



SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

2024 Edition

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A Guide for Business Startups, Already Existing Businesses, and
Entrepreneurs Throughout Maine

Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Since 1967 Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) has been a strong supporter of small business development throughout the region and the state. As a private, nonprofit organization, we provide small business programs and work with other local, state, and federal agencies to ensure entrepreneurial development.

This guide helps entrepreneurs and small business owners better understand the free resources that are freely available to help with small business startup, growth, and sustainability.

Regardless of your experience, industry, or the stage of your business, many programs, resources, and organizations are engineered to help you succeed. Quite frankly, there are a lot of fantastic, free resources that exist for small businesses to take advantage of. We've compiled this guide to help make finding those resources less confusing and less cumbersome. EMDC helps businesses, communities, and individuals reach their long-term goals. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to speak to someone about your business, please don't hesitate to reach out to our community & business services team. We're here to help you succeed!

All the best, Lee



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Templates, Tools, & Startup Checklists

Business Plans

A formal, written business plan can be seen as the foundation for your business. It can increase the odds that your business startup will succeed and often is required by lending agencies to secure financing for a business. A business plan typically describes the nature of a business, background information that is relevant to the business, financial projections, and strategies that will enable the business to be successful.

A business plan has no set number of pages, but it should be long enough to adequately describe the business. There are several business plan templates on the internet. Here are some free templates that will help you with starting your own:

- SCORE Business Plan - https://s3.amazonaws.com/mentoring.redesign/s3fs-public/SCORE-Deluxe-Startup-Business-Plan-Template_1.docx
- SBA Business Plan - <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan-your-business/write-your-business-plan>
- SBDC Business Plan - <https://www.mainesbdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Maine-SBDC-Business-Plan-Guide.pdf>

Market Research

Gathering information about target markets and understanding who your customers will be can sometimes be challenging. However, performing market research can help a business design and sell better products/services, improve customer experience, and help you make better-informed decisions about your business. Below are some links to helpful tools/resources that assist with market research:

- SBDC National Information Clearinghouse - <https://www.sbdnet.org/>
- Maine & Co. Support - <https://maineco.org/about-us/>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics - <https://stats.bls.gov/>
- Maine Site Selector Tool - <https://www.selectmainesites.com/>
- Maine DOT Traffic Counts - <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/traffic/counts/>

Marketing Plans

A marketing plan is usually part of an overall business plan. It is a comprehensive document that explains a business's advertising and marketing efforts. A marketing plan should include historical data, predictions, and strategies that will ensure a company's overall success in selling products and/or services. Below are some templates that can assist you with putting together your own marketing plan:

- SBDC Marketing Plan - <https://www.mainesbdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/sample-marketing-plan-2015.pdf>

Financial Plans

Arguably, this is the most important part of a written business plan. If you are applying for a loan, your lender will be looking for this information to make their decision. This section of a business plan shows your business's actual (or anticipated) revenues and expenses. There are some financial templates that should be included with your business plan, including: a cash flow statement, balance sheet, profit/loss statement (P&L), schedule of liabilities, and a break-even analysis. Below is a list of websites where you can obtain already developed financial statement templates:

- SBDC Financial Plans - <https://www.mainesbdc.org/resources/tools-templates/>
- SCORE Financial Plans - <https://www.score.org/resource/business-planning-financial-statements-template-gallery>

Business Legal Assistance & Business Structures

The business legal structure you choose influences everything from day-to-day operations to taxes to how much of your assets are at risk. Therefore, you should select a business structure that gives you the right balance of protection and benefits. ***IMPORTANT NOTE: EMDC does not provide legal assistance – Please contact an attorney to help you decide which legal structure is best for you*** Below are some resources that will help you decide and differentiate the various legal structures that exist for businesses:

- SBA Business Structures - <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch-your-business/choose-business-structure>
- IRS Business Structures - <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/business-structures>

There are also accredited law firms and lawyers in the area that volunteer their time to assist small businesses with basic legal concerns. Below are links to 2 such programs:

- Maine Volunteer Lawyers - <https://www.vlp.org/>
- Rudman Winchell Legal Lounge - <https://www.rudmanwinchell.com/legal-lounge/>
- Maine Lawyer Directory - https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/maine_bar/attorney_directory.pl

Licenses & Permits

Don't know what business licenses or permits you should get for your business? Want to know how to incorporate in Maine? Do you know where to obtain corporate forms? No worries because the State of Maine has that information available on its website. Click the links below for more details:

- Maine Business Answer - <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi/online/businessanswers/index.pl>
- Maine.gov Corporate Resources - <https://www.maine.gov/portal/business/corporate.html>
- Maine.gov Forming a Corporation - <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/corp/incorporating.html>
- Workforce Compliance - https://www.maine.gov/labor/workplace_safety/index

Business Taxes & Government Resources

There is helpful information available from the state and the federal government to ensure small business success. However, learning and understanding business taxes, safety/hiring laws, trademark/patent protection, energy-efficient upgrades, or other business concerns can be complicated and confusing. The below websites can assist you with these kinds of business concerns:

- Maine Revenue Services - <https://www.maine.gov/revenue>
- Social Security Administration - <https://www.ssa.gov/site/menu/en/>
- U.S. Census Bureau - <https://www.census.gov/>
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office - <https://www.uspto.gov/>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration - <https://www.osha.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - <https://www.usda.gov/>
- Efficiency Maine - <https://www.energymaine.com/>
- Maine.gov Business Portal - <https://www.maine.gov/portal/business/>
- Small Business Administration - <https://www.sba.gov/>
- Maine.gov Employee Rights and Services - <https://www.maine.gov/portal/employment/rights.html>
- Department of Labor Workers' Compensation - <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/workcomp>

New Business Startup, Incubator Programs, and Support Organizations

There are many small business support organizations in the state. Some provide unique services dedicated to those looking to accomplish a specific goal or task. Other organizations cater to specific business industries, and others cater to all industry types. Below is a list of the state's most important organizations for entrepreneurial and small business development, growth, sustainability, and acceleration. There are also entrepreneur and new business events.

- Better Business Bureau - <https://www.bbb.org/>
 - The BBB helps businesses through accreditation, a BBB accredited is proof of your high standards, they offer resolution services with consumers, and more.
- Big Gig - <https://www.bigbig.org/>
 - Big Gig provides an avenue for entrepreneurs to pitch their product or company, to then compete at a chance to win important startup funds.
- Business Resource Partners Greater Bangor - <https://www.facebook.com/BRPforGreaterBangor>
 - This is a collaboration of Greater Bangor Organizations who help businesses start and grow. This resource is great as it connects a wide range of business support organizations which all communicate with one another on trends, clients, etc.
- CEI (Coastal Enterprise Inc) Maine - <https://www.ceimaine.org/>
 - CEI is an organization dedicated to building a more equitable economy through job growth, business development, and climate resiliency.
 - They provide financing, consulting, and grants of various sorts to small businesses.
 - (207) 504-5900
- Cooperative Development Institute - <https://cdi.coop/>
 - CDI is an organization dedicated to democratic ownership across New England. They help employees interested in the succession of their business, and everything that goes along with starting a Coop.
 - info@cdi.coop
 - (413) 665-1271
- Foster Center for Student Innovation at UMaine - <https://umaine.edu/innovation/>
 - The UMaine Foster Center provides training, classes, business consulting, and a free incubation space to start your idea off right. The space provides: office space, reception services, telephone, internet, fax services, conference rooms, work areas, multimedia equipment, and more!
 - uminnovation@maine.edu
 - (207) 581-1454
- Four Directions Maine - <http://www.fourdirectionsmaine.org/>
- Four Directions Maine - <http://www.fourdirectionsmaine.org/>
 - Four Directions is an economic development corporation dedicated to improving the social and economic conditions of Maine's tribes. They provide loans, financial education, tax preparation assistance, and host an APEX counselor who can help businesses with all things government contracting.
 - info@fourdirectionsmaine.org
 - (207) 866-6545
- Greenlight Maine - <https://greenlightmaine.com/>
 - Greenlight Maine is a competition of entrepreneurs, businesses, and companies who can pitch their businesses to a panel of judges with the potential to win important funding!
- Innovation Center - <https://www.thomas.edu/haibi/>
 - The Innovation center provides entrepreneurs free assistance such as:
 - Idea Validation.
 - Incubation assistance such as figuring out product profitability.
- Maine Accelerates Growth - <http://maineacceleratesgrowth.com/>

- Is a network of organizations and individuals who support an inclusive ecosystem for Maine businesses. They provide meetings and workgroups on specialized topics and news related to entrepreneurship, Maine economic trends, and other topics.
- Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center - <https://www.maineaquaculture.org/>
 - The Center facilitates and fosters research, development, and business in Maine's aquaculture industry. They provide industry reports, business incubation, training, education, and more.
- Maine Center for Entrepreneurs - <https://mced.biz/>
 - This group dedicates itself to providing training, connections, and mentorship to businesses that need to accelerate their business. They provide a network of hundreds of businesses and organizations, and numerous programs such as:
 - Top Gun - a 15-week program which provides mentorship, idea workshops, pitch development, and a chance to win a 25k prize.
 - Food Accelerators – which provides industry data, and statewide partnerships.
 - BioStartup – is a program dedicated to support those in biotech, digital health, life sciences, and medical device companies who have tackled their initial steps and are ready to grow. The program provides mentoring, company assessment services, workshops, networking, and highlight events.
 - Food Tech Maine – is a program meant to support Maine's food, agriculture, and aquaculture ecosystems. The program provides mentorship, education focused on business functions, networking, exposure to funding connections, market research, and highlight events.
 - Visionary Leadership Program – is a program dedicated to the advancement of emerging business leaders through education, networking, and webinars.
 - Compass Program – Is a program focused on Maine's outdoor industry. It provides 10 weeks of learning sessions, and highlights events covering everything from marketing, scaling, and product innovation. The program also provides networking and mentorship opportunities.
 - Maine Mentor Network – Is a dedicated team of 200+ industry experts who can provide 1:1 mentorship, pitch training, and more. This network of mentors connects you to them.
- Maine Community Colleges Workforce Training - <https://www.mccs.me.edu/workforce-training/train-my-workforce/maine-quality-centers/>
 - This program provides workforce training grants to Maine employers interested in training for new or current employees.
 - alfondtraining@mccs.me.edu
- Maine Department of Economic & Community Development - <https://www.maine.gov/decd/>
 - DECD provides businesses a wide range of services. They work hand in hand with statewide partners, private industries and businesses to enhance Maine's economic prosperity. Some of their resources include
 - A toll free number called Business Answers which can help you with any business related questions including but not limited to licensing and startup information.
 - business.answers@maine.gov
 - (800)-872-3838
 - The Maine Resource Compass which is a searchable database of 30+ business resources across the state.
 - <https://www.startupspace.app/hub/MaineResourceCompass>
- Maine Development Foundation - <https://www.mdf.org/>
 - MDF is an organization that provides businesses access and knowledge of state wide economic trends, important state initiatives in downtown areas, leadership training and more!
 - mdf@mdf.org
 - (207) 622-6345
- Maine International Trade Center - <https://www.mitc.com/>
 - This is an organization dedicated to the advancement of Maine's position in international markets. They provide 1:1 training, education, and a variety of events, and they provide funding resources.
 - info@mitc.com

- (207) 541-7400
- Maine Made - <https://www.mainemade.com/>
 - This is an organization dedicated to the sale of Maine made goods, they can help your business by spotlighting your goods on their website.
 - info@mainemade.com
 - 207-624-7489
- Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership - <https://www.mainemep.org/>
 - This is an organization that works hand in hand with Maine's manufacturers. The organization provides help addressing workforce challenges, innovation and integration, scaling, efficiency reviews, and more
 - contact@mainemep.org
 - (207) 623-0680
- Maine SBA - <https://www.sba.gov/>
 - The SBA helps Americans start, build, and grow businesses. They do so through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations.
 - They provide access to capital.
 - Entrepreneurial development.
 - Government contracting.
 - Advocacy for small businesses.
- Maine Technology Institute - <https://www.mainetechnology.org/>
 - MTI offers grants loans, equity investments, and services to support Maine's innovation economy.
 - (207)-82-4790
- Maine Tourism - <https://www.maintourism.com/>
 - Maine's tourism organization is a membership-based organization that provides an array of member benefits. These benefits include being listed on their website and at various Maine State Visitor Info Centers, being added on various Maine sponsored booking websites, networking opportunities brochure dissemination, and more!
 - mtainfo@maintourism.com
 - (207) 623-0363
- MaineStream Finance - <https://www.mainestreamfinance.org/>
 - This is an organization provides financing and advice to business owners, home buyers, and consumers. For small businesses they provide classes for new businesses, and loans for small businesses.
 - MSFInfo@penquis.org
 - (207) 973-3500
- Manufacturers Association of Maine - <https://mainemfg.com/>
 - This is an association of Maine manufacturers and provides business development, member services, networking, and industry connections.
- Moosehead Lake Economic Development Corporation - <https://mooseheadlakeedc.com/>
 - This group provides technical assistance and business support to any enterprise looking to operate in the Moosehead Lake region.
 - Info@mooseheadlakeedc.org
 - (207)-717-3526
- New Ventures (Entrepreneurial) - <https://newventuresmaine.org/>
 - This is an organization dedicated to helping Mainers succeed whether it be a new job, career, or even starting a new business. They provide classes on various topics like growing your online business, self-employment, tax readiness, etc.
 - info@newventuresmaine.org
 - (207) 621-3440
- SCORE Maine - <https://www.scoremaine.org/>
 - This is an organization that provides tax workshops with CPAs and legal professionals, mentorship, and various other classes.
 - (207) 536-1143
- Scratch Pad Accelerator - <https://www.scratchpadaccelerator.org/>

- This organization holds classes, mentorships, and networking opportunities for a select cohort of companies within select sectors at similar stages of development. This includes introductions to key players within the selected sector such as advisory boards and suppliers. The program also provides mentorship, commercialization assistance, and opportunities to pitch to investors.
- Small Business Development Center - <https://www.mainesbdc.org/>
 - This is an organization dedicated to supporting Maine's businesses. They provide a wide range of services. They provide 1:1 advising, workshops and webinars, training seminars, business plan assistance, finance assistance, marketing assistance, and they often have funding sources for businesses as well.
- Startup Maine - <https://www.startupmaine.org>
 - Startup Maine is an organization dedicated towards connecting startups, professionals, community members, and other organizations together. They host many networking events and keep members updated on startup-centered initiatives.
- Startup Space Resource Compass - <https://www.startupspace.app/hub/MaineResourceCompass>
 - The compass is a tool to figure out where various resources are for your business, it allows you to filter your search by sector, interest, stage, location, etc.
- The Island Institute - <https://www.islandinstitute.org/about/mission/>
 - The Island Institute works with Maine island and coastal leaders to support Maine's coastal communities. They offer loans, technical assistance, and climate change resiliency support.
 - info@islandinstitute.org
 - (207)-594-9209
- UMaine Advanced Manufacturing Center - <https://www.umaine.edu/amc>
 - The AMC provides entrepreneurs with a team of budding professionals to bring their creative license to life. They have a team of students and faculty ready to assist you in developing new products and putting them on the market.
 - amc@maine.edu
 - (207) 581-2713
- Union River Center for Innovation - <https://unionriverinnovation.com/>
 - This center for innovation provides incubation assistance, working space rentals, seminars, and private office space!
 - info@unionriverinnovation
 - (800) 930-5313
- Upstart Maine - <https://upstartmaine.org/>
 - UpStart Maine is a coalition of Entrepreneurial and New Business support organizations that provide classes, mentorship opportunities, networking opportunities, webinars, and a one stop resource map for all things entrepreneurial.
 - innovation@upstartmaine.org
 - (207) 866-2406
- USA.gov Small Business - <https://www.usa.gov/business?source=busa>

Commercial Lending & Funding Opportunities

Obtaining business financing can be a daunting process, but many lending agencies can assist with commercial financing needs throughout the state, including your local banks! Whether you are looking for working capital, looking to purchase new machinery/buildings, or have other financing needs, the below links can help you find a financing agency that can assist you:

- EMDC Lending - <https://www.emdc.org/services/lending/>
 - EMDC's Lending services can help you navigate the process of pursuing loans, and even when other institutions have said no. Email lending at lending@emdc.org
- MaineStream Finance - <https://www.mainestreamfinance.org/business/business-lending/>
- Four Directions Maine - <https://fourdirectionsmaine.org/>
- Maine Angels (Investing) <https://www.maineangels.org/>

- Finance Authority of Maine - <https://www.famemaine.com/>
- Maine Venture Fund - <https://www.maineventurefund.com/>
- Slow Money Maine - <https://slowmoneymaine.com/>
- USDA Rural Development - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>
- Kick Starter - <https://www.kickstarter.com/>
- Go Fund Me - <https://www.gofundme.com/>

Government Contracting

Did you know the United States is the #1 purchaser of goods and services throughout the world? If you are interested in selling your company's products and/or services to local, state, or federal governments, this program is for you! Maine APEX is a free, statewide program that helps small businesses to understand and navigate the government contracting space. Services include but are not limited to: federal and state registrations (including SAM.gov), writing capabilities statements, finding and understanding solicitations, proposal preparation and much more. Counselors throughout the state provide one-on-one counseling and webinars/training sessions all to assist Maine businesses achieve their government contracting goals, regardless of how big or small.

To learn more about APEX & government contracting by clicking the links below:

- Maine APEX at EMDC - <https://www.maineptac.org/>
- Training Resources at U.S. General Services Administration - <https://www.gsa.gov/small-business/small-business-resources/training-resources>

Women and/or Minority-Owned Business Programs

Maine provides many programs specific to women & minority-owned businesses who are small business owners. If you are a woman or minority-owned business interested in working as a contractor with the Maine Department of Transportation or the Federal Government, then certification programs are engineered to ensure your success. There are also local organizations that promote racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity in the region. Below are some links to organizations and programs that support women and minority-owned businesses.

- Maine DBE Program - <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/civilrights/dbe/> & <https://www.mainedbe.com/>
 - DBE is a program that supports minority, women, and veteran owned businesses compete in today's market.
- SBA Government Contracting Site - <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs>
- Four Directions - <http://www.fourdirectionsmaine.org/>
- Immigrant Welcome Center - www.welcomeimmigrant.org
- Women Standing Together - <https://www.womenstandingtogether.org/>
- Maine Multicultural Center - <https://mainemulticulturalcenter.org/>
- Maine Women's Network - <https://www.maineomensnetwork.com/>
- Black Owned Maine - <https://www.blackownedmaine.com/>
 - This organization is working to build an ecosystem of black owned businesses in Maine. They list member businesses in their directory, may have funding sources, assist with advertising, and may be able to provide technical assistance.
- Score Hispanic Entrepreneurs - <https://www.score.org/hispanic-owned-business>
- CEI (Coastal Enterprise Inc) Maine - <https://www.ceimaine.org/>
 - CEI offers the Woman's Business center which provides business advising, workshops, courses, and networking events geared towards Maine's woman business owners and entrepreneurs.

Veteran Business Resources

There are several excellent programs throughout the state and the nation that assist veterans looking to enter the world of business ownership. If you are a veteran and looking for funding, training, contracting opportunities, or other information relating to business ownership, then check out the links below:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization - <https://www.va.gov/osdbu/>
- SBA Government Contracting - <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/service-disabled-veteran-owned-small-businesses-program>

Workforce & Workforce Development

Are you looking to hire more employees? Are you curious about training programs and find it challenging to fill positions for your company? There are plenty of resources available to assist you with your workforce & hiring needs including a list of Maine's Career Centers who can help you create a pipeline of employees to your positions:

Augusta	45 Commerce Dr Augusta, ME 04330	(207) 624-5120
Bangor	45 Oak St, Suite 3 Bangor, ME 04401	(207) 623-7981
Brunswick	29 Sewall St Brunswick, ME 04011	(888) 836-3355
Calais	Main Building - 1 College Dr Calais, ME 04619	(207) 454-7551
Dover-Foxcroft	50 Mayo St Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426	(207) 951-0835
East Millinocket	1 Dirigo Dr, Suite 2 East Millinocket, ME 04430	(207) 991-2128
Ellsworth	248 State St, Suite 15A Ellsworth, ME 04605	(207) 991-0147
Hinckley	23 Stanley Road Hinckley, ME 04944	(207) 474-4950
Lewiston	5 Mollison Way Lewiston, ME 04240	(800) 741-2991
Machias	53 Prescott Dr Machias, ME 04654	(800) 292-8929
Portland	151 Jetport Blvd Portland, ME 04102	(207) 623-7981
Presque Isle	66 Spruce St Presque Isle, ME 04769	(207) 768-6829
Rockland	91 Camden St, Suite 201 Rockland, ME 04841	(207) 596-2600
Rumford	60 Lowell St Rumford, ME 04276	(207) 735-8746
Springvale	9 Bodwell Court Springvale, ME 04083	(207) 623-7981
Wilton	865 US-2 Wilton, ME 04294	(207) 623-7981

- Eastern Maine Development Corporation - <https://www.emdc.org/workforce/>

- Economic Research Institute - <https://www.erieri.com/dlc>
 - The Economic Research Institute, is a training and learning for Human Resources.
- Maine DOL General Website - <https://www.maine.gov/labor/>
- Maine.gov Career Center - <http://www.mainecareercenter.gov/>
- Project Login - <https://www.projectlogin.com/techhire-maine/about>
 - Project Login is a leading resource to connect anyone interested in Maine’s computing and IT fields.
- Maine.gov Center for Workforce Research and Information - <https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/>
- Maine Job Link - <https://joblink.maine.gov/>
- Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine’s Workforce - <https://www.mccs.me.edu/workforce-training/>
 - As apart of Maine’s community college system this center offers short term and long training for employees, and grants for businesses who utilize the center’s training resources through joining their compact.
 - alfondtraining@mccs.me.edu
- Eastern Maine Community College Workforce Development - <https://www.emcc.edu/workforce-development/>
- Maine Career Development Association - <https://www.maine-cda.org/>
- OSHA - <https://www.osha.gov/>
- Memic - <https://memic.com/>
- Maine Safety Works - <https://www.safetyworksmaine.gov/>
- Job Corps – <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>
 - In Maine there are two Job Corps campuses
 - Loring - <https://loring.jobcorps.gov/>
 - Bangor - <https://penobscot.jobcorps.gov/>

Apprenticeship Resources

Through MDOL, Maine’s apprenticeship program connects employees to employers, upskills workers, and helps both businesses stuck in hiring and employees stuck in their life. The program offers employers new talent with a 90% retention rate after 1 year, funding to cover employer related expenses in the program, and a pipeline of candidates for any empty role. For employees, the program offers low-cost hands-on training with in-demand employers, increased wages, and steady employment! If you are curious in participating in the program to fill your team’s gaps, reach out to EMDC’s workforce department at Workforce@emdc.org as the designated convener of this program.

If you are looking for municipal experts, EMDC has been chosen as one of two group sponsors in the United States to participate in a new Municipal Apprenticeship program by the Council of State Governments and the Urban Institute. This program will better connect municipalities with statewide workforce needs. If this interests you, reach out to JKing@emdc.org

Municipal & Chamber of Commerce's Contact Information

Local chambers of commerce and municipalities can be extremely helpful when starting and supporting small business development. Below are links that can connect you with local resources:

- Maine Municipal Association Directory of Chambers - <https://memun.org/Training-Resources/Local-Government/Municipal-Websites>

Business Software Tools

There are many creative software tools available for small businesses to utilize. Technology can be a great tool and asset when implemented correctly. Below are some recommended software programs that small businesses can utilize to remain productive, stay organized, and maintain contact with their client base:

- HubSpot - <https://www.hubspot.com/>
 - Hubspot is a CRM designed for business scaling.

- Doodle - <https://doodle.com/en/>
 - Doodle is a tool to help schedule meetings .
- Mail Chimp - <https://mailchimp.com>
 - Mail Chimp is a tool that supports email Marketing.
- Constant Contact - <https://constantcontact.com>
 - Constant Contact is another tool for email Marketing.
- Trello - <https://trello.com>
 - Trello is a tool that helps you manage and observe the tasks of your team.
- Slack - <https://slack.com>
 - Slack is a tool that allows each team member to be in a variety of work chatrooms, fostering team communication.
- Alternative To - <https://alternativeto.net>
 - Alternative to offers free alternatives to paid apps and services.
- WordPress - <https://wordpress.com/>
 - WordPress is a common website design tool

Nonprofit Support Organizations

Looking to start a nonprofit? Wondering what funding is available for nonprofits? Want to know more about the resources that can assist you with starting/operating your nonprofit? Check out the links below:

- Maine Association of Nonprofits - <https://www.nonprofitmaine.org/>
- Maine.gov Non-Profits - <https://www.maine.gov/msl/lib/admin/nonprofits.html>
- State Non-Profit Resources - <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/corp/nonprofitresources.html>
- Libra Foundation - <https://librafoundation.org/>
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation - <https://www.sewallfoundation.org/>
- Steven and Tabitha King Foundation - <https://www.stkfoundation.org/>
- Maine Philanthropy Center - <https://www.maine philanthropy.org/>
- Maine Community Foundation - <http://www.maine cf.org/>
- Grants.gov - <https://www.grants.gov/>

Workshops, Webinars, Trainings, and Events

The world of business is perpetually changing and evolving. Keeping up to date with new developments in the industry can be one of the most challenging aspects of starting and operating a business. Because of this, some wonderful nonprofits offer workshops, webinars, and often free events that small business owners/entrepreneurs can take advantage of:

- SCORE Workshops - <https://bangor.score.org/>
- New Ventures Classes - <https://newventuresmaine.org/class-schedules/>
- MaineStream Finance Classes - <https://www.mainestreamfinance.org/business/business-classes/>
- SBDC Workshops - <https://mainesbdc.centerdynamics.com/events.aspx?days=90&layout=4>
- Maine PTAC Events - <https://www.maineptac.org/events/>
- Eastern Maine Development Corporation Events - <https://www.emdc.org/connect/events/>
- Maine SBDC Workshops - <https://www.mainesbdc.org/workshops/>
- SBA Learning Center - <https://www.sba.gov/learning-center>
- SBDC Training - <https://sbdctraining.org/>

State & Regional Economic Development

The State of Maine has several Economic Development Districts (EDDs). Some organizations assist with regional/economic development. Check out the links below for more details about each:

- Eastern Maine Development Corporation - <https://www.emdc.org>
- Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments - <https://www.avcog.org>
- Greater Portland Council of Governments - <https://www.gpcog.org>
- Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - <https://www.kvcog.org/>
- Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission - <https://www.lcrpc.org/>
- Maine Rural Development Authority - <https://www.mainerda.org>
- Midcoast Council of Governments - <https://www.midcoastcog.com/>
- Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority - <http://mrra.us/>
- Northern Maine Development Commission - <https://www.nmdc.org>
- Piscataquis County Economic Development Council - <https://pcedc.org/>
- Sunrise County Economic Council - <https://www.sunrisecounty.org>
- Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission - <https://smpdc.org/>
- Maine Department of Economic and Community Development <https://www.maine.gov/decd>
- Hancock County Planning Commission - <https://www.hcpcme.org/>
- Moosehead Lake Development Corporation - <https://mooseheadlakeedc.com/>

Emergency Resources

Harsh storms, coastal floods, blizzards, and more could all have a detrimental effect on your business. Regardless of what has happened, there are resources out there to get you and your business back up and running.

- MEMA is Maine's Emergency Management Agency, they are a one stop shop for information about impending emergencies, emergency preparation, and resources for recovery.
 - <https://www.maine.gov/mema>
 - (207) 624-4400
- 211 Maine is an organization dedicated to connecting you to a plethora of resources across the state in your time of need.
 - <https://211maine.org/>
- FEMA, or Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides disaster assistance in affected regions.
 - <https://www.fema.gov/>

Contact Us

If you need further information or assistance on any of your business needs, reach out to EMDC at business@emdc.org or (207) 942-6389.