

NEW ORLEANS AREA SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

This guide is a work in progress. Please call (504) 525-5056, ext. 201 to make any updates, additions, or clarifications to this document.

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Small Business Advocacy & Information Guides

Arts Council of New Orleans- *Art Advocacy for Individuals and Groups/ Art Grants/ Benefits for Artists*

The Arts Council of New Orleans is a private, non-profit organization designated as the City's official arts agency. The Arts Council works in partnership with the City of New Orleans, community groups, local, state, and national governmental agencies, and other nonprofit arts organizations to meet the arts and cultural needs of the New Orleans community through a diversity of initiatives and services. The Arts Council works to:

- Advocate for artists and cultural interests
- Administer grants programs
- Serve as one of the eight regional re-granting agencies for the Louisiana Division of the Arts
- Administer the Percent of Art program for the City of New Orleans designed to provide art as an integral part of social well-being and a livable City
- Provide services to member organizations and individual artists through its Arts Business Program, which includes providing access to legal assistance, health insurance, and a credit union
- Conduct local art shows and festivals
- Develop the Cultural Economy: Louisiana Artworks is both a facility and a program targeting economic development through a combination of culture and commerce

Eligibility: To apply for services, please contact the Council.

Email: jwilkinson@artscouncilofneworleans.org

Telephone: (504) 523-1465

Address: 818 Howard Avenue, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70113

Web: <http://www.artscouncilofneworleans.org/>

City of New Orleans- *Guide to Doing Business in New Orleans*

This guide provides information on various city programs and departments which relate to operating a business in New Orleans including incentive programs, zoning requirements, permit information, etc.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility requirements.

Web: www.cityofno.com/resources/portal36/business_guide.pdf

Global Green- *Sustainable Building Education and Advocacy Services*

Global Green is committed to education and advocacy for green building practices to maximize energy efficiency, healthy indoor air quality, and the use of sustainable building materials for homeowners, contractors and developers. Visit their website for more information.

Eligibility: N/A

Telephone: (504) 525-2121

Web: <http://www.globalgreen.org/>

Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNOINC) - *Business Advocacy/ Economic Development/ Workforce Development*

GNO, Inc. is a dynamic regional partnership of public and private leaders driving the economic resurgence of the Greater New Orleans area. GNO, Inc. acts as a catalyst, advocate and resource broker - a nonpartisan organization focused on retaining jobs, creating new jobs, developing the workforce and fostering a pro-business public policy. GNOINC advocates for state and federal tools to continue recovery work; educates businesses about available state and federal financial incentives to retain, grow, and attract companies; and, is redesigning the region's workforce delivery systems to better coordinate and accelerate recruitment, screening, training, and placement in targeted industry sectors. The GNOINC web site provides links to other business and economic development-related web sites.

Eligibility: All businesses are encouraged to visit the GNOINC web site, link their sites to the GNOINC site, and receive regular economic development email updates from GNOINC.

Telephone: (504) 527-6900

Address: 365 Canal Street
Suite 2300
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: <http://www.gnoinc.org/>

Hurricane Contracting Information Center – *Federal Contracts Information Center*

The Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC), an agency of the US Department of Commerce, provides a central point of reference for businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises, to register for and become aware of federal contracting opportunities in the Gulf Coast. While the HCIC does not award contracts, our mission is to ensure that

businesses understand the process and are aware when opportunities become available. The HCIC guides potential vendors through the steps necessary to participate on federal contracting projects in the region, including obtaining a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number; registering with the Central contractor Registration (CCR) database; registering to receive announcements on contracts of \$25,000 or more; and, researching the General Services Administration (GSA) scheduling process, among other things. The HCIC also provides contractors with updates on relevant topics/forums; links to other useful organizations such as the Disaster Contractors Network; a call center staffed by representatives from other contracting government agencies who offer business counseling; as well as a business outreach program

Eligibility: The HCIC does not have any eligibility requirements. It focuses on minority-owned, women-owned, and small-to-medium sized enterprises seeking to do federal government contracted business in the Gulf Coast region. There is no formal registration/application process with the HCIC.

Telephone: (800)827-5722

Web: <http://www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov/>

Louisiana Economic Development Department: *Louisiana Forward*

The LED strives to help guide business owners and entrepreneurs through the process of starting, expanding and/or relocating their businesses. Please call or visit website to find out about upcoming events and new programs, as well as for appeals and further information about the Business Grant and Loan Program.

Eligibility: Please visit site for more details.

Telephone: (800) 450-8115; (225) 342-3000

Website: <http://led.state.la.us/>

Louisiana Minority Business Council – *MBE Certification/ MBE Advocacy*

The Council: Assists corporate members in the development and/or improvement of minority vendor programs; Identifies minority suppliers in the State of Louisiana; Maintains a listing of LMBC certified MBEs and corporate members; Provides local, regional and national referrals to vendors; Coordinates various activities focused on specific and varied product/service areas; Conducts seminars for corporate partners and minority business owners; Conducts other programs and activities designed to bring minority vendors and corporate purchaser together; Provides reliable certification of ethnic, minority-owned businesses; Awards executive business scholarships for continuing education of MBEs; Offers MBEs access to the Business Consortium Fund of NMSDC; Encourages corporate support for minority business development initiatives; Disseminates news and information about trends and opportunities in supplier diversity. Offers Disaster Resource Guide.

Eligibility: Must be a LAMBC certified MBE. Certification applications are available at www.LAmbc.org

Email: pkmire@lambc.org

Telephone: (504) 523-7110

Address: 935 Gravier Street, 16th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

Web: www.LAmbc.org

Louisiana Partnership for Technology Innovation- *Advocacy for Technology Innovation*

The Louisiana Partnership for Technology Innovation is devoted to the growth and diversification of Louisiana's economy. It pursues this objective by working with representatives of business and industry, academia, and government to advance innovative Louisiana-based, technological opportunities to and in the marketplace. The Partnership provides consulting services to technology entrepreneurs and to State government in developing strategic

initiatives to support the creation and growth of technology-based companies in Louisiana. Our services include business planning, building business relationships, intellectual property management, management assistance, and providing introduction to potential customers and investors.

Eligibility: Please call for more information on eligibility and services.

Telephone: (225)922-9189

Website: www.louisianapartnership.com

Louisiana Secretary of State: Commercial Division- *First Stop Shop for New Businesses*

The First Stop Shop is a "licensing information center" for prospective small business owners. The First Stop Shop gives current and potential business owners a single place to go for licensing information needed to start a business in Louisiana. The First Stop shop provides a central point of contact for state government requirements. It also directs the individual to the proper local licensing and taxing authorities, as well as to state and quasi-governmental agencies, by providing a customized licensing/permit checklist.

Eligibility Requirements: Prospective or current business owners located in the state of Louisiana.

Email: fss@sos.louisiana.gov

Telephone: (225) 925-4704

Web: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/comm/fss/fss-index.htm>

Louisiana Technology Council – *Technology Advocacy/ Business Recovery Center*

The LTC's mission is to encourage the advancement of technology applications and to improve the long-term competitiveness of the New Orleans economy. The LTC has almost tripled its membership base since 2003, in the process has helped organizations use technology resources to their competitive advantage and has helped develop a greater technology based industry for the area. The LTC's definition of technology includes all industries and focuses on both users and producers in fields such as computers, engineering, communications, manufacturing, banking and investment, law, government and military and more.

In early 2006, the LTC entered into a strategic partnership with the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED). LED has provided funding for the LTC to develop and implement a business recovery / office incubator center for Greater New Orleans small businesses hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. The center focuses on helping technology companies but any business can participate. The LTC/LED – Business Recovery Center (BRC) currently serves as temporary office space for five displaced businesses that might otherwise have had to close their doors.

Eligibility: Please contact the LTC for more information.

Telephone: (504) 304-2910

Web: <http://www.ltc-la.org>; <http://ltc-la.org/en/cms/?222>

New Orleans Chamber of Commerce (NOCC) – *Business Advocacy/ Database Access/ Economic Development Information*

The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce (NOCC) web site offers links to a number of city, state, and federal small business-related loan, grant, and tax incentive offerings. The site also includes access to city and state demographic, geographic, and business databases, as well as commercial property listings. The NOCC also acts as an advocate for the area's business community in general, and offers its members a number of business-related benefits, such as networking opportunities. The many small business-related links are listed by political jurisdiction (city, state, federal), or financial category (loans, grant, tax incentives), and are best accessed through the site.

Eligibility: All businesses in greater New Orleans are encouraged to join the NCCO and participate in its activities. There are no other eligibility requirements.

Email: info@neworleanschamber.org

Telephone: (504) 522-7226
Address: 1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1010
New Orleans, LA 70112
Web: <http://www.neworleanschamber.org/>

Ready Business- Emergency Preparedness Training for Businesses

Web site provides downloadable Power Point and other communications materials designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies, as well as mentoring opportunities for further technical assistance.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility requirements
Web: www.ready.gov/business/mentor/index.htm

Second Wind NOLA- Small Business Advocacy

Second Wind NOLA's mission is to revitalize the New Orleans small business community by obtaining grants and other sources of assistance. Second Wind NOLA is a nonprofit grassroots organization formed by small businesses. They are working to:

- Create a small business grant program
- Lobby for improvements in the rules and administration of FEMA grant programs and SBA loan programs
- Secure a strong, independent, united voice for the small business community in the rebuilding process
- Create and obtain funding for a sustained, citywide small business marketing program
- Create a forum where small businesses can help themselves.

Eligibility: Greater New Orleans Region which includes Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, St. Charles Parishes

Email: secondwindnola@gmail.com

Telephone: (504) 451-7813

Web: <http://www.secondwindnola.org/>

ShopNOLA.org –Local Business Advocacy

Shopnola.org is an economic driver for small and medium sized retail businesses in New Orleans. They showcase quality New Orleans establishments and encourage the public to buy from New Orleans owned businesses and to support our economy as we work to not only recover but thrive. These businesses have collaborated to expand their customer base to markets outside of New Orleans.

Eligibility: Small and medium sized retail businesses.

Web: www.shopnola.org

St Tammany West Chamber of Commerce- SBA Business Recovery Center

The Recovery Center offers assistance in all areas of business recovery, including applying for the Bridge Loan Program, free counseling sessions, finding properties, etc. As a chamber of commerce we also host various business events and luncheons, and are a part of ReEXPO (our annual business fair.)

Eligibility: Please call or visit website for more information on eligibility.

Telephone: (985)892-3216

Website: <http://sttammanychamber.org>

Urban Conservancy – Local Business Advocacy/ Business Cooperative Stay Local!

Stay Local! is a city-wide initiative for creating a strong economy based on locally owned and operated businesses. Stay Local! encourages consumers to shop locally while helping independent businesses compete more effectively. Stay Local! establishes a local business alliance dedicated to working with and for locally-owned and operated businesses in New Orleans. The project educates consumers about how their spending decisions impact their community while simultaneously working with business owners and managers to

generate creative solutions to the changing economic landscape of the city. Stay Local! will:

- Create support between local businesses and the community.
- Raise public awareness of the benefits of doing business locally.
- Facilitate collaborative efforts among members (such as: cooperative marketing strategies, cooperative health insurance, cooperative purchasing, and workforce development).

Eligibility: All locally-owned and operated businesses within the Greater New Orleans metropolitan (5-parish) area are encouraged to list their business on the Stay Local! website for free.

Telephone: 504-617-6618

Address: 5030 South Liberty Street
New Orleans, LA 70115

Web: <http://staylocal.org/>

Women's Business Council Gulf Coast (WBCGC) – WBE Advocacy/ WBE Certification

The WBCGC is an organization for women business owners.

The Council:

- Promotes, develops and maintains business relationships with other women business owners, major corporations and governmental agencies.
- The WBCGC administers a reliable WBE certification program, which enables approved businesses to be included in a national database of WBE's that is accessed by major corporations throughout the U.S.
- Acts as advocate and promotional organization for WBE's in the Gulf Coast region.

WBE Certification candidates undergo a stringent screening process which ensures that all the firms in the database are legitimately owned, managed, and controlled by women. Candidates must fill out an application and subsequently submit additional documentation. A site visit by a program official is also required.

Eligibility: All prospective members must provide clear and documented evidence that at least 51% or more of the business is woman-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must have been open for at least six months. The business owner must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident alien. Additional criteria relate to management control, capital/expertise contribution, and self-sufficiency. The required on-line application can be accessed via the WBCGC website.

Email: info@wbccgulfcoast.org

Telephone: 504-680-6497

Address: 400 Poydras Street, Suite 1730
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: <http://www.wbccgulfcoast.org/>

Employment & Workforce Development

Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNOINC) - Business Advocacy/ Economic Development/ Workforce Development

GNO, Inc. is a dynamic regional partnership of public and private leaders driving the economic resurgence of the Greater New Orleans area. GNO, Inc. acts as a catalyst, advocate and resource broker - a nonpartisan organization focused on retaining jobs, creating new jobs, developing the workforce and fostering a pro-business public policy. GNOINC advocates for state and federal tools to continue recovery work; educates businesses about available state and federal financial incentives to retain, grow, and attract companies; and, is redesigning the region's workforce delivery systems to better coordinate and accelerate recruitment, screening, training, and placement in targeted industry sectors. The GNOINC web site provides links to other business and economic development-related web sites.

Eligibility: All businesses are encouraged to visit the GNOINC web site, link their sites to the GNOINC site, and receive regular economic development email updates from GNOINC.

Telephone: (504) 527-6900

Address: 365 Canal Street
Suite 2300
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: <http://www.gnoinc.org/>

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) - Loans/ Business Counseling/ Workforce Development/ Business Resource Information/ Government Incentives

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business. Some JEDCO programs include:

- Business incubator program- Business counseling, networking opportunities, seminars, office space, and shared administrative services (secretarial, phone, fax and more) are just a few of the services offered to Jefferson Parish businesses during their initial startup phase. Contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 355.
- Loan programs/ Business Financing- Administered by JEDCO; designed to meet many financing requirements, including real estate, working capital and equipment. Contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 357.
- Tax incentives and rebate programs- Tax credits for job creation, tax exemptions for manufacturers, rebates of new payroll for qualifying companies, or inventory tax credits for wholesalers and distributors can provide significant savings for qualifying businesses moving to or expanding in Jefferson Parish. Find out if your business qualifies, contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 347.
- Economic Development Services
- Workforce Solutions- JEDCO assists employers in accessing workforce training programs and grants as well as resources for recruiting new employees. Contact: (504) 227-1282.
- Demographic Data
- Real Estate Database
- Marketing Database- JEDCO's marketing database contains a detailed, up-to-date, computerized listing of Jefferson Parish businesses. This database can help businesses identify local suppliers and buyers, as well as aid you with your company's marketing efforts. Contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 347

Eligibility Requirements for Business Financing: Resident Businesses in Jefferson Parish

Email: srojas@jedco.org

Telephone: (504)833-1881; (800) 816-3113

Address: 3445 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002

Website: <http://www.jedco.org/>

Louisiana Economic Development Department: Louisiana Forward

The LED strives to help guide business owners and entrepreneurs through the process of starting, expanding and/or relocating their businesses. Please call or visit website to find out about upcoming events and new programs, as well as for appeals and further information about the Business Grant and Loan Program.

Eligibility: Please visit site for more details.

Telephone: (800) 450-8115; (225) 342-3000

Website: <http://led.state.la.us/>

Louisiana Department of Labor- Workforce Development/ Employee Information Incumbent Worker Training Program: Small Business Employee Training

The Louisiana Department of Labor provides information to employers and employees on workforce issues.

The IWTP-SBET program helps owners of small businesses pay for training of existing employees. The program will pay up to \$3,000 per fiscal year for each employee that receives approved training. Training can count for college credit. Eligibility Requirements: Employers must have been in business for three years, contributing to the workforce development training account, be in full compliance with Louisiana's UI laws, have 50 or less employees, and cannot receive customized training and SBET concurrently. Please contact the Louisiana Department of Labor for other requirements.

Telephone: (504)568-7230

Email: iwtp@ldol.state.la.us; bdupre@ldol.state.us

Address: 735 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: www.laworks.net/buspage.asp

Mayor's Office of Economic Development- Business Expansion/ Workforce Development/ Business Counseling

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development is to connect people and businesses to opportunities with programs that pertain to:

- Workforce Development: JOB1 is the City of New Orleans' office of workforce development. Its purpose is to identify and align the supply of workers in our city with the needs of growing businesses
- Business Retention Expansion and Attraction
- Small Business Development/ TA referral
- Business Counseling: free business consultation services to New Orleans businesses. All consultants are seasoned economic development professionals drawn from across the country. The city will coordinate confidential one-on-one meetings between consultants and interested businesses to help local business owners evaluate the post-Katrina market and develop strategies for success. All interested business owners are encouraged to contact Mayor's Office of Planning and Development at.

Eligibility: Any business located in Orleans parish

Telephone: (504) 658-0900

Web: <http://www.cityofno.com/>

Financial Assistance

ACCION USA- Microloans through HOPE Community Credit Union

ACCION USA is a nonprofit, community based organization whose mission is to improve the lives of low and moderate-income individuals in the US by providing credit and other financial services, partnered with Hope Community Credit Union, a low-income designated, community development credit union, to provide much needed capital to self-employed, small business owners affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Loan terms:

- \$2,000 to \$25,000; 2 months interest only to start
- 8% Interest Rate
- Loan term: 2-60 months

Eligibility: For existing businesses affected by the hurricanes (businesses must have been in operation for two years prior to Katrina) and for pre-existing or new businesses aiding in hurricane reconstruction efforts.

Telephone: ACCION USA (504) 371-2280; contact HOPE directly for Microloan application at (504) 581-4673

Web: <http://www.accionusa.org/>; www.hopecu.org

Arts Council of New Orleans- Art Advocacy for Individuals and Groups/ Art Grants/ Benefits for Artists

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- Administer grants programs
- Serve as one of the eight regional re-granting agencies for the Louisiana Division of the Arts
- Administer the Percent of Art program for the City of New Orleans designed to provide art as an integral part of social well-being and a livable City
- Provide services to member organizations and individual artists through its Arts Business Program, which includes providing access to legal assistance, health insurance, and a credit union
- Conduct local art shows and festivals
- Develop the Cultural Economy: Louisiana Artworks is both a facility and a program targeting economic development through a combination of culture and commerce

Eligibility: To apply for services, please contact the Council.

Email: jwilkinson@artscouncilofneworleans.org

Telephone: (504) 523-1465

Address: 818 Howard Avenue, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70113

Web: <http://www.artscouncilofneworleans.org/>

Capital Access Project, Inc. (CAP) - Capital Access Assistance/ Technical Assistance/ Certification Assistance

Capital Access Project is dedicated to supporting the creation of competitively viable small, disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms through business development assistance by identifying, qualifying and matching those firms with public and private sector resources to start or expand their businesses, create jobs and create an economic impact that would otherwise not exist in New Orleans. CAP small business assistance programs include:

- One-on-one consultation
- Business plan preparation/evaluation
- Credit building
- Management/technical assistance
- Loan packaging
- Certification assistance
- Contractor's certification assistance and resources

Eligibility: Small businesses, especially minority and women-owned operating (or planning to operate) in the New Orleans metropolitan area are welcome to inquire about CAP's programs and services, some of which are free, others of which charge a fee. There are no other eligibility requirements. There is no formal application process.

Email: info@capitalaccessproject.org

Telephone: (504) 821-4855

Address: 2609 Canal Street, Suite 100

Web: <http://www.capitalaccessproject.org/>

Desire NOLA – Grants and Business Development Assistance to New Orleans Small Businesses

Desire NOLA is a not-for-profit corporation formed by a group of young community leaders committed to rebuilding the Greater New Orleans area by assisting small businesses.

Desire NOLA will accomplish this goal by providing grant and business development assistance to locally owned businesses that embody the unique culture and ambiance of New Orleans. It is imperative that these businesses return and continue to grow so that additional jobs are created and the citizens of our community are able to return to a stable economy. Desire NOLA offers monthly and quarterly workshops and seminars for business owners, online consulting, an advertising campaign for its small business partners, and small business service projects. Grants will be considered on a case by case basis.

Eligibility: Please visit the DesireNOLA.org website for more

information on upcoming seminars and events.

Email: info@desirenola.org

Telephone: 504.251.3059

Website: www.desirenola.org

US Environmental Protection Agency- Grants for Organizations to Re-develop Brownfields

EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfields activities. In addition to direct brownfields funding, EPA also provides technical information on brownfields financing matters.

Eligibility Requirements: Please check the EPA website for more information on specific grants and eligibility requirements.

Telephone: (202)566-2777

Web: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot.htm>

Good Work Network- Business Consulting/ Financial Assistance/ Administrative Support

Some Good Work Network programs include:

The Business Boost Program: The Business Boost Program is an innovative approach to building the capacity and market access of low-income and disadvantaged micro entrepreneurs in the greater New Orleans area. Participants in the Business Boost Program will have access to the following services:

*BUSINESS CONSULTATION SERVICES: Assessment of your business's operational and financial capacity; Individualized plan; Credit Counseling; Business Plan Assistance; Financial Planning Assistance; Operations Systems Design; Loan Packaging Assistance; Entrepreneurship Training; QuickBooks Training; Mentoring; Regulatory Compliance Assistance

*BACK OFFICE SERVICES: Clerical Assistance; Accounting Services

*MARKET ACCESS SERVICES: Market Research Assistance; Marketing Strategy Development Assistance; Web Page Design; Internet Marketing Assistance; Business Link Program

*MICRO LOAN ACCESS: Although there is NO GUARANTEE THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A LOAN, participants who are receiving technical assistance through the Business Boost Program will have access to several loan programs with which Good Work Network is affiliated.

Eligibility Requirements: Have income less than 150% of the median family income OR be a member of a minority group that has typically been denied access to resources. Must be principal owner of a business that employs fewer than five employees and has annual revenues of less than \$500,000. Must have a permanent residence or business in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist, St. James, St. Charles parishes. (Individuals who met this requirement prior to Katrina, but have been temporarily displaced can still qualify if they intend to return to the area. Businesses from outside of the area that have come in since Katrina are NOT eligible.)

The Childcare Provider Development Program: This comprehensive program is designed to assist childcare providers with the business aspects of their operations; the purpose of the program is to increase both the quality and quantity of childcare facilities in the greater New Orleans area. The program includes:

*Business training customized for childcare providers

*Cooperative back office services such as accounting

*Access to small loans and grants.

Eligibility Requirements: Please call for more information on eligibility requirements

MercyCorps Grants through Good Work Network: Small grants available to low-income small business owners through Good Work Network.

Eligibility: Any low-income small business owner (60% Median Family Income.) Contact Good Work Network for application information (program launches at end of February, 2007)

Good Work Network Contact Information:

Telephone: (504)309-2073

Address: 1824 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113

Web: <http://www.goodworknetwork.org/>

Greater New Orleans Child Care Collaborative- Grants to rebuild child care centers

Grants to assist child care centers rebuild services.

Eligibility Requirements: Please see website or call for more information on types of assistance available, or visit the United Way (2515 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA) or Agenda for Children (1720 St Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA) for more information.

Telephone: Louisiana Family Recovery Corps (225)381-3915; Agenda for Children (800)486-1712

Email: childcare@recoverycorps.org

Web: www.rebuildchildcare.org

HOPE Community Credit Union- Community Credit Union/ Commercial Loans/ Microloans/ IDA Program

Some HOPE Community Credit Union programs include:

Louisiana Business Recovery Bridge Loans: The purpose of the program is to facilitate business survival and rapid restoration of business operations during the time between the storm and the receipt of other financing or financial assistance. Available to businesses affected by Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita. Terms:

- Loans from \$5,000- \$25,000.
- Term – up to and not to exceed 180 days
- The loan will be interest free for the first 180 days
- Available for an additional 62 days at a 4% interest rate.
- Unsecured
- Fees – limited to charges/expenses incurred

Eligibility: Must have suffered losses, damages, displacement or business interruption as a direct result of either or both hurricane Katrina or hurricane Rita. Must commit to go back into business and to remain in or return from temporary locations to Louisiana.

Must re-locate in the Louisiana community in which it was operating prior to the hurricane (its community of origin), or to one of its neighboring areas or parishes also adversely affected by the hurricane. Must have fewer than 100 employees and have been established for at least one year in a qualifying parish: Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, or Washington.

ACCION USA Microloans through HOPE:

- \$2,000 to \$25,000; 2 months interest only
- 8% Interest Rate
- Loan term: 2-60 months

Purposes of loans:

- Equipment, machinery and vehicles
- Repairs and minor construction
- Inventory, materials, marketing
- Payroll and working capital
- Bridge loans for businesses awaiting SBA or state loans, grants, or insurance proceeds

Eligibility: For existing businesses affected by the hurricanes (businesses must have been in operation for two years prior to Katrina) and for pre-existing or new businesses aiding in hurricane reconstruction efforts. Interested parties may download a fact sheet, loan application, and hurricane impact

statement from the HOPE website or contact a HOPE representative.

Mercy Corps Loans through HOPE Community Credit Union

Please contact HOPE for more information on this program.

Eligibility Requirements: Please ask a HOPE representative for information on eligibility.

Mercy Corps Individual Development Accounts through HOPE:

The IDA program is created to meet specific and unusual needs based on the impact and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. It is designed as a pilot for expansion by ECD/HOPE and potentially as a model for replication elsewhere nationally as an economic development response to natural disasters. In this pilot, the IDA Program will provide small businesses in New Orleans with an opportunity to leverage their savings and have it matched at a time when, for many, taking on additional debt is not an option. Owners of existing small businesses would have between 3 and 12 months to save up to \$2500. HOPE, using Mercy Corps funds, will match the savings 2:1 up to \$5000. The savings and match would be available for the business to use for business expenses, e.g. asset replacement, inventory, certification costs, repairs, etc.

Eligibility Requirements: Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Business owners must be at 100% or less Median Family Income for New Orleans. Business must be paying taxes. Contact HOPE directly for more information.

HOPE Community Credit Union- Commercial Loans

For more information on regular commercial lending programs and eligibility requirements contact HOPE.

Eligibility Requirements: Contact HOPE Community Credit Union

HOPE Community Credit Union Contact Information:

Telephone: (504)581-4673

Address: 1726 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70113

Websites: www.hopecu.org; www.ecd.org

Institute of Mental Health- Grants to promote early childhood mental health

IMH offers grants to promote early childhood mental health. Visit the IMH webpage for a complete listing of grant opportunities.

Eligibility Requirements: Childcare centers

Telephone: (504)566-1852

Email: imh@imhno.org

Address: 1055 St. Charles Ave. Suite 350
New Orleans, LA 70130

Website: www.imhno.org

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) - Loans/ Business Counseling/ Workforce Development/ Business Resource Information/ Government Incentives

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business. Some JEDCO programs include:

- Business incubator program- Business counseling, networking opportunities, seminars, office space, and shared administrative services (secretarial, phone, fax and more) are just a few of the services offered to Jefferson Parish businesses during their initial startup phase. Contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 355.
- Loan programs/ Business Financing- Administered by JEDCO; designed to meet many financing requirements, including real estate, working capital and equipment. Contact: 504) 833-1881, ext. 357.

- Tax incentives and rebate programs- Tax credits for job creation, tax exemptions for manufacturers, rebates of new payroll for qualifying companies, or inventory tax credits for wholesalers and distributors can provide significant savings for qualifying businesses moving to or expanding in Jefferson Parish. Find out if your business qualifies, contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 347.
- Economic Development Services
- Workforce Solutions- JEDCO assists employers in accessing workforce training programs and grants as well as resources for recruiting new employees. Contact: (504) 227-1282.
- Demographic Data
- Real Estate Database
- Marketing Database- JEDCO's marketing database contains a detailed, up-to-date, computerized listing of Jefferson Parish businesses. This database can help businesses identify local suppliers and buyers, as well as aid you with your company's marketing efforts. Contact: (504) 833-1881, ext. 347

Eligibility Requirements for Business Financing: Resident Businesses in Jefferson Parish

Email: srojas@jedco.org

Telephone: (504)833-1881; (800) 816-3113

Address: 3445 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002

Website: <http://www.jedco.org/>

Louisiana Economic Development Department: *Louisiana Forward*

The LED strives to help guide business owners and entrepreneurs through the process of starting, expanding and/or relocating their businesses. Please call or visit website to find out about upcoming events and new programs, as well as for appeals and further information about the Business Grant and Loan Program.

Eligibility: Please visit site for more details.

Telephone: (800) 450-8115; (225) 342-3000

Website: <http://lled.state.la.us/>

Mercy Corps Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Program- IDAs/ Quick Impact Grants/ Loans

Some Mercy Corps programs include:

IDAs through HOPE Community Credit Union: The IDA program is created to meet specific and unusual needs based on the impact and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. It is designed as a pilot for expansion by ECD/HOPE and potentially as a model for replication elsewhere nationally as an economic development response to natural disasters. In this pilot, the IDA Program will provide small businesses in New Orleans with an opportunity to leverage their savings and have it matched at a time when, for many, taking on additional debt is not an option. Owners of existing small businesses would have between 3 and 12 months to save up to \$2500. HOPE, using Mercy Corps funds, will match the savings 2:1 up to \$5000. The savings and match would be available for the business to use for business expenses, e.g. asset replacement, inventory, certification costs, repairs, etc.

Eligibility Requirements: Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Business owners must be at 100% or less Median Family Income for New Orleans. Business must be paying taxes. Contact HOPE directly for more information: HOPE: (504)581-4673

Mercy Corps- Loans through HOPE Community Credit Union: Please contact HOPE for more information on this program.

Eligibility Requirements: Please ask HOPE representative for information on eligibility: HOPE: (504)527-0691

Mercy Corps – Small Grants through Good Work Network

Small grants available to low-income small business owners through Good Work Network.

- Grants up to \$2500

Eligibility: Any low-income small business owner (60% Median Family Income.) Contact Good Work Network for more information: GWN: (504) 309-2073

Mercy Corps Contact Information:

Email: smason@gchr.mercycorps.org

Telephone: MercyCorps: (504)525-5056 ext. 201

Address: 2223 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Website: www.mercycorps.org

NewCorp, Inc. - Business Assistance Center/ Loan Programs/ Business Counseling

NewCorp is a non traditional banking institution (Community Development Financial Institution and U.S. Small Business Administration Micro Lending Intermediary) that provides access to capital and technical assistance for small disadvantaged businesses. NewCorp's programs include:

- Technical Assistance programs
- Business and Management Counseling Programs
- Certification Assistance
- Access to Capital –

NewCorp's Direct Micro Loan Program- Loans from \$500-\$10,000

SBA Micro Loan Program- Up to \$35,000 loans for start-ups, newly established, or expanding businesses. SBA Micro Loans are administered through NewCorp.

BankOne/SBA Community Express Program

Community Development Financial Institution

SBA Intermediary Pre-qual and 7A Loan Packaging advice and introductions

Eligibility: Any small disadvantaged business with gross revenues of up to \$5 million is eligible to benefit from NewCorp's programs and services.

Telephone: (504) 539-9340

Address: 1600 Canal Street Suite 601
New Orleans, LA 70112

Web: <http://www.newcorpbac.net>

Regional Loan Corporation – Loan Programs

RLC is a private non-profit organization that manages several government-sponsored financing programs for small business growth. The RLC collaborates with area banks to support regional economic development.

Lending opportunities:

- RLC is an SBA 504 lender: loans up to \$1.5 to \$4 million for manufacturers
- Loans from \$25,000 to \$250,000 through a grant from the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration.
- SBA 7a loans through Business Resource Capital

Eligibility: The RLC is designed to assist small businesses unable to obtain full conventional financing through private financial institutions. Please contact RLC for eligibility criteria.

Telephone: (504) 524-6172

Address: 330 Camp Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: www.rlcsbidco.com

Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation- Project Katrina

The Project Katrina Initiative supports organizations in Louisiana that provide services and programs to children and their families who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The project supports events and programs for displaced residents and funds a grant program for childcare facilities.

Eligibility: Childcare providers

Email: projectkatrina@forallkids.org

Web: www.forallkids.org

Seedco Financial Services Gulf Coast Division- Restaurant Recovery/ Fisheries Resource/ ArtBusiness Initiative

Some Seedco Financial programs include:

The Restaurant Recovery Initiative: With Share our Strength, Deutsche Bank, and The Hospitality Industry Relief Fund of the Professional Convention Management Association, Seedco Financial provides comprehensive aid to restaurants that were once a thriving part of the local economy but are now struggling. This Seedco Financial initiative has worked with 125 small, mostly minority owned-restaurants to create recovery plans that include loans or grants and technical assistance. Seedco Financial also works with the broader restaurant community to develop strategies to recruit and retain workers and secure affordable housing for them. As the restaurant initiative moves forward, Seedco Financial will be offering restaurants an online planning tool to help them make efficient business decisions, such as determining the best hours to remain open to maximize profits.

Eligibility: Please contact a Seedco representative for more information.

The Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center:

With support from Louisiana Economic Development and loan capital from a variety of banks, Seedco Financial is working to energize the local shrimping industry. Nearly 500 grants or loans are in the pipeline for boat repairs and related expenses to enable these fishermen to prepare for the approaching shrimp season. Seedco Financial along with its partners- marketumbrella.org, the Louisiana Small Business Development Centers and the Loyola University College of Business- provide technical and financial services designed to build the capacity of and sustain fisheries. Though the Center's services are provided to fishermen and related businesses at workshops and through site visits, Seedco Financial is planning to finance the location of a resource center in Plaquemines Parish, serving Orleans, St. Bernard, and Jefferson parishes. The proposed Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center, will offer fishermen and related businesses a one-stop opportunity for obtaining financial and technical assistance. In partnership with the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, the Center will outreach and offer special services to non-English speaking fishermen, such as Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans.

ArtBusiness: In partnership with the Louisiana Culture Recreation and Tourism and AIG, Seedco Financial is assembling a local group of advisors and conducting an assessment of the financial and technical assistance needs of the arts and culture community. In the interim, through the Louisiana Business Recovery Grant Program, Seedco Financial has grants totaling nearly \$1 million in the pipeline to 50 businesses that create or promote Louisiana arts and culture, including a Mardi Gras Indian organization, local artists, art galleries, tourism businesses, and performing and visual arts nonprofit organizations.

Eligibility: For more information, please contact Seedco.

Seedco Financial Contact Information:

Email: gulfcoast@seedco.org

Telephone: (504)520-5726

Address: 1 Drexel Place, Box #152
New Orleans, LA 70125

Website: <http://www.seedcofinancial.org/gulfcoast/>

Small Business Administration (SBA) - Loan Programs/ Small Business Training

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal agency with the mission of aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of the nation's small businesses and of helping small businesses recover from national disasters. The SBA offers a number of financial assistance, training, counseling, and disaster assistance recovery programs. The SBA offers assistance in the following areas:

- Financial Assistance: SBA loans, grants, bonds, etc
- Contract Opportunities
- Disaster Assistance
- Online Training
- Counseling and Assistance
- Special Audiences
- Laws/ Regulations
- Compliance

Eligibility: (For Disaster Loans): Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to the SBA, and be able to show the ability to repay the loan. Collateral is also required for almost all business loans. Homeowners and renters must register with FEMA to obtain a FEMA Registration ID Number by calling 1-800-621-3362. There are several SBA centers in the greater New Orleans area.

Email: For disaster program:

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

For general SBA assistance: answerdesk@sba.gov

Telephone: For Disaster loan program: (800)659- 2955; For General SBA Assistance: (800)827-5722

Web: <http://www.sba.gov/index.html>

Government Incentives

Mayor's Office of Economic Development- Business Expansion/ Workforce Development/ Business Counseling

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development is to connect people and businesses to opportunities with programs that pertain to:

- Workforce Development: JOB1 is the City of New Orleans' office of workforce development. Its purpose is to identify and align the supply of workers in our city with the needs of growing businesses
- Business Retention Expansion and Attraction
- Small Business Development/ TA referral
- Business Counseling: free business consultation services to New Orleans businesses. All consultants are seasoned economic development professionals drawn from across the country. The city will coordinate confidential one-on-one meetings between consultants and interested businesses to help local business owners evaluate the post-Katrina market and develop strategies for success. All interested business owners are encouraged to contact Mayor's Office of Planning and Development at.

Eligibility: Any business located in Orleans parish

Telephone: (504) 658-0900

Web: <http://www.cityofno.com/>

City of New Orleans- Guide to Doing Business in New Orleans

This guide provides information on various city programs and departments which relate to operating a business in New Orleans including incentive programs, zoning requirements, permit information, etc.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility requirements.

Web: www.cityofno.com/resources/portal36/business_guide.pdf

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) - Loans/ Business Counseling/ Workforce Development/ Business Resource Information/ Government Incentives

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Telephone: (504)833-1881; (800) 816-3113

Address: 3445 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002

Website: <http://www.jedco.org/>

Louisiana Economic Development Department: *Louisiana Forward*

The LED strives to help guide business owners and entrepreneurs through the process of starting, expanding and/or relocating their businesses. Please call or visit website to find out about upcoming events and new programs, as well as for appeals and further information about the Business Grant and Loan Program.

Eligibility: Please visit site for more details.

Telephone: (800) 450-8115; (225) 342-3000

Website: <http://lled.state.la.us/>

Technical Assistance

Arts Council of New Orleans- *Art Advocacy for Individuals and Groups/ Art Grants/ Benefits for Artists*

The Arts Council of New Orleans is a private, non-profit organization designated as the City's official arts agency. The Arts Council works in partnership with the City of New Orleans, community groups, local, state, and national governmental agencies, and other nonprofit arts organizations to meet the arts and cultural needs of the New Orleans community through a diversity of initiatives and services. The Arts Council works to:

- Advocate for artists and cultural interests
- Administer grants programs
- Serve as one of the eight regional re-granting agencies for the Louisiana Division of the Arts
- Administer the Percent of Art program for the City of New Orleans designed to provide art as an integral part of social well-being and a livable City
- Provide services to member organizations and individual artists through its Arts Business Program, which includes providing access to legal assistance, health insurance, and a credit union
- Conduct local art shows and festivals
- Develop the Cultural Economy: Louisiana Artworks is both a facility and a program targeting economic development through a combination of culture and commerce

Eligibility: To apply for services, please contact the Council.

Email: wilkinson@artscouncilofneworleans.org

Telephone: (504) 523-1465

Address: 818 Howard Avenue, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70113

Web: <http://www.artscouncilofneworleans.org/>

Capital Access Project, Inc. (CAP) - *Capital Access Assistance/ Technical Assistance/ Certification Assistance*

Capital Access Project is dedicated to supporting the creation of competitively viable small, disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms through business development assistance by identifying, qualifying and matching those firms with public and private sector resources to start or expand their businesses, create jobs and create an economic impact that would otherwise not exist in New Orleans. CAP small business assistance programs include:

- One-on-one consultation
- Business plan preparation/evaluation
- Credit building
- Management/technical assistance
- Loan packaging
- Certification assistance
- Contractor's certification assistance and resources

Eligibility: Small businesses, especially minority and women-owned operating (or planning to operate) in the New Orleans metropolitan area are welcome to inquire about CAP's programs and services, some of which are free, others of which charge a fee. There are no other eligibility requirements. There is no formal application process.

Email: info@capitalaccessproject.org

Telephone: (504) 821-4855

Address: 2609 Canal Street, Suite 100

Web: <http://www.capitalaccessproject.org/>

City of New Orleans: Mayor's Office of Economic Development- *Business Expansion/ Workforce Development/ Business Counseling*

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development is to connect people and businesses to opportunities with programs that pertain to:

- Workforce Development: JOB1 is the City of New Orleans' office of workforce development. Its purpose is to identify and align the supply of workers in our city with the needs of growing businesses
- Business Retention Expansion and Attraction
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Eligibility: Any business located in Orleans parish

Telephone: (504) 658-0900

Web: <http://www.cityofno.com/>

Department of Environmental Quality - *Small Business/ Community Assistance Program/ Compliance/ Regulatory Permits*

The Department of Environmental Quality's Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program provides environmental regulatory assistance to small businesses and regulatory information to small communities. They work to make environmental compliance and pollution prevention assistance and information available to every small business and community through:

- Compliance calculations
- Emission calculations

- Preparation of permits and regulatory documentation

Eligibility: For the purpose of qualifying for assistance relating to compliance and technical assistance, a small business stationary source is defined as:

- 100 or fewer employees
- Independently owned, not dominant in field
- Not a major stationary source

Telephone: (800)-259-2890

Web: <http://www.deq.la.gov/>

Desire NOLA – Grants and Business Development Assistance to New Orleans Small Businesses

Desire NOLA is a not-for-profit corporation formed by a group of young community leaders committed to rebuilding the Greater New Orleans area by assisting small businesses. Desire NOLA will accomplish this goal by providing grant and business development assistance to locally owned businesses that embody the unique culture and ambiance of New Orleans. It is imperative that these businesses return and continue to grow so that additional jobs are created and the citizens of our community are able to return to a stable economy. Desire NOLA has distributed over \$70,000 to date. Phase I grants were distributed on January 19, 2006 in the amount of \$21,500 to 10 area small businesses. Phase II grants were distributed on March 31, 2006 in the amount of \$27,000 to 9 local businesses. Phase III grants were distributed on September 1, 2006 in the amount of \$25,000 to 11 local small businesses. Desire NOLA also holds seminars and workshops for small businesses in New Orleans. Grants considered on a case by case basis.

Eligibility: Please visit the DesireNOLA.org website for more information.

Email: info@desirenola.org

Telephone: 504.251.3059

Good Work Network- Business Consulting/ Financial Assistance/ Administrative Support

Some Good Work Network programs include:

The Business Boost Program: The Business Boost Program is an innovative approach to building the capacity and market access of low-income and disadvantaged micro entrepreneurs in the greater New Orleans area. Participants in the Business Boost Program will have access to the following services:

*BUSINESS CONSULTATION SERVICES: Assessment of your business's operational and financial capacity; Individualized plan; Credit Counseling; Business Plan Assistance; Financial Planning Assistance; Operations Systems Design; Loan Packaging Assistance; Entrepreneurship Training; QuickBooks Training; Mentoring; Regulatory Compliance Assistance

*BACK OFFICE SERVICES: Clerical Assistance; Accounting Services

*MARKET ACCESS SERVICES : Market Research Assistance; Marketing Strategy Development Assistance; Web Page Design; Internet Marketing Assistance; Business Link Program

*MICRO LOAN ACCESS: Although there is NO GUARANTEE THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A LOAN, participants who are receiving technical assistance through the Business Boost Program will have access to several loan programs with which Good Work Network is affiliated.

Eligibility Requirements: Have income less than 150% of the median family income OR be a member of a minority group that has typically been denied access to resources. Must be principal owner of a business that employs fewer than five employees and has annual revenues of less than \$500,000. Must have a permanent residence or business in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist, St. James, St. Charles parishes. (Individuals who met this requirement prior to Katrina, but have been temporarily displaced can still qualify if they intend to return to the area. Businesses from outside of the area that have come in since Katrina are NOT eligible.)

The Childcare Provider Development Program: This comprehensive program is designed to assist childcare providers with the business aspects of their operations; the purpose of the program is to increase both the quality and quantity of childcare facilities in the greater New Orleans area. The program includes:

*Business training customized for childcare providers

*Cooperative back office services such as accounting

*Access to small loans and grants.

Eligibility Requirements: Please call for more information on eligibility requirements

MercyCorps Grants through Good Work Network: Small grants available to low-income small business owners through Good Work Network.

Eligibility: Any low-income small business owner (60% Median Family Income.) Contact Good Work Network for application information (program launches at end of February, 2007)

Good Work Network Contact Information:

Telephone: (504)309-2073

Address: 1824 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113

Web: <http://www.goodworknetwork.org/>

Hurricane Contracting Information Center – Federal Contracts Information Center

The Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC), an agency of the US Department of Commerce, provides a central point of reference for businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises, to register for and become aware of federal contracting opportunities in the Gulf Coast. While the HCIC does not award contracts, our mission is to ensure that businesses understand the process and are aware when opportunities become available. The HCIC guides potential vendors through the steps necessary to participate on federal contracting projects in the region, including obtaining a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number; registering with the Central contractor Registration (CCR) database; registering to receive announcements on contracts of \$25,000 or more; and, researching the General Services Administration (GSA) scheduling process, among other things. The HCIC also provides contractors with updates on relevant topics/forums; links to other useful organizations such as the Disaster Contractors Network; a call center staffed by representatives from other contracting government agencies who offer business counseling; as well as a business outreach program

Eligibility: The HCIC does not have any eligibility requirements. It focuses on minority-owned, women-owned, and small-to-medium sized enterprises seeking to do federal government contracted business in the Gulf Coast region. There is no formal registration/application process with the HCIC.

Telephone: (800)827-5722

Web: <http://www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov/>

Idea Village – Business Counseling/ Mentoring Entrepreneurial Programs

The Idea Village is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to encourage a culture of innovation and to provide the focused tools and resources necessary to accelerate the development of high-growth entrepreneurial ventures based in New Orleans. The Idea Village assists high-growth businesses by providing in-depth business consultation, including setting operational goals, advising and consulting on strategic business matters, connecting entrepreneurs to business mentors, and by facilitating access to professional services and capital resources. Since its formal inception in 2002, The Idea Village has become the primary driver for entrepreneurship in New Orleans, supported by more than 500 individuals, corporations, local foundations, Tulane University, University of

New Orleans, Greater New Orleans, Inc., the City of New Orleans, and the State of Louisiana.
Eligibility: Please contact Idea Village for more information on eligibility.

Email: membership@ideavillage.org

Telephone: (504) 304-3287

Address: 638 Camp Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: <http://www.ideavillage.org/>

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Email: srojas@jedco.org

Telephone: (504)833-1881; (800) 816-3113

Address: 3445 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002

Website: <http://www.jedco.org/>

Louisiana Music Commission

The Louisiana Music Commission (LMC) is a state economic development agency. It provides resource information, contact information and counseling. The LMC also provides limited promotional assistance. The agency works on business initiatives, collects business plans and assists in their formulation, and serves as a main contact point for state government economic assistance for music businesses. The LMC also works on broadcasting efforts, educational initiatives and efforts to make state and local governments more business-friendly for music businesses.

Eligibility: Music businesses

Phone: 504-736-8605

Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (N.O. PTAC)

The PTAC was established to generate employment and improve the general economy of Louisiana by assisting business firms in obtaining and performing under the U.S. Department of Defense, other federal agencies, state and local government contracts. Services include, but are not limited to: bid and proposal assistance, negotiation support, cost accounting, Federal Acquisition Regulations, pricing principles, subcontracting, and supplier certification. On our website you can find more information about how to become a PTAC Client and upcoming events.

Eligibility: Visit website to find out more about how to become a PTAC client.

Website: www.la-ptac.org

Louisiana International Trade Center

The LITC mission is to increase the number of Louisiana businesses involved in international trade and foster economic development in Louisiana. We assist business people interested in exporting, importing, and making foreign investments. Services include: seminars, trade missions, financing programs, and translation services. The LITC "One Stop Shop" offers access to Country Guides, Market Research Reports, and Importing & Exporting Guides.

Eligibility: Businesses interested in import/ export businesses.

Telephone: (504)568-8222

Website:<http://web2.uno.edu/~litc/>

Louisiana District Export Council

Formally known as the New Orleans US Export Assistance Center we help "export ready" companies begin exporting or increase their export sales. Our International Trade Specialist provide export counseling and other services designed to assist small and medium sized firms to make their first time export sale or to increase their export markets. The US Commercial Service maintains offices in 70 countries and in over100 US cities. Services provided by the US Export Assistance Center include: Export finance counseling, Market research, Trade contacts , Trade promotion events and programs, Advocacy on international contracts , Info on export documentation and licensing.

Eligibility: Import/ export businesses

Telephone: (504)589-2337

Website: www.ldec.org

Louisiana Secretary of State: Commercial Division- First Stop Shop for New Businesses

The First Stop Shop is a "licensing information center" for prospective small business owners. The First Stop Shop gives current and potential business owners a single place to go for licensing information needed to start a business in Louisiana. The First Stop shop provides a central point of contact for state government requirements. It also directs the individual to the proper local licensing and taxing authorities, as well as to state and quasi-governmental agencies, by providing a customized licensing/permit checklist.

Eligibility Requirements: Prospective or current business owners located in the state of Louisiana.

Email: fss@sos.louisiana.gov

Telephone: (225) 925-4704

Web: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/comm/fss/fss-index.htm>

Louisiana Small Business Development Center – Business Counseling/ Information/ Training Louisiana SBDC Network

The mission of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC Network) is to enhance the economic well being of the citizens of Louisiana by providing comprehensive, high-quality assistance to existing and potential small businesses. The Louisiana SBDC Network helps entrepreneurs and businesses start, develop and grow by providing FREE:

- Individual counseling
- Business management training
- Information resources
- Specialized services such as international trade, technology transfer and commercialization.
- SBA loan packaging assistance

Eligibility: Pre-venture entrepreneurs, early stage businesses, micro-businesses and businesses that meet the SBA size standards. Call SBDCs in New Orleans for an appointment or training event registration: SBDC at Loyola (504) 864-7942 SBDC at Southern University (SUNO) (504) 286-5308 SBDC & **Email:** lsbdc.gnor@lsbdc.org
Telephone: (504)568-8222
Web: <http://www.lsbdc.org/>

Louisiana State University Business & Technology Center – Business Counseling/ Training/ Information

Some Louisiana State University Business & Technology Center programs include:

Small Business Development Center (SBDC at LSU) :

Provides professional one-on-one consulting to the small and medium-sized business community without charge. An initial interview is held to identify the needs of the business and determine a course of action that will best help achieve identified goals. Businesses and entrepreneurs receive assistance in developing their action plan to resolve specific issues and identify the actions necessary to reach their goals. In addition to the full-time professional staff, the SBDC utilizes M.B.A. graduate assistants and the faculty resources of the university.

Mobile classroom: The mission of the mobile classroom is to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs located in Louisiana by providing access to the resources, infrastructure, and expertise needed to grow and sustain long-term success. The mobile classroom will foster, develop, and integrate the LBTC's entrepreneurial development system by providing a delivery platform and systematic approach for entrepreneur education, training, technical assistance, access to capital, access to networks and creating a sustainable entrepreneurial cultural in rural Louisiana.

Eligibility: Any small business statewide. Contact the SBDC at LSU at (225) 578- 7555

Louisiana State University Technology Transfer Office (LTTO at LSU)

The LTTO at LSU offers extensive training programs, as well as business and marketing plan assistance, in commercializing technology. The LTTO at LSU is the lead organization in the State for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. It has an office at NASA's Stennis Space Center to offer technical solutions to Louisiana's industry problems.

Goals of LTTO:

- Matching Louisiana businesses with resources and expertise within the federal laboratory system.
- Visiting Louisiana companies to assess their technical needs and to offer solutions to their problems.
- Promoting the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) to Louisiana companies.
- Assisting Louisiana businesses in applying for and winning these grants and contracts.
- Accessing information from a network of technology resources including NASA, SERTTC, and the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer.
- Facilitating technology transfer between federal agencies and Louisiana industries with emphasis on procurement, licensing and problem solving.
- Developing business plans, marketing plans and other business strategies including the raising of seed and venture capital and debt financing.

Eligibility: Any small business statewide. For the SBIR program, any business that qualifies for SBIR Grants statewide.

Louisiana State University Business and Technology Center Contact Information:

Telephone: 225-578-7555
Web: www.bus.lsu.edu/LBTC

Louisiana Technology Council – Technology Advocacy/ Business Recovery Center

The LTC's mission is to encourage the advancement of technology applications and to improve the long-term competitiveness of the New Orleans economy. The LTC has almost tripled its membership base since 2003, in the process has helped organizations use technology resources to their competitive advantage and has helped develop a greater technology based industry for the area. The LTC's definition of technology includes all industries and focuses on both users and producers in fields such as computers, engineering, communications, manufacturing, banking and investment, law, government and military and more.

In early 2006, the LTC entered into a strategic partnership with the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED). LED has provided funding for the LTC to develop and implement a business recovery / office incubator center for Greater New Orleans small businesses hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. The center focuses on helping technology companies but any business can participate. The LTC/LED – Business Recovery Center (BRC) currently serves as temporary office space for five displaced businesses that might otherwise have had to close their doors.

Eligibility: Please contact the LTC for more information.

Telephone: (504) 304-2910

Web: <http://www.ltc-la.org/>; <http://ltc-la.org/en/cms/?222>

Loyola University New Orleans - Loyola Corps- Business Counseling

Several departments at Loyola University have joined forces to assist in the recovery needs of small businesses in the areas of marketing, accounting, and management, among others.

Eligibility: Any small business located in Orleans, Jefferson, or Plaquemines parish.

E-mail: corps@loyno.edu

Telephone: 504-864-7943

Web: <http://business.loyno.edu/loyolacorps/>

Mayor's Office of Economic Development- Business Expansion/ Workforce Development/ Business Counseling

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development is to connect people and businesses to opportunities with programs that pertain to:

- Workforce Development: JOB1 is the City of New Orleans' office of workforce development. Its purpose is to identify and align the supply of workers in our city with the needs of growing businesses
- Business Retention Expansion and Attraction
- Small Business Development/ TA referral
- Business Counseling: free business consultation services to New Orleans businesses. All consultants are seasoned economic development professionals drawn from across the country. The city will coordinate confidential one-on-one meetings between consultants and interested businesses to help local business owners evaluate the post-Katrina market and develop strategies for success. All interested business owners are encouraged to contact the Mayor's Office of Planning and Development at.

Eligibility: Any business located in Orleans parish

Email: (For business consulting) cstory@mayorofno.com

Telephone: (504) 658-0900; Chase Story (For business consulting contact): (504)247-2505

Web: <http://www.cityofno.com/>

New Orleans Music Office Co-Op

Our mission is to provide a professional work space for musicians and others in the New Orleans music business. For those who can't afford, or don't otherwise have access to them, the Co-Op provides: computers, high-speed Internet connections, laser printer, fax machine telephones, page layout tools, web design tools, web audio tools, a professional, fully-equipped, ergonomic work space; and tutorials on basic computer and business skills including word processing, spreadsheets, page layout, web design, and press kit creation.

Eligibility: Music businesses

Telephone: (504)895-8477

Website: www.tipitinasfoundation.org

NewCorp, Inc. - Business Assistance Center/ Loan Programs/ Business Counseling

NewCorp is a non traditional banking institution (Community Development Financial Institution and U.S. Small Business Administration Micro Lending Intermediary) that provides access to capital and technical assistance for small disadvantaged businesses. NewCorp's programs include:

- Technical Assistance programs
- Business and Management Counseling Programs
- Certification Assistance
- Access to Capital –

NewCorp's Direct Micro Loan Program- Loans from \$500-\$10,000

SBA Micro Loan Program- Up to \$35,000 loans for start-ups, newly established, or expanding businesses. SBA Micro Loans are administered through NewCorp.

BankOne/SBA Community Express Program

Community Development Financial Institution

SBA Intermediary Pre-qual and 7A Loan Packaging advice and introductions

Eligibility: Any small disadvantaged business with gross revenues of up to \$5 million is eligible to benefit from NewCorp's programs and services.

Telephone: (504) 539-9340

Address: 1600 Canal Street Suite 601
New Orleans, LA 70112

Web: <http://www.newcorpbac.net>

Ready Business- Emergency Preparedness Training for Businesses

Web site provides downloadable Power Point and other communications materials designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies, as well as mentoring opportunities for further technical assistance.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility requirements

Web: www.ready.gov/business/mentor/index.htm

Seedco Financial Services Gulf Coast Division- Restaurant Recovery/ Fisheries Resource/ ArtBusiness Initiative

Some Seedco Financial programs include:

The Restaurant Recovery Initiative: With Share our Strength, Deutsche Bank, and The Hospitality Industry Relief Fund of the Professional Convention Management Association, Seedco Financial provides comprehensive aid to restaurants that were once a thriving part of the local economy but are now struggling. This Seedco Financial initiative has worked with 125 small, mostly minority owned-restaurants to create recovery plans that include loans or grants and technical assistance. Seedco Financial also works with the broader restaurant community to develop strategies to recruit and retain workers and secure affordable housing for them. As the restaurant initiative moves forward, Seedco Financial will be offering restaurants an online planning tool to help them make efficient business decisions, such as determining the best hours to remain open to maximize profits.

Eligibility: Please contact a Seedco representative for more information.

The Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center:

With support from Louisiana Economic Development and loan capital from a variety of banks, Seedco Financial is working to energize the local shrimping industry. Nearly 500 grants or loans are in the pipeline for boat repairs and related expenses to enable these fishermen to prepare for the approaching shrimp season. Seedco Financial along with its partners- marketumbrella.org, the Louisiana Small Business Development Centers and the Loyola University College of Business- provide technical and financial services designed to build the capacity of and sustain fisheries. Though the Center's services are provided to fishermen and related businesses at workshops and through site visits, Seedco Financial is planning to finance the location of a resource center in Plaquemines Parish, serving Orleans, St. Bernard, and Jefferson parishes. The proposed Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center, will offer fishermen and related businesses a one-stop opportunity for obtaining financial and technical assistance. In partnership with the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, the Center will outreach and offer special services to non-English speaking fishermen, such as Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans.

ArtBusiness: In partnership with the Louisiana Culture Recreation and Tourism and AIG, Seedco Financial is assembling a local group of advisors and conducting an assessment of the financial and technical assistance needs of the arts and culture community. In the interim, through the Louisiana Business Recovery Grant Program, Seedco Financial has grants totaling nearly \$1 million in the pipeline to 50 businesses that create or promote Louisiana arts and culture, including a Mardi Gras Indian organization, local artists, art galleries, tourism businesses, and performing and visual arts nonprofit organizations.

Eligibility: For more information, please contact Seedco.

Seedco Financial Contact Information:

Email: gulfcoast@seedco.org

Telephone: (504)520-5726

Address: 1 Drexel Place, Box #152
New Orleans, LA 70125

Website: <http://www.seedcofinancial.org/gulfcoast/>

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) – Business Counseling/ Resource Information

SCORE is a non-profit organization that provides individual counseling and group workshops in all aspects of business to entrepreneurs, including: generating and assessing ideas; preparing a business plan; raising capital; and, managing the operations and finances of the venture. Counseling is free. Workshops are provided at a low cost. In addition to the traditional programs listed above, more than 45 SCORE on-line counselors provide expert advice in the area of disaster preparedness and recovery.

SCORE's Learning Center offers full-length articles and tips on disaster planning, insurance, and more at

www.score.org/learning_center.html

Eligibility: There are no restrictions as to business size, type, or location. SCORE's services are available to all US citizens and Green Card holders.

Telephone: (504) 589-2356

Address: 365 Canal Street, Suite 2820
New Orleans, LA 70130

Web: <http://www.score.org/>

Small Business Administration (SBA) - Loan Programs/ Small Business Training

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal agency with the mission of aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of the nation's small businesses and of helping small businesses recover from national disasters. The SBA

offers a number of financial assistance, training, counseling, and disaster assistance recovery programs. The SBA offers assistance in the following areas:

- Financial Assistance: SBA loans, grants, bonds, etc
- Contract Opportunities
- Disaster Assistance
- Online Training
- Counseling and Assistance
- Special Audiences
- Laws/ Regulations
- Compliance

Eligibility: (For Disaster Loans): Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to the SBA, and be able to show the ability to repay the loan. Collateral is also required for almost all business loans. Homeowners and renters must register with FEMA to obtain a FEMA Registration ID Number by calling 1-800-621-3362. There are several SBA centers in the greater New Orleans area.

Email: For disaster program:

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

For general SBA assistance: answerdesk@sba.gov

Telephone: For Disaster loan program: (800)659- 2955; For

General SBA Assistance: (800)827-5722

Web: <http://www.sba.gov/index.html>

Tulane University, A. B. Freeman School of Business – Technical Assistance/ Training

The Institute trains and inspires entrepreneurs through coursework, community service projects, and internships. In addition, LRI coordinates joint academic, government and business initiatives that stimulate private enterprise and regional economic growth. It also contributes to regional and economic development by assisting the corporate and family business communities in identifying and exploring business issues through shared learning experiences. Programs include Economic Development, TABA Community Service Programs, Tulane Family Business Center , and Entrepreneurial Studies

Eligibility: Contact Institute Associate Director Lina Alfieri Stern at (504) 865-5455 for more information on eligibility and programs.

Telephone: (504) 865-5306

Web: <http://www.freeman.tulane.edu/iri>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Small Business Office, New Orleans District

The Small Business Office functions as a liaison between local small businesses and this district's needs for local contracting. The US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District holds workshops, Small Business Acquisition Fairs, and one-on-one counseling if needed. The N.O. District contracts for supplies, construction, engineering services and other services.

Eligibility: Small Businesses in the Greater New Orleans area.

Telephone: (504)862-2627

Website: www.mvn.usace.army.mil/sb/index.asp

Urban League of Greater New Orleans - Women's Business Resource Center (WBRC) - Technical Assistance/ Counseling/ Training

The WBRC seeks to address the entrepreneurial responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities that come along with business ownership. The program is designed to support women in all phases of enterprise development, as well as encourage them along the way. By providing access to education and training, mentors, business and professional consultants, its goal is to increase the visibility of women business owners' participation in the Greater New Orleans area. Its primary target market is women, but men are encouraged to participate. The Women's Business Resource Center (WBRC) provides:

- Free one-on-one business counseling;
- Technical assistance: loan application assistance, SBA 8A & SDB application assistance
- Entrepreneurial training and business-related seminars.

Eligibility: Small and emerging businesses

Telephone: (504) 620-2332

Address: 2322 Canal Street

New Orleans, LA 70119

Website: <http://www.urbanleagueneuorleans.org/index.html>

World Trade Center

The WTC has long been involved in conducting a wide range of trade promotion, educational, and legislative programs designed to enhance Louisiana's position in international trade, investment, transportation, banking, and other trade-related services, and to contribute to the state's overall economic development. These programs include: training classes on exporting and importing, foreign language classes, seminars on doing business in other countries, international business briefings by visiting U.S. and foreign officials, international trade publications, trade missions to other countries, receiving trade missions from other countries.

Eligibility: Please call for more information.

Telephone: (504) 529-1601

Website: www.wtc-no.org

Xavier University of Louisiana Entrepreneurial Institute - Student-Assisted Small Business Planning

Students taking Entrepreneurship classes at Xavier University of Louisiana can help small business owners create business plans. Business owners will be required to meet with the Entrepreneurship class three times during the semester and provide a weekly timeframe for the students to discuss the various elements of his/her business. At the end of the semester, the students will present a business plan to the client that will include secondary research, primary research, financial analysis, and a business plan. This service is free to the small business owner.

Eligibility: The class is limited to three businesses per semester

Telephone: (504) 520-5046

Business Specific Resources

-The Arts

Arts Council of New Orleans- Art Advocacy for Individuals and Groups/ Art Grants/ Benefits for Artists

The Arts Council of New Orleans is a private, non-profit organization designated as the City's official arts agency. The Arts Council works in partnership with the City of New Orleans, community groups, local, state, and national governmental agencies, and other nonprofit arts organizations to meet the arts and cultural needs of the New Orleans community through a diversity of initiatives and services. The Arts Council works to:

- Advocate for artists and cultural interests
- Administer grants programs
- Serve as one of the eight regional re-granting agencies for the Louisiana Division of the Arts
- Administer the Percent of Art program for the City of New Orleans designed to provide art as an integral part of social well-being and a livable City
- Provide services to member organizations and individual artists through its Arts Business Program, which includes providing access to legal assistance, health insurance, and a credit union
- Conduct local art shows and festivals
- Develop the Cultural Economy: Louisiana Artworks is both a facility and a program targeting economic development through a combination of culture and commerce

Eligibility: To apply for services, please contact the Council.

Email: wilkinson@artscouncilofneworleans.org

Telephone: (504) 523-1465
Address: 818 Howard Avenue, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70113
Web: <http://www.artscouncilofneworleans.org/>

Louisiana Music Commission

The Louisiana Music Commission (LMC) is a state economic development agency. It provides resource information, contact information and counseling. The LMC also provides limited promotional assistance. The agency works on business initiatives, collects business plans and assists in their formulation, and serves as a main contact point for state government economic assistance for music businesses. The LMC also works on broadcasting efforts, educational initiatives and efforts to make state and local governments more business-friendly for music businesses.

Eligibility: Music businesses
Phone: 504-736-8605

New Orleans Music Office Co-Op

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Eligibility: Music businesses
Telephone: (504)895-8477
Website: www.tipitinasfoundation.org

Seedco Financial Services Gulf Coast Division-

ArtBusiness: In partnership with the Louisiana Culture Recreation and Tourism and AIG, Seedco Financial is assembling a local group of advisors and conducting an assessment of the financial and technical assistance needs of the arts and culture community. In the interim, through the Louisiana Business Recovery Grant Program, Seedco Financial has grants totaling nearly \$1 million in the pipeline to 50 businesses that create or promote Louisiana arts and culture, including a Mardi Gras Indian organization, local artists, art galleries, tourism businesses, and performing and visual arts nonprofit organizations.

Eligibility: For more information, please contact Seedco.
Seedco Financial Contact Information:

Email: gulfcoast@seedco.org
Telephone: (504)520-5726
Address: 1 Drexel Place, Box #152
New Orleans, LA 70125
Website: <http://www.seedcofinancial.org/gulfcoast/>

-Childcare

Institute of Mental Health- Grants to promote early childhood mental health

IMH offers grants to promote early childhood mental health. Visit the IMH webpage for a complete listing of grant opportunities.

Eligibility Requirements: Childcare centers
Telephone: (504)566-1852
Email: imh@imhno.org
Address: 1055 St. Charles Ave. Suite 350
New Orleans, LA 70130
Website: www.imhno.org

Good Work Network- The Childcare Provider Development Program:

This comprehensive program is designed to assist childcare providers with the business aspects of their operations; the purpose of the program is to increase both the quality and quantity of childcare facilities in the greater New

Orleans area. The program includes:

- *Business training customized for childcare providers
- *Cooperative back office services such as accounting
- *Access to small loans and grants.

Eligibility Requirements: Please call for more information on eligibility requirements

Telephone: (504)309-2073
Address: 1824 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113
Web: <http://www.goodworknetwork.org/>

Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation- Project Katrina

The Project Katrina Initiative supports organizations in Louisiana that provide services and programs to children and their families who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The project supports events and programs for displaced residents and funds a grant program for childcare facilities.

Eligibility: Childcare providers
Email: projectkatrina@forallkids.org
Web: www.forallkids.org

-Contractors

Capital Access Project, Inc. (CAP) - Capital Access Assistance/ Technical Assistance/ Certification Assistance

Capital Access Project is dedicated to supporting the creation of competitively viable small, disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms through business development assistance by identifying, qualifying and matching those firms with public and private sector resources to start or expand their businesses, create jobs and create an economic impact that would otherwise not exist in New Orleans. CAP small business assistance programs include:

- One-on-one consultation
- Business plan preparation/evaluation
- Credit building
- Management/technical assistance
- Loan packaging
- Certification assistance
- Contractor's certification assistance and resources

Eligibility: Small businesses, especially minority and women-owned operating (or planning to operate) in the New Orleans metropolitan area are welcome to inquire about CAP's programs and services, some of which are free, others of which charge a fee. There are no other eligibility requirements. There is no formal application process.

Email: info@capitalaccessproject.org
Telephone: (504) 821-4855
Address: 2609 Canal Street, Suite 100
Web: <http://www.capitalaccessproject.org/>

Global Green- Sustainable Building Education and Advocacy Services

Global Green is committed to education and advocacy for green building practices to maximize energy efficiency, healthy indoor air quality, and the use of sustainable building materials for homeowners, contractors and developers. Visit their website for more information.

Eligibility: N/A
Telephone: (504) 525-2121
Web: <http://www.globalgreen.org/>

Hurricane Contracting Information Center – Federal Contracts Information Center

The Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC), an agency of the US Department of Commerce, provides a central point of reference for businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises, to register for and become aware of federal contracting opportunities in the Gulf Coast. While the HCIC does not award contracts, our mission is to ensure that businesses understand the process and are aware when

opportunities become available. The HCIC guides potential vendors through the steps necessary to participate on federal contracting projects in the region, including obtaining a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number; registering with the Central contractor Registration (CCR) database; registering to receive announcements on contracts of \$25,000 or more; and, researching the General Services Administration (GSA) scheduling process, among other things. The HCIC also provides contractors with updates on relevant topics/forums; links to other useful organizations such as the Disaster Contractors Network; a call center staffed by representatives from other contracting government agencies who offer business counseling; as well as a business outreach program

Eligibility: The HCIC does not have any eligibility requirements. It focuses on minority-owned, women-owned, and small-to-medium sized enterprises seeking to do federal government contracted business in the Gulf Coast region. There is no formal registration/application process with the HCIC.

Telephone: (800)827-5722

Web: <http://www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov/>

Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (N.O. PTAC)

The PTAC was established to generate employment and improve the general economy of Louisiana by assisting business firms in obtaining and performing under the U.S. Department of Defense, other federal agencies, state and local government contracts. Services include, but are not limited to: bid and proposal assistance, negotiation support, cost accounting, Federal Acquisition Regulations, pricing principles, subcontracting, and supplier certification. On our website you can find more information about how to become a PTAC Client and upcoming events.

Eligibility: Visit website to find out more about how to become a PTAC client.

Website: www.la-ptac.org

-Fisheries

Seedco Financial Services Gulf Coast Division- The Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center:

With support from Louisiana Economic Development and loan capital from a variety of banks, Seedco Financial is working to energize the local shrimping industry. Nearly 500 grants or loans are in the pipeline for boat repairs and related expenses to enable these fishermen to prepare for the approaching shrimp season. Seedco Financial along with its partners-marketumbrella.org, the Louisiana Small Business Development Centers and the Loyola University College of Business- provide technical and financial services designed to build the capacity of and sustain fisheries. Though the Center's services are provided to fishermen and related businesses at workshops and through site visits, Seedco Financial is planning to finance the location of a resource center in Plaquemines Parish, serving Orleans, St. Bernard, and Jefferson parishes. The proposed Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center, will offer fishermen and related businesses a one-stop opportunity for obtaining financial and technical assistance. In partnership with the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, the Center will outreach and offer special services to non-English speaking fishermen, such as Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans.

-Import/ Export Businesses

Louisiana International Trade Center

The LITC mission is to increase the number of Louisiana businesses involved in international trade and foster economic development in Louisiana. We assist business people interested in exporting, importing, and making foreign investments. Services include: seminars, trade missions,

financing programs, and translation services. The LITC "One Stop Shop" offers access to Country Guides, Market Research Reports, and Importing & Exporting Guides.

Eligibility: Businesses interested in import/ export businesses.

Telephone: (504)568-8222

Website: <http://web2.uno.edu/~litc/>

Louisiana District Export Council

Formally known as the New Orleans US Export Assistance Center we help "export ready" companies begin exporting or increase their export sales. Our International Trade Specialist provide export counseling and other services designed to assist small and medium sized firms to make their first time export sale or to increase their export markets. The US Commercial Service maintains offices in 70 countries and in over 100 US cities. Services provided by the US Export Assistance Center include: Export finance counseling, Market research, Trade contacts, Trade promotion events and programs, Advocacy on international contracts, Info on export documentation and licensing.

Eligibility: Import/ export businesses

Telephone: (504)589-2337

Website: www.ldec.org

World Trade Center

The WTC has long been involved in conducting a wide range of trade promotion, educational, and legislative programs designed to enhance Louisiana's position in international trade, investment, transportation, banking, and other trade-related services, and to contribute to the state's overall economic development. These programs include: training classes on exporting and importing, foreign language classes, seminars on doing business in other countries, international business briefings by visiting U.S. and foreign officials, international trade publications, trade missions to other countries, receiving trade missions from other countries.

Eligibility: Please call for more information.

Telephone: (504) 529-1601

Website: www.wtc-no.org

-Restaurants

Seedco Financial Services Gulf Coast Division- The Restaurant Recovery Initiative: With Share our Strength, Deutsche Bank, and The Hospitality Industry Relief Fund of the Professional Convention Management Association, Seedco Financial provides comprehensive aid to restaurants that were once a thriving part of the local economy but are now struggling. This Seedco Financial initiative has worked with 125 small, mostly minority owned-restaurants to create recovery plans that include loans or grants and technical assistance. Seedco Financial also works with the broader restaurant community to develop strategies to recruit and retain workers and secure affordable housing for them. As the restaurant initiative moves forward, Seedco Financial will be offering restaurants an online planning tool to help them make efficient business decisions, such as determining the best hours to remain open to maximize profits.

Eligibility: Please contact a Seedco representative for more information.

Email: gulfcoast@seedco.org

Telephone: (504)520-5726

Address: 1 Drexel Place, Box #152
New Orleans, LA 70125

Website: <http://www.seedcofinancial.org/gulfcoast/>

-Technology Companies

Louisiana Partnership for Technology Innovation- Advocacy for Technology Innovation

The Louisiana Partnership for Technology Innovation is devoted to the growth and diversification of Louisiana's economy. It pursues this objective by working with representatives of business and industry, academia, and government to advance innovative Louisiana-based, technological opportunities to and in the marketplace. The Partnership provides consulting services to technology entrepreneurs and to State government in developing strategic initiatives to support the creation and growth of technology-based companies in Louisiana. Our services include business planning, building business relationships, intellectual property management, management assistance, and providing introduction to potential customers and investors.

Eligibility: Please call for more information on eligibility and services.

Telephone: (225)922-9189

Website: www.louisianapartnership.com

Louisiana Technology Council – Technology Advocacy/ Business Recovery Center

The LTC's mission is to encourage the advancement of technology applications and to improve the long-term competitiveness of the New Orleans economy. The LTC has almost tripled its membership base since 2003, in the process has helped organizations use technology resources to their competitive advantage and has helped develop a greater technology based industry for the area. The LTC's definition of technology includes all industries and focuses on both users and producers in fields such as computers, engineering, communications, manufacturing, banking and investment, law, government and military and more.

In early 2006, the LTC entered into a strategic partnership with the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED). LED has provided funding for the LTC to develop and implement a business recovery / office incubator center for Greater New Orleans small businesses hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. The center focuses on helping technology companies but any business can participate. The LTC/LED – Business Recovery Center (BRC) currently serves as temporary office space for five displaced businesses that might otherwise have had to close their doors.

Eligibility: Please contact the LTC for more information.

Telephone: (504) 304-2910

Web: <http://www.ltc-la.org>; <http://ltc-la.org/en/cms/?222>

Louisiana State University Business & Technology Center – Business Counseling/ Training/ Information

Some Louisiana State University Business & Technology Center programs include:

Small Business Development Center (SBDC at LSU):

Provides professional one-on-one consulting to the small and medium-sized business community without charge. An initial interview is held to identify the needs of the business and determine a course of action that will best help achieve identified goals. Businesses and entrepreneurs receive assistance in developing their action plan to resolve specific issues and identify the actions necessary to reach their goals.

In addition to the full-time professional staff, the SBDC utilizes M.B.A. graduate assistants and the faculty resources of the university.

Mobile classroom: The mission of the mobile classroom is to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs located in Louisiana by providing access to the resources, infrastructure, and expertise needed to grow and sustain long-term success. The mobile classroom will foster, develop, and integrate the LBTC's entrepreneurial development system by providing a delivery platform and systematic approach for entrepreneur education, training, technical assistance, access to capital, access to networks and creating a sustainable entrepreneurial cultural in rural Louisiana.

Eligibility: Any small business statewide. Contact the SBDC at LSU at (225) 578- 7555

Louisiana State University Technology Transfer Office (LTTO at LSU)

The LTTO at LSU offers extensive training programs, as well as business and marketing plan assistance, in commercializing technology. The LTTO at LSU is the lead organization in the State for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. It has an office at NASA's Stennis Space Center to offer technical solutions to Louisiana's industry problems.

Goals of LTTO:

- Matching Louisiana businesses with resources and expertise within the federal laboratory system.
- Visiting Louisiana companies to assess their technical needs and to offer solutions to their problems.
- Promoting the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) to Louisiana companies.
- Assisting Louisiana businesses in applying for and winning these grants and contracts.
- Accessing information from a network of technology resources including NASA, SERTTC, and the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer.
- Facilitating technology transfer between federal agencies and Louisiana industries with emphasis on procurement, licensing and problem solving.
- Developing business plans, marketing plans and other business strategies including the raising of seed and venture capital and debt financing.

Eligibility: Any small business statewide. For the SBIR program, any business that qualifies for SBIR Grants statewide.

Louisiana State University Business and Technology Center Contact Information:

Telephone: 225-578-7555

Web: www.bus.LSU.edu/LBTC

Helpful Websites & Phone Numbers

Chambers of Commerce

New Orleans Chamber of Commerce neworleanschamber.org
(504) 522-7226

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana www.hccl.biz
(504) 885-4262

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce www.uswcc.org (888)
41-USWCC

National Black Chamber of Commerce www.nationalbcc.org
(202) 466-6888

Economic Development Organizations

Greater New Orleans, Inc. neworleanschamber.org (504) 527-
6900

St. Claude Merchants Association (504) 482-5722

Environmental Information

Department of Environmental Quality www.deq.state.la.us
(800) 259-2890 or

(225) 219-3263

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) www.epa.gov (214)
665-6444

Hazardous Waste (800) 401-1327

Toxic Substances/Disease (888) 422-8737

LA Department of Health and Hospitals (888) 293-7020

LA State Police (225) 925-6595

Health Inspections (225) 925-6595

Waste Management (WM) wastemanagement.com (504) 731-
4612 or

(713) 512-6200

Financial Information

Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions www.ofi.state.la.us
(225) 925-4660

Banking (866) 783-5530

Securities (866) 783-5469

Mortgages (888) 525-9414

City of New Orleans

City of New Orleans Updates (504) 658-2299 or

(877) 286-6431 or

311 (landline)

New Orleans City Council neworleanscitycouncil.com (504)
658-1000

Counseling/Employee Training Info.

Louisiana Works Department of Labor www.laworks.net (800)
818-7811 or

(225) 342- 3111

Certification and Licensing

Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

www.lslbc.louisiana.gov (225) 765-2301

Vendor Certification www.doa.louisiana.gov (225) 342-8062

Advertising Information

NOLA Business.com www.nolabusiness.com (866) MODIPHY
(225) 248-0035

Tax/ Insurance Information

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) www.irs.gov (504) 558-3344 or
(800) 829-1040

Louisiana Department of Insurance www.lidi.la.gov (225) 342-
5900

Government/Departmental Information

Louisiana Secretary of State www.sos.louisiana.gov (225) 342-
4479

Louisiana Department of Revenue www.rev.state.la.us (504)
568-5233

Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS)
www.dss.state.la.us (225) 342-0286

Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov (800) 772-1213

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

(DTOD) (877) 4LA-DTOD

or (225) 379-1444

Louisiana Economic Development (LED) www.lided.state.us
(225) 342-3000

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (877) 668-2722

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (800) 863-0098

Legal Information

New Orleans Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (504)
561-8828

New Orleans Coalition for Legal Aid and Disaster Relief (866)

NOLA-AID

Housing Information

Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov (800)
621-FEMA

Association of Comm. Org.for Reform Now www.acorn.org
(504) 943-0044

Utilities

Entergy (800) ENT-ERGY

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (504) 529-2837

Emergency Information

The American Red Cross (800) 975-7585

Manufacturing Information

LA Business and Technology Center www.bus.lsu.edu/lbtc
(225) 578-7555

LA Partnership for Technology and Innovation

louisianapartnership.com (225) 922-9189

US Patent and Trademark Office www.uspto.gov (225) 217-
9197

Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana
www.mepol.org (800) 433-6965

Miscellaneous Information

LouisianaRebuilds.info www.louisianarebuilds.info

Local Library www.state.lib.la.us (225) 342-4913