

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & INNOVATION works with other community partners in providing technical and financial assistance to businesses. Community partners who play a vital role in providing resources and potential financial assistance include:

KY SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER – offers training and consulting services, including management consultations, training workshops, market research, loan packaging help, and assistance with financial projections. www.ksbdc.org

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – provides counseling services to help start and grow a small business, and a full array of loan, contracting and exporting programs. www.sba.gov/ky

SCORE – a volunteer, non-profit organization of counselors who provide free and confidential business counseling to both prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners. <http://louisvillescore.org>

LOUISVILLE METRO DEPT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES & REVITALIZATION – helps low and moderate income business owners with starting and growing small businesses (five or fewer people), including training, technical assistance and loans. www.louisvilleky.gov/csr/feed/microenterprise.htm

COMMUNITY VENTURES CORPORATION – provides small business loans from \$500 to \$5.5 million to start-up and existing businesses for short-term capital needs and major purchases of property and equipment. CVC also offers assistance with business planning and technical assistance. www.cvcky.org

GLI ENTERPRISE CORP – identifies gaps in the region's entrepreneurial infrastructure, develops new sources of capital, and enhances educational programs. www.greaterlouisville.com/enterprisecorp

NAVIGATE ENTERPRISE CENTER – a subsidiary of Jewish Family & Career Services, Navigate assists low-income individuals, immigrants and refugees in pursuing entrepreneurship through business education, mentorship, and financial literacy training. <http://www.navigatecenter.com>

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER OF KENTUCKY – hosted by Community Ventures Corporation, assists women in starting and growing their small business with comprehensive training and counseling services. www.wbcky.org



DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND INNOVATION**

[www.louisvilleky.gov/
economicdevelopment](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/economicdevelopment)



SMALL BUSINESS GUIDE

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INNOVATION provides programs and resources that can help your business improve its bottom line. These programs help develop thriving neighborhood businesses, support job creation and foster a vibrant economy that continuously increase value and improve quality of life in Louisville.

This office provides many different avenues of assistance for a small business, and we want to help you get to the business of doing your business!



SERVICES

THE BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN is a city resource for helping small businesses navigate different government agencies and services. The Ombudsman can resolve local government problems and complaints for businesses, help businesses open or expand their operations, recommend changes in policies or procedures for a positive effect for all businesses in Louisville, and handle any questions concerning business services, process, contacts or general suggestions.

DEPARTMENT STAFF also helps improve business environments through technical assistance and streetscape improvements. Retail provides necessary services in neighborhoods and improves the quality of life for those residents. Staff encourages development and investment along commercial corridors, by seeking retail tenants to occupy available sites or spaces, or by finding property for an interested developer or retail business. Services also include providing connections to local business associations and helping explore possible sources of financial assistance.

THE METROPOLITAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (METCO) is staffed by the Department of Economic Growth & Innovation, and provides financial assistance through commercial loans for new and expanding businesses. Staff will guide business owners through the application process and help determine the best source and amount of loan that METCO can support.

THE NIA CENTER, located at 2900 W. Broadway, also houses offices of city government and community partners who can help take your business idea to the next level. If you are thinking about starting a new business, need help writing a business plan, or want to talk through the steps of running a business, get help with the Louisville Business Clinic's business development services.



LOCAL FINANCING PROGRAMS

TAX ASSESSMENT MORATORIUM is a five-year moratorium on property re/assessment that is available on improvements to existing residential and commercial structures which are at least 25 years old.

MANUFACTURING TAX MORATORIUM allows property taxes to be abated for five years for a new manufacturing company locating in, or moving into, Louisville Metro; or for the increased value of a building/equipment for an existing company that is expanding its operations for a new product line.

BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM provides up to 25% of project costs up to \$100,000, in gap financing, to small businesses. This loan can be financed up to 10 years at a minimum rate of 5%.

SMALL & DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM provides up to 50% of project costs, or \$100,000, in gap financing to minority, or women-owned businesses at market rates. This loan program can be financed up to 10 years at 5%.

GO GREEN LOAN is a below market-rate incentive program aimed at increasing energy efficiency and creating "green" jobs. These loans can be used for energy-efficient upgrades, or creating green products or services.

FACADE LOAN PROGRAM is available to commercial property owners for exterior property improvements, including window and door replacements, storefronts, masonry repair, siding, painting, carpentry, signage, parking and landscaping. This loan is offered at a fixed rate of 3% over 10 years.

ACCESSIBILITY LOAN is offered to commercial property owners for the purpose of making buildings more accessible at points of ingress and egress for people with physical disabilities. Loans range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for exterior or interior accessibility improvements, such as accessible paths of travel, doors, handrails, threshold adjustments, and bathroom alterations. Funds are loaned at a maximum of 100% of the total approved project at a fixed interest rate of 3% with maximum maturity of 4 years.

BROWNFIELDS (KEOZ) Redevelopment Loan provides financing for economic development in eligible, older industrial areas. Companies who want to acquire, assess and remediate property for use or resale, or to construct and install buildings and fixtures for industrial use are eligible. This loan program is eligible in the Kentucky Economic Opportunity Zone.

BROWNFIELD CLEANUP LOAN PROGRAM offers below-market rate loans to brownfield property owners and prospective purchasers with the objective to assist in the cleanup of brownfield properties to return them to productive use. This loan program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides financing only for the environmental cleanup portion of the total costs of a real estate development project on a brownfield site.

LOUISVILLE AGRIBUSINESS LOAN is targeted to businesses processing food which is grown by Kentucky farmers. To be eligible, businesses must open in the Portland neighborhood, and must demonstrate that the major ingredients in their product come from Kentucky farmers and that they will create jobs in the Portland area. This is a negotiable, low-interest revolving loan.