

## **Help for Small Businesses/ Assistance/Grants**

With the information age upon us, there is so much information available on the internet. Your first stop for business information and training is the Arkansas Small Business Development Center which is accessible online at; <http://asbtdc.org/> . It is suggested that you enroll in some of their 3-hour workshops and download some of their free information such as booklets entitled “New Venture Guide” and “Business Blueprints; Is your Business Idea Feasible”. In addition to free information, the Arkansas Small Business Development Centers also have a tremendous amount of resources for your use and offer free consulting to small businesses. Arkansas Small Business Development Centers are located in Arkadelphia, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia and Montecello. Listed below are some additional places to go for assistance.

### **Business Training and Advisory Services**

Entrepreneurial Service Center  
2301 S. University Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
501/671-2000

Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE)  
320 W. Capitol, Suite 601  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/378-5813

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Central Office  
100 S. Main St., Suite 401  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/324-9043

### **Entrepreneurship Support Network**

Association of Arkansas Entrepreneurs  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock Entrepreneurial Center  
100 S. Main, Suite 401  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/371-5381

### **Government Contracting**

Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center  
103 E. Page  
Malvern, AR 72014  
501/337-4866

Industrial Marketing Services  
P.O. Box 1239  
Magnolia, AR 71753  
870/235-4375

U.S. Small Business Administration  
320 W. Capitol, Suite 601  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/378-5871

**International Trade and Education**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Foreign and Commercial Services  
Savers Building, Suite 811, 320 W. Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/378-5794

Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
Marketing Division International  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/682-1121

Arkansas Development Finance Authority  
Export Finance Office  
100 S. Main,  
P. O. Box 8023  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
501/682-5900

University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Office of International Programs  
Ottenheimer Library, Room 505  
2801 S. University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
501/569-3374

U.S. Small Business Administration  
320 W. Capitol, Suite 601  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/378-5871

**Inventor Support Networks**

Arkansas Inventors Congress  
P.O. Box 1784  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
501/682-7377

University of Arkansas Center for Technology Transfer Engineering Research Center  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
479/575-3156

## **Patents and Trademarks**

Arkansas State Library U.S. Patent Depository  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/682-2053

Office of Public Affairs  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20203  
703/557-3341

## **Technical Assistance:**

Graduate Institute of Technology  
2801 S. University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
501/569-8000

University of Arkansas Center for Technology Transfer  
Engineering Research Center  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
479/575-3156

## **Marketing Resource Information**

List of Helpful Websites for Small Business Startup and Marketing Research (From the Arkansas Small Business Development Center)

Agriculture Handbook 2001-2002/Chapter 2;  
<http://www.usda.gov/factbook/chapter2.htm>.  
-Profiles food consumption in America.

American Fact Finder;  
<http://factfinder.census.gov>.  
- Is part of the Census Bureau website that offers community profiles, population and housing facts, and industry and business facts.

Bureau of Labor Statistics;  
<http://stats.bls.gov>.  
-Provides wage and labor statistics.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance  
<http://www.cfda.gov/>.

Census Dept. State and County Quickfacts;  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd>.

Claritas

<http://claritas.com>.

-Is a marketing information resources company dedicated to helping companies engaged in consumer and business-to-business marketing.

ESRI

<http://www.esribis.com/reports/ziplookup.html>.

-See demographic data for a ZIP Code of your choice.

Employment Laws Assistance for Employees and Small Businesses

<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/>.

Institute for Economic Advancement;

<http://www.aiea.ualr.edu/>.

- Excellent source for Arkansas-specific data

IRS Homepage;

<http://www.irs.gov/>.

-Information on federal taxes.

Legal Information Center

<http://www.lawinfo.com/>.

- Free legal information and over 85,000 free downloadable legal forms by state

### **Grant Sources**

Whether you are an entrepreneur trying to get a food processing business started or an existing business needing to grow, there are grants available. Listed below are some of the more common grants;

Learn to write proposals for free at; <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/tutorials/shortcourse/index.html>. This online course takes you through the steps of writing a grant proposal.

For a list of possible grant funders, I suggest you join the Foundation Center for \$20-\$30/month and get access to over 10,000 grant funders. To obtain this service, go to; <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/>. and join in the BASIC or PLUS programs.

Winrock International- [www.winrock.org](http://www.winrock.org). Under U.S. Programs, assistance and grants for community and economic development including strengthening rural business and cooperative development.

Producer Groups- Some funding is available from producer groups such as American Egg Board, National Cattleman's Assn, National Pork Producers Council etc but these grants tend to be for basic scientific research. For details, go to the producer websites listed in another section of this website.

## **Federal Government Grant Sources**

1) USDA - [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Source for all U.S. government grants

2) Small Farm Program –

<http://nifa.usda.gov/program/family-small-farm-program>

Government assistance and grants for small farms

3) Small Business Innovation Research -

Gives grants for new technology or the application of technology to address problems and opportunities that exist in rural areas. They generally fund up to \$80,000 for phase I and \$300,000 for phase II work. University involvement is strongly encouraged.

Industry/ Business writes the proposal to obtain the grant money with university help, if desired. To learn more, check there website at;

<http://nifa.usda.gov/program/small-business-innovation-research-program>

4) Sustainable Development Program-

<http://www.sare.org/publications/limited-resource.htm>.

5) Community Food Projects-

<http://nifa.usda.gov/program/community-food-projects-competitive-grant-program-cfpcgp>

6) Rural-Business Cooperative Service of the USDA- Provides grants for rural businesses. Provide grants for feasibility studies, marketing strategies, business plans, equipment etc. They also provide help setting up cooperatives. Go to their website at;

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs>

7) Community Food Security Coalition <http://www.foodsecurity.org/funding.html>.

Provides assistance to prospective applicants for food projects funding.

8) Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-cooperative-development-grant-program>

Grants made for establishing and operating center for cooperative development for improving the economic condition of rural areas.

9) Rural Development- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>. For value-added producer grants.

10) Farmers Market Development- <http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants>

### **11) The National AgLaw Center**

The National AgLaw Center website contains numerous links to laws regarding agriculture.

<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/>

