn more at [www.scinsnews.com](http://www.scinsnews.com).

**Taxes:** It is important to develop a good working relationship with your accountant. Your accountant should be familiar with key tax dates and the necessary documentation. For more information, contact a local IRS tax office, the South Carolina Department of Revenue or the South Carolina Business One Stop. [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) , [www.scbos.com](http://www.scbos.com)

**Process Improvement/Operational Efficiency:** South Carolina's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and other industry related organizations are available to help with process improvement and operational efficiency. For more information about how MEP can help your business, visit [www.scmep.org](http://www.scmep.org).

## RECYCLING WORKS – BUSINESS RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Recycling can save your business money in avoided disposal costs – and may even produce revenue. Recycling also saves energy and natural resources. The **South Carolina Smart Business Recycling Program** provides free, confidential, non-regulatory technical assistance on recycling, waste reduction, beneficial reuse and other ways for businesses to conserve resources and improve their bottom line. The South Carolina Department of Commerce's easy-to-use **Recycling Business Directory** provides convenient search features that allow users to find outlets for recycling commodities.

For more information on recycling, visit the recycling section of [www.sccommerce.com](http://www.sccommerce.com) , or the South Carolina Smart Business Recycling Program at [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov).



## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS RESOURCES**

### **GSA – Federal Acquisition Service**

The Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) possesses unrivaled capability to deliver comprehensive products and services across government at the best value possible. FAS offers a continuum of innovative solutions and services in the areas of products and services, technology, motor vehicle management, transportation, travel and procurement and online acquisition tools.

### **GSA Technology Council**

**Web:** [www.gsafc.org](http://www.gsafc.org)

The GSA Technology Council provides networking, education and professional development opportunities to career minded information technology professionals and high tech entrepreneurs through its newsletter, meetings, expos and training programs.

### **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

**Web:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

helpful IRS resources:

- *Business and Specialty Helpline:*  
1 (800) 829-4933
- *Electronic Federal Tax Payment System:*  
[www.eftps.gov](http://www.eftps.gov) or 1 (800) 555-4477
- *Tax Forms and Publications:* [www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs) or  
1 (800) 829-3676
- *SC Insurance News Service:* 240 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 110,  
Columbia, SC 29210

### **KFR Services**

**Web:** [www.kfrservices.com](http://www.kfrservices.com)

This company provides specialized solutions for a diverse field of industries such as telecommunications, boating association management, and risk management.

### **Savannah River National Laboratory Tech Transfer Office**

**Web:** [www.srnldoe.gov](http://www.srnldoe.gov)

### **South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control - Green Hospitality Program**

**Web:** [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

This program is a free, voluntary program designed to help South Carolina's hospitality industry reduce the environmental impact of its operations and incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability in its business practices. It also promotes and recognizes hotels, restaurants and other hospitality facilities for their environmentally conscious practices.

### **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control South Carolina Materials Exchange**

**Web:** [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

The Exchange is a free, web-based service that seeks to reduce waste by facilitating the exchange of reusable materials by businesses, non-profit institutions and government agencies.

### **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control- Smart Business Recycling Program**

**Web:** [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

This program provides free, confidential, non-regulatory technical assistance on recycling, waste reduction, beneficial reuse and other ways for businesses to conserve resources and improve their bottom line.

### **South Carolina Department of Insurance**

**Web:** [www.doi.sc.gov](http://www.doi.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Insurance protects the insurance consumers, the public interest, and the insurance marketplace by ensuring the solvency of insurers; by enforcing and implementing the insurance laws of this State; and by regulating the insurance industry in an efficient, courteous, responsive, fair, and equitable manner.

### **South Carolina Insurance News Service**

**Web:** [www.scinsnews.com](http://www.scinsnews.com)

South Carolina Insurance Association (SCIA) is a nonprofit organization providing insurance information to consumers, companies, and the media. We are funded by insurance companies doing business in South Carolina and are primarily concerned with insurance issues affecting the people of South Carolina.

### **South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)**

**Web:** [www.scmep.org](http://www.scmep.org)

The SCMEP's mission is to partner with companies and agencies throughout the state to help to strategically improve their competitiveness, performance and profitability by driving growth and eliminating waste. With consultants located throughout the state and a manufacturing education facility in Greenville, the SCMEP works in all regions of the state and in all critical areas of business essential to improving manufacturing competitiveness.

### **University of South Carolina Office of Intellectual Property**

**Web:** [www.ip.research.sc.edu](http://www.ip.research.sc.edu)



## LOCAL AREA & OTHER RESOURCES

A business' success is dependent upon strong business connections – especially local connections. South Carolina has numerous local resources available to help get businesses up and running, and to help existing companies remain successful. Local resources consist of organizations that have the ability to connect businesses and key allies in the industry, both at the community level and throughout the state.

- **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

Local Economic Development professionals are employed by South Carolina counties and municipalities to provide assistance for business in their area. They work to promote and ensure the economic growth of their community and are available to assist any business.

- **SOUTH CAROLINA REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCES**

There are several economic development alliances within South Carolina. Each alliance services a particular region of the state, often combining the resources of several counties to promote growth. All are willing to assist companies relocating to or expanding within South Carolina.

- **CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND OTHER BUSINESS ADVOCATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Chambers of Commerce around the state serve the business community in a variety of ways. They promote the economic growth of communities and generally represent the business interests of the communities they serve. Chambers provide valuable resources that can greatly benefit a business.

- **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

South Carolina Council of Governments (COGs) are essential in assisting local governments with both local and regional development plans within the state. There are ten COGs in South Carolina, each representing a multi-county planning district.

- **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide technical business planning assistance and offer programs to assist businesses interested in access to federal procurement opportunities. SBDCs also provide assistance for firms interested in or capable of participating in the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

- **SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES**

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, which provides business assistance with free private counseling and low-cost group workshops.

- **INCUBATORS**

Business incubators are programs designed to assist in the successful development of entrepreneurial companies through a variety of business services and support. Incubators can help companies manage their business and provide valuable contacts that can accelerate any business.

## LOCAL AREA & OTHER RESOURCES

### ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

#### **Lowcountry Local First**

**Web:** [www.lowcountrylocalfirst.org](http://www.lowcountrylocalfirst.org)

Lowcountry Local First is a non-profit organization with a mission to advocate the benefits of a local living economy by strengthening community support of our local independent businesses and farmers. They offer co-working space, local business networking, mentorship, GOOD Business Summit, farm apprenticeship, incubation and workshops.

#### **Health Sciences South Carolina**

**Web:** [www.healthsciencessc.org](http://www.healthsciencessc.org)

The mission of Health Sciences South Carolina is to support our members in improving the health of all South Carolinians by collaborating across the state of South Carolina with the goal of enabling evidence based research.

#### **Lowcountry Manufacturers Council**

**Web:** [www.lmcsc.org](http://www.lmcsc.org)

The Lowcountry Manufacturers Council is an organization focused on the unique issues and common goals of the manufacturing sector. The mission is to enhance the competitiveness, promote development of the lowcountry of South Carolina.

#### **Council on Competitiveness**

**Web:** [www.sccompetes.org](http://www.sccompetes.org)

The Council on Competitiveness is a public-private partnership working to increase South Carolina's prosperity and enhance South Carolina's economic success through a cluster development strategy. The Council's mission is to find, build and celebrate industry clusters in South Carolina and to improve the business environment for better growth.

#### **SC Automotive Council**

**Web:** [www.scautomotivecouncil.com](http://www.scautomotivecouncil.com)

The South Carolina Automotive Council (SCAC) is a division of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance that is the state's leading organization dedicated to advancing the state's automotive manufacturing sector in a global marketplace. The SCAC provides resources and addresses the needs of automotive manufacturers by working collaboratively, collectively, and serving as a conduit among automotive manufacturers and regional allies. Partners of the Council include CU-ICAR and multiple regional economic development offices throughout South Carolina.

#### **SC Manufacturers Alliance**

**Web:** [www.myscma.com](http://www.myscma.com)

#### **National Federation of Independent Businesses**

**Web:** [www.nfib.com](http://www.nfib.com)

The National Federation of Independent Business is America's leading small business association. The NFIB protect your right to own, operate, and grow your small business. The state and federal advocacy, business advice, and membership benefits cover a range of small business across many industries.

#### **South Carolina Arts Commission**

**Web:** [www.southcarolinaarts.com](http://www.southcarolinaarts.com)

#### **South Carolina Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.scchamber.net](http://www.scchamber.net)

#### **South Carolina Economic Developers' Association**

**Web:** [www.sceda.org](http://www.sceda.org)

The South Carolina Economic Developers' Association is a not for profit organization of 550+ members whose primary objective is to increase the effectiveness of individuals involved in the practice of economic development in South Carolina by encouraging cooperation, exchange of information and promotion of professional skills.

#### **South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

**Website:** [www.schcc.org](http://www.schcc.org)

The South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was incorporated on August 30, 2007. Recognizing the need of an organization that could represent and help the growing Hispanic business community, the Chamber comes in a crucial moment in the Hispanic community. Although in the early stages, we are working toward a strong foundation, building up membership and community awareness of the existence of the Chamber. Our vision is to become a proactive Hispanic chamber of commerce by providing leadership and serving as a bridge between community leaders, different cultures, and the community at large.

#### **South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance**

**Web:** [www.myscma.com](http://www.myscma.com)

#### **South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.scsbc.org](http://www.scsbc.org)

#### **STEMLinX**

**Web:** [www.sccoalition.org](http://www.sccoalition.org)



## **LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.abbevillescchamber.com](http://www.abbevillescchamber.com)

**South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.scachamber.com](http://www.scachamber.com)

**Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.aikenchamber.net](http://www.aikenchamber.net)

**Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.andersonscchamber.com](http://www.andersonscchamber.com)

**Bamberg County Chamber**  
Web: [www.bambergcountychamber.org](http://www.bambergcountychamber.org)

**Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.barnwellcountychamber.org](http://www.barnwellcountychamber.org)

**Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center**  
Web: [www.batesburg-leesvillechamber.org](http://www.batesburg-leesvillechamber.org)

**Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.beaufortchamber.org](http://www.beaufortchamber.org)

**Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.berkeleysc.org](http://www.berkeleysc.org)

**Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.calhouncountychamber.org](http://www.calhouncountychamber.org)

**Greater Chapin Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.chapinchamber.com](http://www.chapinchamber.com)

**Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.charlestonchamber.net](http://www.charlestonchamber.net)

**Greater Cheraw Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.cherawchamber.com](http://www.cherawchamber.com)

**Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.cherokeechamber.org](http://www.cherokeechamber.org)

**Chester County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.chesterchamber.com](http://www.chesterchamber.com)

**Greater Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.chesterfieldscchamber.com](http://www.chesterfieldscchamber.com)

**Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.clarendoncounty.com](http://www.clarendoncounty.com)

**Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.clemsonchamber.org](http://www.clemsonchamber.org)

**Greater Clover Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.cloverchamber.org](http://www.cloverchamber.org)

**Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.columbiachamber.com](http://www.columbiachamber.com)

**Conway Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.conwayscchamber.com](http://www.conwayscchamber.com)

**Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.darlingtonchamber.net](http://www.darlingtonchamber.net)

**Dillon County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.dilloncitysc.com](http://www.dilloncitysc.com)

**Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.easleychamber.org](http://www.easleychamber.org)

**Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.edgefieldcountychamber.org](http://www.edgefieldcountychamber.org)

**Edisto Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.edistochamber.com](http://www.edistochamber.com)

**Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.fairfieldchamber.sc](http://www.fairfieldchamber.sc)

**Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.flochamber.com](http://www.flochamber.com)

**Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.fountaininnchamber.org](http://www.fountaininnchamber.org)

**Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.visitgeorge.com](http://www.visitgeorge.com)

**Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org)

**Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Web: [www.greenwoodscchamber.org](http://www.greenwoodscchamber.org)





## **LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.greerchamber.com](http://www.greerchamber.com)

**Hampton County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.hamptoncountychamber.org](http://www.hamptoncountychamber.org)

**Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.hartsvillechamber.org](http://www.hartsvillechamber.org)

**Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.hiltonheadisland.org](http://www.hiltonheadisland.org)

**Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.greaterirmochamber.com](http://www.greaterirmochamber.com)

**Jasper County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.jaspersc.org](http://www.jaspersc.org)

**Greater Inman Area Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.inmanscchamber.org](http://www.inmanscchamber.org)

**Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.kershawcountychamber.org](http://www.kershawcountychamber.org)

**Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.lakewyliesc.com](http://www.lakewyliesc.com)

**Lancaster County Chamber**

Web: [www.lancasterchambersc.org](http://www.lancasterchambersc.org)

**Laurens County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.laurenscounty.org](http://www.laurenscounty.org)

**Lee County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.leecountychambersc.com](http://www.leecountychambersc.com)

**Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.lexingtonsc.org](http://www.lexingtonsc.org)

**Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.libertychamberofcommerce.com](http://www.libertychamberofcommerce.com)

**Little River Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.littleriverchamber.org](http://www.littleriverchamber.org)

**Loris Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.lorischambersc.com](http://www.lorischambersc.com)

**Marion Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.marionscchamber.com](http://www.marionscchamber.com)

**Greater Mauldin Area Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.mauldinchamber.org](http://www.mauldinchamber.org)

**McCormick County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.mccormickscchamber.org](http://www.mccormickscchamber.org)

**Midland Valley Area Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.midlandvalleyareachamberofcommerce.com](http://www.midlandvalleyareachamberofcommerce.com)

**Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.mullinschamber.sc](http://www.mullinschamber.sc)

**Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com](http://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com)

**Newberry County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.newberrycounty.org](http://www.newberrycounty.org)

**Ninety Six Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.96chamberofcommerce.com](http://www.96chamberofcommerce.com)

**Greater North Augusta Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.northaugustachamber.org](http://www.northaugustachamber.org)

**North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.northmyrtlebeachchamber.com](http://www.northmyrtlebeachchamber.com)

**Oconee Pickens Chamber Coalition**

*(See Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce)*

**Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.orangeburgchamber.com](http://www.orangeburgchamber.com)

**Pageland Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.pagelandchamber.com](http://www.pagelandchamber.com)

**Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.pickenschamber.net](http://www.pickenschamber.net)

**Oconee County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.oconeechambersc.com](http://www.oconeechambersc.com)

**Saluda County Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.saludacountychamber.sc](http://www.saludacountychamber.sc)

**Sea Islands Chamber of Commerce**

Web: [www.seaislandschamber.org](http://www.seaislandschamber.org)



## **LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.simpsonvillechamber.com](http://www.simpsonvillechamber.com)

**Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.spartanburgchamber.com](http://www.spartanburgchamber.com)

**The Greater Summerville-Dorchester Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.greatersummerville.org](http://www.greatersummerville.org)

**Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.sumterchamber.com](http://www.sumterchamber.com)

**Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.tri-crcc.com](http://www.tri-crcc.com)

**Union County Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.unionsc.com](http://www.unionsc.com)

**Walhalla Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.walhallasc.com](http://www.walhallasc.com)

**Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.walterboro.org](http://www.walterboro.org)

**West Metro Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.westmetrochamber.sc](http://www.westmetrochamber.sc)

**Westminster Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.westminstersc.com](http://www.westminstersc.com)

**Williamsburg HomeTown Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.williamsburgsc.org](http://www.williamsburgsc.org)

**Greater York Chamber of Commerce**

**Web:** [www.greateryorkchamber.com](http://www.greateryorkchamber.com)

**York County Regional Chamber**

**Web:** [www.yorkcountychamber.com](http://www.yorkcountychamber.com)



## LOCAL AREA & OTHER RESOURCES

### SOUTH CAROLINA'S COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT



#### **Appalachian Council of Governments**

*(Serving Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg Counties)*

**Web:** [www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org)

#### **Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments**

*(Serving Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties)*

Ronald E. Mitchum

**Web:** [www.bcdkog.com](http://www.bcdkog.com)

**Catawba Regional Council of Governments** *(Serving Chester, Lancaster Union, York Counties)*

**Web:** [www.catawbacog.org](http://www.catawbacog.org)

**Central Midlands Council of Governments** *(Serving Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Counties)*

**Web:** [www.centralmidlands.org](http://www.centralmidlands.org)

**Lowcountry Council of Governments** *(Serving Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper Counties)*

**Website:** [www.lowcountrycog.sc.gov](http://www.lowcountrycog.sc.gov)

**Lower Savannah Council of Governments** *(Serving Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Orangeburg Counties)*

**Web:** [www.lscog.org](http://www.lscog.org)

**Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments** *(Serving Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro Counties)*

**Web:** [www.peedeecog.org](http://www.peedeecog.org)

**Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments** *(Serving Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter Counties)*

**Web:** [www.santeelynchescog.org](http://www.santeelynchescog.org)

#### **Upper Savannah Council of Governments**

*(Serving Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda Counties)*

**Web:** [www.upperscworks.com](http://www.upperscworks.com)

**Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments** *(Serving Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg Counties)*

**Web:** [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org)

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

**Economic Development Partnership** *(Serving Aiken, Edgefield, Saluda Counties)*

**Web:** [www.edpsc.org](http://www.edpsc.org)

#### **Central SC Alliance**

*(Serving Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland Counties)*

**Web:** [www.centralsc.org](http://www.centralsc.org)

**Charleston Regional Development Alliance** *(Serving Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties)*

**Web:** [www.charlestoneconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.charlestoneconomicdevelopment.com)

#### **Charlotte Regional Partnership**

*(Serving Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York Counties)*

**Web:** [www.charlotteusa.com](http://www.charlotteusa.com)

#### **North Eastern Strategic Alliance**

*(Serving Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, Williamsburg Counties)*

**Web:** [www.scbusinesscorner.com](http://www.scbusinesscorner.com)



## **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

**Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance** (*Serving Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper Counties*)  
**Web:** [www.southerncarolina.org](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

**South Carolina I-77 Alliance**  
(*Serving Chester, Fairfield, Richland, York Counties*)  
**Web:** [www.i77alliance.com](http://www.i77alliance.com)

**Upstate Alliance**  
(*Serving Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union Counties*)  
**Web:** [www.upstatealliance.com](http://www.upstatealliance.com)

## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

**Abbeville County Development Board**  
**Web:** [www.discoverabbeville.com](http://www.discoverabbeville.com)

**Aiken County – Economic Development Partnership**  
**Web:** [www.edpsc.org](http://www.edpsc.org)

**Anderson County Economic Development**  
**Web:** [www.andersonpartnership.com](http://www.andersonpartnership.com)

**Allendale County-Southern Carolina Alliance**  
**Web:** [www.southerncarolina.org](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

**Bamberg County-Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance**  
**Web:** [www.southerncarolina.org](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

**Barnwell County Economic Development Commission**  
**Web:** [www.locatebarnwellcountysc.com](http://www.locatebarnwellcountysc.com)

**Beaufort County**  
**Web:** [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)

**Berkeley County Economic Development**  
**Web:** [www.berkeleycountysc.gov](http://www.berkeleycountysc.gov)

**Calhoun County – Central SC Alliance**  
**Web:** [www.centralsc.org](http://www.centralsc.org)

**Charleston County Economic Development**  
**Web:** [www.charlestoncountydevelopment.com](http://www.charlestoncountydevelopment.com)

**Cherokee County Development Board**  
**Web:** [www.cherokeecountydevelopmentboard.org](http://www.cherokeecountydevelopmentboard.org)

**Chester County Economic Development**  
Karlisa Parker, SCCED Director  
The Gateway  
3200 Commerce Drive, Suite B  
Richburg, SC 29729  
**Phone:** (803) 377-1216  
**Fax:** (803) 377-2102  
**Email:** [kparker@choosechester.com](mailto:kparker@choosechester.com)  
**Web:** [ChooseChester.com](http://ChooseChester.com)

**Chesterfield County Economic Development Board**  
Kim Burch, Executive Director  
105 Green Street  
Chesterfield, SC 29709  
**Phone:** (843) 623-6500  
**Fax:** (843) 623-3167  
**Email:** [kimburchccc@shtc.net](mailto:kimburchccc@shtc.net)  
**Web:** [www.chesterfieldcountysc.com](http://www.chesterfieldcountysc.com)

**City of Columbia**  
**Office of Economic Development**  
Ryan Coleman, Director  
1201 Main Street, Suite 250  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** (803) 734-2700  
**Email:** [rtcoleman@columbiasc.net](mailto:rtcoleman@columbiasc.net)  
**Web:** [www.columbia.sc.gov](http://www.columbia.sc.gov)

**Clarendon County Development Board**  
George Kosinski, Executive Director  
411 Sunset Drive  
Manning, SC 29102  
**Phone:** (803) 435-8813  
**Email:** [gkosinski@clarendoncountygov.org](mailto:gkosinski@clarendoncountygov.org)



## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

### **Colleton County Economic Alliance, Inc.**

Heyward Horton, Executive Director  
520A N Jeffries Boulevard  
Walterboro, SC 29488-2931

**Phone:** (843) 549-9597

**Fax:** (843) 549-6937

**Email:** [hhorton@cceainc.com](mailto:hhorton@cceainc.com)

**Web:** [www.cceainc.com](http://www.cceainc.com)

### **Darlington County Economic Development Partnership**

Frank Willis, Executive Director  
1951 Pisgah Road, SIMT Incubator Bldg.,  
Ste. 120

Post Office Box 100549

Darlington, SC 29502

**Phone:** (843) 413-3210

**Email:** [fwillis@dcedp.biz](mailto:fwillis@dcedp.biz)

**Web:** [www.dcedp.biz](http://www.dcedp.biz)

### **Dillon County Economic Development Board**

Tonny McNeil, Economic Development Director  
P.O. Box 911

Dillon, SC 29536

**Phone:** (843) 774-1402

**Fax:** (843) 841-3872

**Email:** [dilloncountymb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dilloncountymb@bellsouth.net)

**Web:** [www.dilloncounty.org](http://www.dilloncounty.org)

### **Dorchester County Economic Development**

John M. Truluck, Director

402 N Main Street

Summerville, SC 29483

**Phone:** (843) 875-9109

**Fax:** (843) 821-9994

**Email:** [john@dorchesterforbusiness.com](mailto:john@dorchesterforbusiness.com)

**Web:** [www.dorchesterforbusiness.com](http://www.dorchesterforbusiness.com)

### **Edgefield County - Economic Development Partnership**

Will Williams, President & CEO

P.O. Box 1708

Aiken, SC 29802

**Phone:** (803) 641-3300

**Fax:** (803) 641-3369

**Email:** [wwilliams@edpsc.org](mailto:wwilliams@edpsc.org)

**Web:** [www.edpsc.org](http://www.edpsc.org)

### **Fairfield County Economic Development Department**

Economic Development Director

P.O. Drawer 60

Winnsboro, SC 29180

**Phone:** (803) 712-1923

**Fax:** (803) 712-1394

**Web:** [www.fairfieldcountysc.com](http://www.fairfieldcountysc.com)

### **Florence County Economic Development Partnership**

Joe King, Executive Director

P.O. Box 100549

Florence, SC 29502-0549

**Phone:** (843) 676-8796

**Fax:** (843) 676-8799

**Email:** [jwking@florenceco.org](mailto:jwking@florenceco.org)

**Web:** [www.fcedp.com](http://www.fcedp.com)

### **Georgetown County Economic Development**

Brian Tucker

16 Prince Street

Georgetown, SC 29440

**Phone:** (843) 545-3163

**Fax:** (843) 545-3121

**Email:** [btucker@gtcounty.org](mailto:btucker@gtcounty.org)

**Web:** [www.seegeorgetown.com](http://www.seegeorgetown.com)

### **Greenville Area Development Corporation**

J. Mark Farris, CEC President & CEO

233 N Main Street, Suite 250

Greenville, SC 29601

**Web:** [www.greenvilleeconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.greenvilleeconomicdevelopment.com)

**Email:** [mfarris@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:mfarris@greenvillecounty.org)

**Phone:** (864) 235-2008

### **Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce: Diversity & Inclusion**

Nika White, Vice President

24 Cleveland Street

Greenville, SC 29601

**Phone:** 864-239-3727

**Fax:** 864-282-8509

**Email:** [nwhite@greenvillechamber.org](mailto:nwhite@greenvillechamber.org)

**Web:** [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org)

CAPACITY is the Greenville Chamber's initiative designed to foster economic development through diversity and inclusion. The CAPACITY initiative facilitates building structure within the community to increase capacity, enhance economic development and create leadership opportunities for diverse business owners and professionals.

### **Greenwood Partnership Alliance**

Heather Simmons Jones, CEO

104 Maxwell Ave

Greenwood, SC 29646

**Phone:** (864) 388-1250

**Email:** [hjones@partnershipalliance.com](mailto:hjones@partnershipalliance.com)

**Web:** [www.partnershipalliance.com](http://www.partnershipalliance.com)





## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

### **Greer Development Corporation**

Reno Deaton, Executive Director

111-B South Main Street

Greer, SC 29650

**Phone:** (864) 416-0125

**Email:** [rdeaton@greerdevelopment.com](mailto:rdeaton@greerdevelopment.com)

**Web:** [www.greerdevelopment.com](http://www.greerdevelopment.com)

### **Hampton County – Southern Carolina Alliance**

Brantley Strickland, Project Manager

Southern Carolina Alliance

P.O. Box 672

Hampton, SC 29924

**Phone:** (803) 914-2141

**Fax:** (803) 914-2144

**Email:** [bstrickland@southerncarolina.org](mailto:bstrickland@southerncarolina.org)

**Web:** [southerncarolina.org](http://southerncarolina.org)

### **Hardeeville Development**

LeNolon Edge

Business Assistance Programs – Business Forums

205 E Main Street

Hardeeville, SC 29927

**Phone:** (843) 784-2231

**Fax:** (843) 784-6384

**Email:** [ledge@cityofhardeeville.com](mailto:ledge@cityofhardeeville.com)

**Web:** [www.cityofhardeeville.com](http://www.cityofhardeeville.com)

### **Jasper County – Southern Carolina Alliance**

Phil Richardson, Project Manager

P.O. Box 1149

Ridgeland, SC 29936

**Phone:** (843) 726-7703

**Email:** [PRichardson@southerncarolina.org](mailto:PRichardson@southerncarolina.org)

**Web:** [www.jaspercountysc.org](http://www.jaspercountysc.org)

### **Kershaw County Economic Development Office**

Peggy McLean Director

P.O. Box 763

Camden, SC 29021

**Phone:** (803) 425-7685

**Fax:** (803) 425-7687

**Email:** [econ.develop@kershaw.sc.gov](mailto:econ.develop@kershaw.sc.gov)

**Web:** [www.kershawcountysc.org](http://www.kershawcountysc.org)

### **Lancaster County Economic Development Corporation**

Keith Tunnell, President

1033 West Meeting Street

Lancaster, SC 29721

**Phone:** (803) 285-9471

**Email:** [keith.tunnell@lancasterscworks.com](mailto:keith.tunnell@lancasterscworks.com)

**Web:** [www.Lancasterscworks.com](http://www.Lancasterscworks.com)

### **Laurens County Development Commission**

Marvin Moss Executive Director

P.O. Box 427 Laurens, SC 29360

**Phone:** (864) 939-0580

**Fax:** (864) 939-0016

**Email:** [mmoss@laurenscounty.org](mailto:mmoss@laurenscounty.org)

**Web:** [www.laurenscounty.org](http://www.laurenscounty.org)

### **Lee County – TheLink**

Jay Schwedler, Director

32 E Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

**Phone:** (803) 418-0700

**Fax:** (803) 775-0915

**Email:** [jschwedler@sumter-sc.com](mailto:jschwedler@sumter-sc.com)

**Web:** [www.sumteredge.com](http://www.sumteredge.com)

### **Lexington County Department of Economic Development**

Charlton Whipple Director

212 S Lake Drive, Suite 502

Lexington, SC 29072

**Phone:** (803) 785-8147

**Fax:** (803) 785-2240

**Email:** [cwhipple@lex-co.com](mailto:cwhipple@lex-co.com)

**Web:** [www.lexingtoncountyscusa.com](http://www.lexingtoncountyscusa.com)

### **Marion County Economic Development Commission**

Dr. Julie Norman, Executive Director

P.O. Box 840

Marion, SC 29571

**Phone:** (843) 423-8235

**Fax:** (843) 423-8233

**Email:** [jnorman@marionsc.org](mailto:jnorman@marionsc.org)

**Web:** [www.marioncountysc.com](http://www.marioncountysc.com)

### **Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership**

Ronald King

P.O. Box 653

Bennettsville, SC 29512

**Phone:** (843) 479-5626

**Fax:** (843) 479-2663

**Email:** [R.king@marlborocounty.sc.gov](mailto:R.king@marlborocounty.sc.gov)

**Web:** [www.marlborocounty.sc.org](http://www.marlborocounty.sc.org)



## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

### **McCormick County Economic Development**

Thessa Smith, Economic Director  
362 Airport Road  
McCormick, SC 29835  
**Phone:** (864) 852-0427  
**Fax:** (864) 852-2783  
**Email:** [tsmith@mccormickcountysc.org](mailto:tsmith@mccormickcountysc.org)  
**Web:** [www.mccormickcountysc.gov](http://www.mccormickcountysc.gov)

### **Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation**

Fred Robinson, Chair  
2050 Highway, 501 E (Building 900)  
Conway, SC 29526  
**Phone:** (843) 347-4604  
**Web:** [www.mbredc.org](http://www.mbredc.org)

### **Newberry County Economic Development**

Rick Farmer, Director  
P.O. Box 381  
Newberry, SC 29108  
**Phone:** (803) 321-2042  
**Fax:** (803) 321-2094  
**Email:** [rfarmer@newberrycounty.net](mailto:rfarmer@newberrycounty.net)  
**Web:** [www.newberrycountysc.org](http://www.newberrycountysc.org)

### **Oconee Economic Alliance**

Richard K. Blackwell, SCCED Executive Director  
528 Bypass 123, Suite G  
Seneca, SC 29678  
**Phone:** (864) 638-4210  
**Email:** [rblackwell@oconeesc.com](mailto:rblackwell@oconeesc.com)  
**Web:** [www.investoconee.sc.com](http://www.investoconee.sc.com)

### **Office of Economic Engagement, University of South Carolina**

Bill Kirkland, Executive Director  
541 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** 803-777-0066  
**Email:** [Kirkland@sc.edu](mailto:Kirkland@sc.edu)  
The Office of Economic Engagement at USC serves as a single point of contact for business and industry partners to connect to all of the resources of the university including USC's intellectual property assets, research expertise, student talent and more. In addition, the Office of Economic Engagement is responsible for coordinating with university centers and institutes dedicated to program specific entrepreneurship that provide mentoring and technical assistance to budding companies as well as the management of current and future Innovista district facilities, including laboratory space in IdeaLabs.

### **Orangeburg County Development Commission**

C. Gregory "Gregg" Robinson, Executive Director  
125 Regional Parkway, Suite 100  
Orangeburg, SC 29118  
**Phone:** (803) 536-3333  
**Fax:** (803) 534-1165  
**Email:** [grobinson@ocdc.com](mailto:grobinson@ocdc.com)  
**Web:** [www.ocdc.com](http://www.ocdc.com)

### **Pickens County – Alliance Pickens**

A. Ray Farley II, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 149 Pickens, SC 29657  
**Phone:** (864) 898-1500 Ext. 100  
**Fax:** (864) 843-5790  
**Email:** [rfarley@alliancepickens.com](mailto:rfarley@alliancepickens.com)  
**Web:** [www.alliancepickens.com](http://www.alliancepickens.com)

### **Richland County**

Jeff Ruble, Director of Economic Development  
1201 Main Street, Suite 910  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** 803-576-2043  
**Fax:** 803-576-2137  
**Email:** [lindsayn@rcgov.us](mailto:lindsayn@rcgov.us)  
**Web:** [www.richlandcountysc.com](http://www.richlandcountysc.com)

### **Saluda County - Economic Development Partnership**

Will Williams, President & CEO  
P.O. Box 1708  
Aiken, SC 29802  
**Phone:** (803) 641-3300  
**Fax:** (803) 641-3369  
**Email:** [wwilliams@edpsc.org](mailto:wwilliams@edpsc.org)  
**Web:** [www.edpsc.org](http://www.edpsc.org)

### **Spartanburg Economic Futures Group**

R. Carter Smith, CECD Executive Vice President  
P.O. Box 1636  
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304  
**Phone:** (864) 594-5042  
**Fax:** (864) 594-5017  
**Email:** [csmith@spartanburgchamber.com](mailto:csmith@spartanburgchamber.com)  
**Web:** [www.economicfuturesgroup.com](http://www.economicfuturesgroup.com)  
**Web:** [www.spartanburgchamber.com](http://www.spartanburgchamber.com)



## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS**

### **TheLink & Sumter Economic Development**

Jay Schwedler, Director  
32 E Calhoun Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
**Phone:** (803) 418-0700  
**Fax:** (803) 775-0915  
**Email:** [jschwedler@sumter-sc.com](mailto:jschwedler@sumter-sc.com)  
**Web:** [www.sumteredge.com](http://www.sumteredge.com)

### **Union County Development Board**

Kathy Jo Lancaster, Executive Director  
207 S Herndon Street  
Union, SC 29379  
**Phone:** (864) 319-1097  
**Fax:** (864) 427-1099  
**Email:** [klancaster@uniondevelopmentboard.com](mailto:klancaster@uniondevelopmentboard.com)  
**Web:** [www.uniondevelopmentboard.com](http://www.uniondevelopmentboard.com)

### **Williamsburg County Development Board**

F. Hilton McGill Jr., Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1132  
Kingstree, SC 29556  
**Phone:** (843) 382-9393  
**Fax:** (843) 382-5353  
**Email:** [f.mcgill@williamsburgcounty.sc.gov](mailto:f.mcgill@williamsburgcounty.sc.gov)  
**Web:** [www.williamsburgcountydevelopment.com](http://www.williamsburgcountydevelopment.com)

### **York County Economic Development Board**

David Swenson, Executive Director  
1830 Second Baxter Crossing  
Fort Mill, SC 29708  
**Phone:** (803) 802-4300  
**Email:** [david.swenson@yorkcountygov.com](mailto:david.swenson@yorkcountygov.com)  
**Web:** [www.yorkcountyed.com](http://www.yorkcountyed.com)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### HOW DO I START A BUSINESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA?

Starting a business should be an easy process. The first steps you should take include: obtaining a Federal Employer ID Number (EIN) or Federal Tax ID Number; registering your business with the state of South Carolina through the South Carolina Business One Stop (SCBOS); and getting a local business license anywhere you plan to conduct business. You should also use and take advantage of the resources outlined in this guide on how to successfully start and run a business. Check out the **GETTING STARTED** section for more information.

### WHERE DO I GET A BUSINESS LICENSE?

Your local City Hall can assist you in obtaining a business license. The state does not have a business license requirement, but most cities and towns do. There are also eight counties that require additional business licenses, so check with your local municipality to determine their requirements. Check out the **LICENSES, PERMITS AND REGULATIONS** section for more information.

### WHAT OTHER FORMS WILL I NEEDS TO START MY BUSINESS?

Depending on the type of business you are starting, you may need to have an Occupational Permit. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation has a listing of occupations that may require permitting. Check out the **LICENSES, PERMITS AND REGULATIONS** section for more information.

### WHERE CAN I GET ASSISTANCE WITH MY BUSINESS PLAN?

Organizations like SCORE and the Small Business Development Centers are great resources for business planning and their services are free. Check out the **GETTING STARTED** section for more information.

### ARE THERE ANY GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS?

Grants generally do not exist for for-profit businesses of any size. In South Carolina, grants are used primarily to fund public infrastructure and such grants are still extremely competitive. This infrastructure may benefit a for-profit company and is usually based on capital investment and job creation. Check out the **FINANCING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS** section for more information.

### HOW DO I FINANCE MY BUSINESS?

Assistance from personal resources, such as family and friends, followed by traditional financing through a local lending institution are the most common methods for funding your startup business. Some businesses may qualify for assistance in the form of loan guarantees from the Small Business Administration (SBA). Many banks have departments that specialize in SBA lending. An SBA representative can help you to prepare your application for a loan. Check out the **FINANCING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS** section for more information.