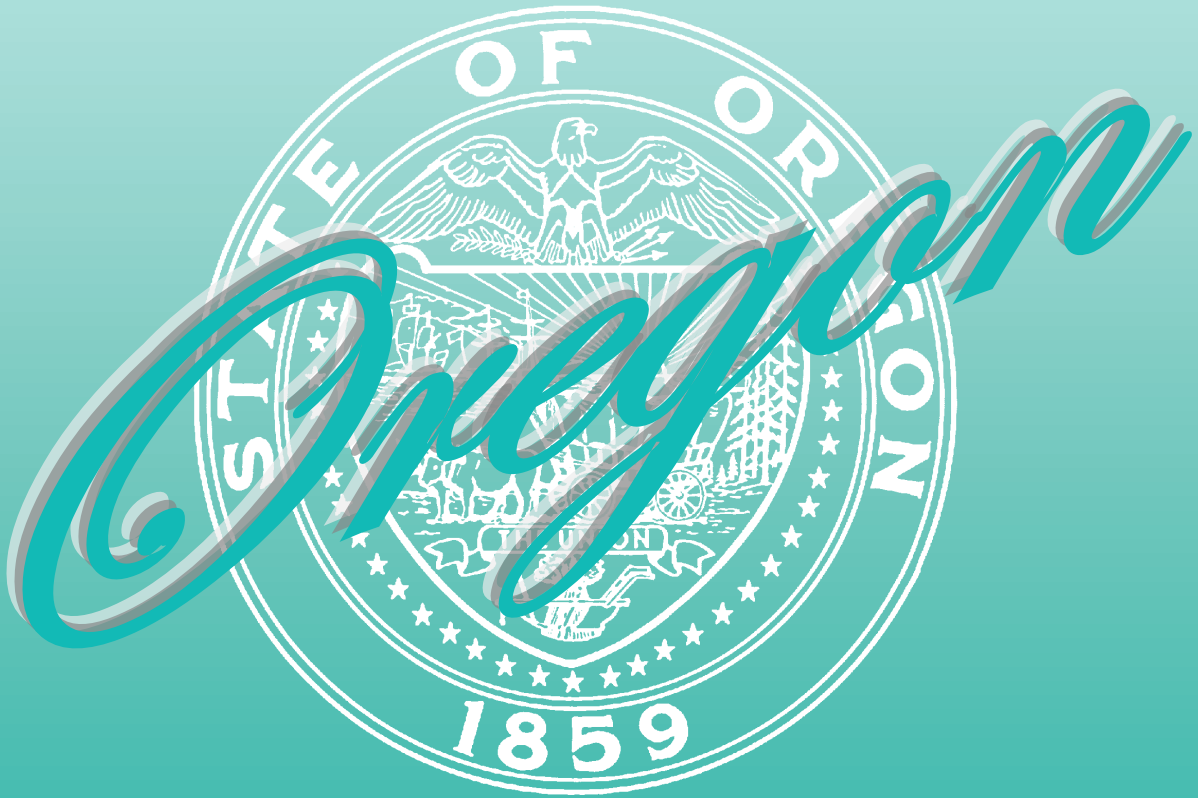


Oregon Business Guide

How to Start a Business in



Business Information Center - Corporation Division – Secretary of State

FilingInOregon.com

Dear Oregon Entrepreneur,

Welcome to *The Oregon Business Guide: **How To Start a Business in Oregon.***

The Secretary of State, Corporation Division operates the Business Information Center and publishes this guide. Many state agencies worked to provide information on government registration and licensing requirements for businesses. This guide provides basic information and a general checklist to guide you through the process of starting a business in Oregon. The guide also highlights business assistance programs that can help you as you begin and continue to operate your business.

The Business Information Center also publishes a separate guide to help businesses that hire employees. *The Oregon Business Guide: [Employer's Guide for Doing Business in Oregon](#)* provides a general checklist to guide you through government's requirements for Oregon employers.

Use the guides independently or together, depending on the specific needs of your business.

Please contact the Business Information Center for further information:

Secretary of State, Corporation Division
Business Information Center
Public Service Building
255 Capitol St. NE, Ste. 151
Salem, OR 97310-1327

(503) 986-2200

Corporation.Division@state.or.us

www.FilingInOregon.com

PUBLICATION LIMITATIONS

The participating government agencies share all information allowed by law and help each other enforce compliance with the individual programs. If you have any questions about the material covered in this booklet, please contact the appropriate agency. Phone numbers are listed in each section, along with material provided by the agency. Information in this publication is not a complete statement of laws and administrative rules.

The State of Oregon has made every effort to ensure accuracy of the information at publication, but it is impossible to guarantee that the information remains continuously valid.

This publication is updated periodically; assistance with corrections and additions is welcome. Please email suggestions to the Business Information Center at Corporation.Division@state.or.us.

Secretary of State, Corporation Division

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STARTING A BUSINESS CHECKLIST

Starting a successful business requires a great deal of preparation. The following is a list of recommendations to help you get your business off to a good start. For a more comprehensive checklist, please see pages 1-4.

☐ 1. Preparation

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge & Experience | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
|---|-----------------------------------|
-

☐ 2. Planning

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Seek professional advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financing | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Assistance Programs |
-

☐ 3. Select Your Business Name and Structure

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understand business structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Check business name for availability at www.filinginoregon.com |
|---|---|
-

☐ 4. Register Your Business at www.filinginoregon.com

☐ 5. Tax Information for Income & Businesses

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Taxes & ID Number | <input type="checkbox"/> State Taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes |
-

☐ 6. Licensing

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check the Business Wizard at www.filinginoregon.com | <input type="checkbox"/> Check License Directory - Oregon Licenses, Permits and Registrations |
|--|---|
-

☐ 7. Other Requirements, if needed

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Environmental Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Comply with ADA law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Using music in your business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buying wholesale for your business | |
-

☐ 8. Hiring Employees

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review Employer's Guide for Doing Business in Oregon |
|---|
-

☐ 9. Ongoing Registration Requirements

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew business registrations, business licenses, and occupational licenses |
|---|

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COMPREHENSIVE NEW BUSINESS CHECKLIST

STEP 1 – PREPARATION

Knowledge

You should have experience in and knowledge of the business you plan to enter. If you don't have either, consider working in the industry or with a successful owner/operator for at least six months.

Experience

Having prior experience in management of people and finances is critical to increasing your chances of business success. This is extremely helpful since the majority of businesses fail due to poor or inexperienced management. Oregon's Small Business Development Centers are an excellent resource for training and assistance to help your business succeed. See "Small Business Development Centers" in this guide for more information.

Research

Do your homework. Hours spent studying your proposed business idea can save you money in the long run and gives you the proper information to avoid unsound business decisions.

- Oregon's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provides services to Oregon's small businesses. Find the SBDC in your area at www.bizcenter.org.
- Check with the Small Business Administration at www.sba.gov.
- Consult with a counselor at www.score.org.
- Consult with a counselor at the Women's Business Center at www.mercycorpsnw.org.
- Consult with the [Small Business Legal Clinic](#) (SBLC) at Lewis & Clark Law School. They provide affordable legal services to low-income small and emerging businesses, including business financing, contract review and drafting, and entity selection and formation.
- University of Oregon's School of Law, Small Business Clinic (SBC) provides free legal services to small and start-up business. It also prepares law students to represent business clients through a clinical program in which students are trained in representing small businesses. All client work is performed by law students who are closely overseen by UO law SBC supervising attorneys, who are also practicing business lawyers. Contact the SBC at bizlaw.uoregon.edu/sbc.
- Your banker knows a great deal about your area, including average income, level of competition, real estate, and rental values. Bankers can be of great assistance, if you take the initiative. Establishing a credit line with your bank can help develop a sound relationship with your banker, and a good record of payment is an advantage when applying for business loans.
- Contact insurance brokers about coverage needed for your business activity and for approximate premiums. Since insurance is a competitive business, contact several agents for a comparison of both suggested coverage and premiums.
- Visit your local library. The librarian can help you find the information you need.
- Check with relevant trade associations, and the local Chamber of Commerce.

STEP 2 – PLANNING

Business Wizard

A service of the Business Information Center is the Business Wizard. Users answer a few brief questions to generate a customized referral list of:

- Government Licensing Contacts
- Registration Information Contacts
- Regulatory Contacts
- Organizational Contacts
- City Contacts

- **County Contacts**

This referral list contains phone numbers for key agency contacts and internet links to appropriate forms, publications and information about requirements for doing business in Oregon. The [Business Wizard](#) is available online.

Write a Business Plan

Whether you are just starting out or already own a small business, completing a basic business plan will help you succeed. Do you need help writing a business plan? The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers a step-by-step tool to “[Build Your Business Plan](#).” Answering a few essential questions will help you clarify and organize what you already know – or need to know – about your business operations. A clear picture of the fundamentals of your business will create a strong foundation to build new ideas, markets, and strategies. Completing a business plan provides you with a better understanding of the financial needs and profit potential of your business.

Seek Professional Advice

Consult at least two professionals:

- **An attorney** – Consider having an attorney examine the papers you sign. Get advice on any legal questions pertinent to your business such as tax law, liability issues, and labor laws if you plan to hire employees, or landlord-tenant laws if you plan to lease your place of business. If you do not have an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar toll-free at 1-800-452-7636, or [visit online](#) for referrals.
- **An accountant** – A certified public accountant or a licensed tax consultant can advise you and possibly save you money on taxes if you are buying or starting a business. Your accountant can review tax forms with you, help you fill out the proper reports and give you prompt financial information. If you do not have an accountant, you may call the Oregon Association of Independent Accountants at 503-282-7247, or visit www.oaia.net, or contact the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants at 503-641-7200, or visit www.orcpa.org for referrals.

Financing

Identify how you will finance your business. New businesses often underestimate the amount of money it takes to get a business started. An entrepreneur needs to identify both the start-up capital costs and the cash-flow requirements for a business. The total of the two, plus a reserve, is the capital recommended for starting a business. Obtain information on state loan programs from the Business Oregon, [Business Finance Section](#), 503-986-0123. See “Financial Resources” in this guide for more information.

Business Assistance Programs

Oregon has many programs available to assist businesses. See “Business Assistance Programs” in this guide for more information.

Management & Technical Services

Business Oregon provides reports and services for and about Oregon businesses. Check out “[Grow Your Business](#)”.

STEP 3 – SELECT YOUR BUSINESS ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE & NAME

Choose a Business Structure

Consider many factors when choosing the best form or structure of business ownership. The choice you make can have an impact on multiple aspects of your business, including taxes, liability, ownership succession, and others. Consult legal counsel and an accountant before deciding the type of business entity to form. See “How to Choose a Business Structure” in this guide for more information.

Choose a Business Name

When you are ready to select a business name or an assumed business name for your business, check the [Business Registry database](#) for name availability. Sole proprietors may conduct business under their own full legal name (first name, middle name or initial and last name) or they may choose to register an assumed business name. See “Business Name Requirements” in this guide for more information. It may also be helpful to do a national trademark search at www.uspto.gov (click on the Search Mark button). You can view more information on trademarks in the back of this guide.

STEP 4 – REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS

The Oregon Secretary of State, Corporation Division is the place to register your Business Corporation, Nonprofit Corporation, Limited Liability Company, Limited Liability Partnership, and Assumed Business Name. Most business types can be filed online through the [Central Business Registry](#). Forms are also [available online](#).

STEP 5 – UNDERSTANDING TAX OBLIGATIONS

Understanding your tax obligations is an important consideration for any business. You may wish to consult with a professional tax advisor or an accountant to help you understand your tax obligations.

Learn about requirements to report personal property to your county assessor’s office. You will also want to check on other taxes that may apply to your business.

Most businesses will need to apply to the Internal Revenue Service for a federal employer identification number (EIN). See “Federal Tax ID Number (SS-4 Form)” in this guide for more information on how to obtain a Federal EIN number.

Depending on your situation, such as hiring employees, you may also need a Business Identification Number (BIN), which is your state payroll tax identification number. Obtain this payroll tax reporting number online through the Oregon [Central Business Registry](#) or by completing a Combined Employer’s Registration form available from the Oregon Department of Revenue or the Oregon Employment Department. Please refer to the separate publication [Employer’s Guide for Doing Business in Oregon](#) for more information.

All businesses are required to file a personal property report with the county assessor’s office each year. The report should include all personal property on the business premises on the assessment date. If your business has personal property in more than one county, you must submit a separate return in each county. See “Personal Property Tax Report” in this guide for more information.

As a self-employed individual, you will be subject to federal self-employment taxes. This includes Medicare and social security taxes. You may wish to consult a professional tax advisor to determine your personal tax responsibility as a business owner.

STEP 6 – CHECK LICENSES

Many occupations and business activities require special licenses, permits, registrations, or certifications from state agencies or boards. See “Check State & Local License Requirements” in this guide.

STEP 7 – OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Check with the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Fire Marshal if your business will handle hazardous wastes. See “Dealing with Environmental Permits & Regulations” in this guide.

Determine if you comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many businesses are subject to federal law that prohibits discrimination against disabled persons. See “Comply with Americans with Disabilities Act” in this guide.

Learn about registering Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, and Service Marks with the State of Oregon and the federal government. See “Patents, Copyrights & Trademarks” in this guide.

STEP 8 – HIRING EMPLOYEES

The Business Information Center also publishes a separate guide to assist business when hiring employees. The [*Employer’s Guide for Doing Business in Oregon*](#) provides a general checklist along with contact information on government requirements for Oregon’s employers.

STEP 9 – ONGOING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

After you have established your business and fulfilled the initial requirements, you will want to make sure that you keep your reporting and registration obligations current. Businesses registered with the Secretary of State, Corporation Division must file [renewals](#) and if needed, [update their registration](#) information.

Many occupational or business licenses require annual renewal or recertification. For more information [visit online](#) for specific requirements.

Nonprofit organizations that engage in charitable activities need to file annual reports with the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) Charitable Activities Section, and the Internal Revenue Service. For more information, visit our [Nonprofit Services](#) online.

HOW TO CHOOSE A BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Choose a Business Organization Structure

While there are many different business organization structures you may choose for your business, this guide will focus primarily on the five most common types used in Oregon - Sole Proprietor, General Partnership, Limited Liability Company, Business Corporation, and Nonprofit Corporation.

Ownership, liability, management control, and taxation are just a few of the primary considerations when selecting a business organization structure. Each type has its own advantages and disadvantages. If you have questions on which form is best for your particular situation, please consider consulting:

- An attorney;
- A certified public accountant;
- One of Oregon's Small Business Development Centers;
- If business is in a regulated industry, contact the appropriate State licensing or regulatory agency.

	SOLE PROPRIETOR	GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY	BUSINESS CORPORATION	NONPROFIT CORPORATION
REGISTRATION REQUIRED ¹	Not required, except for Assumed Business Name	Not required, except for Assumed Business Name	Yes, File Articles of Organization & annual reports	Yes, File Articles of Incorporation & annual reports	Yes, File Articles of Incorporation & annual reports
GOVERNING DOCUMENT ²	A business plan is recommended	Partnership agreement	Operating agreement	Bylaws	Bylaws
OWNERSHIP	One owner	Two or more partners (owners)	One or more members (owners)	One or more shareholders (owners)	No owners. Assets must be given to another nonprofit upon dissolution
LIABILITY ³	Unlimited personal liability for debts of the business and yourself	Unlimited personal liability for debts of the business including your partners actions	Members (owners) have limited liability for debts of the LLC	Shareholder liability limited to loss of their paid-in investment	Operators are not personally liable for debts of the business
MANAGEMENT CONTROL ⁴	Owner makes decisions	Partner control and decision making responsibility set out in partnership agreement	Member managed, or owners may appoint a manager per the Articles of Organization	Shareholders elect directors to oversee policies and appoint officers	May have members who may elect directors; Must have directors to oversee policies and appoint officers
TAXATION ⁵	Owner reports and pays taxes on personal tax return	Each partner reports and pays share of taxes, on personal tax returns	Choose to be taxed as a partnership or a corporation for income	Corporation pays taxes on income; shareholders pay taxes on dividends	Nonprofit pays taxes on income, unless tax exempt

¹ Assumed business name registration required when owner's "real and true" name is not part of the business name (**Note:** corporation and limited liability company name is the "real and true" name)

² Governing documents are internal to the business, they are not filed with the Corporation Division

³ Limited liability protection may be forfeited by the courts in cases of fraud or misconduct

⁴ Charities (public benefit nonprofit corporations) must have at least three directors

⁵ Additional business, payroll and property taxes may also apply

Sole Proprietor

- Owned by one owner
- Unlimited personal liability for debts of the business
- Owner responsible for all decisions and control of the business
- Owner reports and pays all taxes on personal tax return
- Property is not owned separate from personal property, owner can sue and be sued
- Registration with Corporation Division not required, unless an assumed business name is used

General Partnership

- Owned by two or more partners
- Unlimited personal liability for debts of the business, and business actions of other partners
- Fiduciary responsibilities to other partners include honesty, loyalty, candor, due care and fair dealing
- Partners share decisions and control according to the partnership agreement
- Each partner reports and pays their share of taxes on personal tax returns
- Property is not owned separate from personal property, partners can sue and be sued
- Registration with Corporation Division not required, unless an assumed business name is used

Limited Liability Company

- A legal entity, separate from the owners
- Owned by one or more members
- Members have limited liability for debts of the company
- May be managed by members or a manager as specified in the operating agreement
- Can choose to be taxed as a corporation, or like a partnership (income passed through to owners)
- May own property, sue and be sued
- Registration with Corporation Division required

Note: An LLC is a State designation and NOT a Federal designation. For Federal purposes, you are a sole proprietor, a partnership, or a corporation. See LLC information [here](#).

Business Corporation

- A legal entity, separate from the owners
- Owned by one or more shareholders
- Shareholders have limited liability for debts of the corporation
- Board of directors oversee major policies and decisions, and appoint officers
- Managed by officers (President, Secretary) as specified in the bylaws
- Taxed as a corporation, shareholders taxed on dividends and capital gains
- May own property, sue and be sued
- Registration with Corporation Division required

Nonprofit Corporation

- A legal entity, separate from the members, directors, and officers
- Does not have owners, assets must be disbursed to another nonprofit upon dissolution
- Members, directors, and officers have limited liability for debts of the corporation
- Board of directors oversee major policies and decisions, and appoint officers
- Managed by officers (President, Secretary) as specified in the bylaws
- Taxed as a corporation, unless tax-exempt
- May own property, sue and be sued
- Registration with Corporation Division required

Benefit Companies

An Oregon Business Corporation, Professional Corporation or Limited Liability Company can also elect to become a Benefit Company under a new Oregon Law.

An Oregon Benefit Company is a type of Corporation or Limited Liability Company (LLC) that wants to consider impact to society and the environment in addition to profit in the businesses decision-making process. Benefit companies differ from traditional corporations and LLC's in regards to their purpose, accountability and transparency.

The purpose is to create a general public benefit, which is defined as “a material positive impact on society and the environment, taken as a whole, from the business and operations of the company.”

An Oregon Business Corporation, Professional Corporation or Limited Liability Company that would like to be a benefit company must:

- Include a statement (usually in the optional provisions) in the Articles of Incorporation or Organization that says, “The Corporation (or Limited Liability Company) is a benefit company subject to sections 1 to 11 of Ch. 269, Oregon Laws 2013.”
- Adopt a third-party standard to assess performance against, and
- Annually prepare a benefit report identifying the actions and methods used to provide a general or specific public benefit, any circumstances that hindered or prevented a benefit, and assess how well the benefit company met or exceeded the third party standard.

For more information on becoming an Oregon Benefit Company, please [visit our webpage](#).

BUSINESS NAME REQUIREMENTS

What Names Are “Available”?

The business name must be available for registration purposes, meaning no other business with exactly the same name has an active registration on the Corporation Division's database. There may be businesses with that name that have let the registration lapse or expire. There may be businesses in other Oregon counties, states or countries that do business under that name. There may even be businesses in Oregon that are operating under that name, but have not yet registered. The Corporation Division's records do not include every business that may be using a name. If the name is not already taken by an active registration on the database, it is available for you to register in the public record. That said, just because a name is “available” does not mean that registering the name is advisable. See the section on “Protecting and Defending Your Name” for more information.

The law requires the Secretary of State to accept names that are “distinguishable upon the record.” A business name is “distinguishable” if it does not exactly copy a name already on record. A word, the order of key words, addition of numbers, creative spelling, or even a letter's difference in a name is often enough to tell it apart from another name in the database, and make it distinguishable. In addition, an assumed business name is filed by county, so there may be identical names in the database but associated with different counties.

You can [check a name for availability](#) prior to submitting an application. A name availability check does not guarantee the name will still be available when the Corporation Division receives the application.

What Are “Real and True” Names

A “real and true” name means the first name, middle name or initial and last name of each business owner. For corporations, limited liability companies, and other business entities, the business name registered with the Corporation Division is the real and true name of the business.

Assumed Business Names

A business name must be registered with the Corporation Division as an assumed business name if the “real and true” name of each person who is carrying on the business is not disclosed in the business name. Each person’s “real and true” name must include first name, middle name or initial and last name. Nicknames are not ‘real and true’ names and must be registered as assumed business names. If there are words that suggest additional owners, such as “company” or “associates”, the business name must be registered.

Registration of a business name that includes the “real and true” names of all owners’ is optional. A corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or limited partnership does not need to register its name as an assumed business name, unless the entity wants to use the name without the entity type designation.

If a person transacts business with an unregistered assumed business name, he or she may not have standing in court to pursue or defend legal actions, and may find it difficult to do business, for example, getting licenses, opening bank accounts, and entering into contracts.

Since an assumed business name is registered by county, there may be identical names in the database but associated with different counties.

Examples of Assumed Business Names		
Real and True Name	Doing Business As	
	Don’t Need to Register ABN	Need to Register ABN
Tom Sorenson Construction, Inc.	Tom Sorenson Construction, Inc.	Tom Sorenson Construction Tom Sorenson Homes TSC Homes
Jane J. Jones	Jane J. Jones Enterprises	Jane Jones Enterprises Jane’s Enterprises Jones Enterprises Jane J. Jones & Company Jane Jones & Associates
Michael L. Jones & John Smith	Michael L. Jones & John Smith Michael L. Jones & John Smith Enterprises	Michael Jones & John Smith Mike Jones & John Smith M. Jones & J. Smith Jones & Smith M & J Enterprises

- **Sole Proprietor** - If the name of the business does not include the “real and true” name of the business owner, registration as an assumed business name is required. See the previous section on assumed business names for more information.
- **General Partnership** - If the name of the business does not include the “real and true” name of each business owner, registration as an assumed business name is required. See the previous section on assumed business names for more information.
- **Limited Liability Company** - The name of the limited liability company must contain the words “limited liability company” or the abbreviation “L.L.C.” or “LLC” as the entity type designation at the end of the name.
- **Corporation** - The name of the corporation must contain the words “incorporated,” “corporation,” “limited,” “company” (or their abbreviation) as the entity type designation at the end of the name.

Note: The corporation or limited liability company name registered with the Corporation Division is the “real and true” name of the business so additional registration as an assumed business name is not required, unless the entity wants to use the name without the entity type designation, or a nickname.

Protecting And Defending Your Business Name

Registering your name does not give you the right to use it.

The law requires business owners to register a public record of assumed business names and entities such as corporations, but the authority to use the name comes only through asserting those rights through use and legal action.

Registering your name **does not** imply you can legally use it. For example, you might be able to register “Starbucks Coffee and Tea” with the Corporation Division, but the real Starbucks could still sue you. In addition, someone may register a business name that is similar to yours, but not exactly the same. That does not suggest they have a right to use that name, it just means they have told the public they want to do business using that name.

Your right to your business name is mainly established by using the name in business, and is enforced by private legal action – **not** by the State of Oregon. This may mean you will need to sue in court to stop the offender.

If you find yourself in this situation, it is very important to get the advice of an attorney. Consider what the loss of business and reputation will cost you if you do not get proper advice. If you weigh the time and expense it will take to straighten out mix-ups with the other business against a visit or two to a lawyer, you will have a better idea of just how affordable a consultation might be.

To find a business attorney, consult the Oregon Bar Association’s free referral service at 1-800-452-7636, or ask other business owners whom they recommend.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION & RENEWAL

Register Online	For the fastest and most convenient way to register a business in Oregon, register online .
Renew Online	For the fastest and most convenient way to renew a business in Oregon, renew online .
Express Delivery	Documents delivered to the Corporation Division at the address below, by express delivery companies such as FedEx or UPS, are processed within one business day.
US Mail	Please allow one to two weeks for processing documents submitted by mail (including US Postal Service overnight mail and Express Mail).

Forms to register are also [available online](#). Submit the completed form and the non-refundable processing fee payable to the Corporation Division, to the following address:

Corporation Division
Public Service Building
255 Capitol Street NE, Ste. 151
Salem, OR 97310-1327

Sole Proprietor Registration

A sole proprietor does not have to register with the Corporation Division, unless an assumed business name is used. See assumed business name registration below for more information.

General Partnership Registration

A general partnership does not have to register with the Corporation Division, unless an assumed business name is used. See assumed business name registration below for more information.

Assumed Business Name Registration

To register an assumed business name, submit an assumed business name application and a non-refundable processing fee of \$50 to the Corporation Division. The name must be registered in at least one Oregon County.

If the name is distinguishable and the application completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer.

[Register Online](#)

Fastest way to file

[Forms for mailing](#)

Assumed Business Name Renewal

Assumed business names must be renewed every two years, prior to the second anniversary date and each two-year anniversary thereafter. Approximately forty-five days prior to the anniversary date, the Corporation Division will mail a notice to the authorized representative's mailing address. The assumed business name registration renewal and \$50 fee **must be received** by the Corporation Division **on or before the renewal due date to prevent cancellation** of the assumed business name registration.

[Renew Online](#)

Assumed Business Name Amended Registration

Whenever there is a change in owner/registant names, business name, or addresses, an amendment to the assumed business name must be submitted to the Secretary of State Corporation Division.

[Forms for mailing](#)

Limited Liability Company Registration

To form a domestic limited liability company in Oregon, submit articles of organization and a non-refundable processing fee of \$100 to the Corporation Division.

If the name is distinguishable and the articles completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer.

[Register Online](#)

Fastest way to file

[Forms for mailing](#)

Business Corporation Registration

To form a domestic business corporation in Oregon, submit articles of incorporation and a non-refundable processing fee of \$100 to the Corporation Division.

If the name is distinguishable and the articles completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer.

[Register Online](#) *Fastest way to file*

[Forms for mailing](#)

Nonprofit Corporation Registration

To form a domestic nonprofit corporation in Oregon, submit articles of incorporation and a non-refundable processing fee of \$50 to the Corporation Division.

If the name is distinguishable and the articles completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer.

[Register Online](#) *Fastest way to file*

[Forms for mailing](#)

Foreign Business Entity Registration

Business entities formed under Oregon law are called domestic business entities, while those formed under the laws of another state or country are called foreign business entities.

When a foreign entity is “doing business” in Oregon, it must apply for authority to transact business by submitting:

- 1) an application of authority to transact business,
- 2) a certificate of existence or similar document, or registry number from the state or country where formed (date of certificate must be within 60 days of the date of application), and
- 3) a nonrefundable processing fee of \$275 payable to the Corporation Division.

If the name is distinguishable and the application completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer.

[Register Online](#) (Foreign **Business** Corporations only)

[Forms for mailing](#)

Annual Reports - Business Entities

All domestic and foreign corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, and nonprofit corporations are required to file an annual report with the Secretary of State Corporation Division every year by the anniversary date of the registration.

[Renew Online](#)

Amended Annual Reports - Business Entities

If names or addresses need to be updated at any time, an amendment to the annual report information statement must be submitted to the Corporation Division.

[Forms for mailing](#)

DETERMINE EMPLOYER STATUS

Who is an Employer?

Are you an employer responsible for filing and paying one or more payroll tax? If you pay someone to work for you, are in charge of the way the job is done, and have the right to direct and control the worker, the worker is probably your employee. Oregon law differs from federal law and from state agency to agency.

An employer may be an individual, corporation, partnership, estate, trust, association, joint venture, or other unincorporated organization. Religious, educational, charitable, and social organizations can also be employers, even though such organizations may be exempt from paying income tax.

If you are an employer, please review the companion publication, [*Employer's Guide for Doing Business in Oregon*](#) and contact the individual agency programs for further information.

Who is an Employee?

An employee is anyone who performs services for pay for another person or organization under the direction and control of the person or organization. Even when the employer gives the employee freedom of action, the person performing the service may still be considered an employee. What really matters is that the employer has the legal right to control the method and result of the services, even though the employer may not always exercise that right.

Corporate officers, whether a C Corporation or an S Corporation, who are paid for working for the corporation are considered by the Oregon Department of Revenue to be employees of the corporation and are subject to withholding tax requirements. (ORS 316.162)

For workers' compensation purposes, one must rely on general guidelines that have evolved in the courts to make the distinction between an "employee" and an "independent contractor." If you have questions, contact the Workers' Compensation Division Employer Compliance Unit at 503-947-7815.

Who is an Independent Contractor?

In Oregon, workers may only be classified as independent contractors if they meet the provisions of laws and court decisions that define independent contractor and employer-employee relationships. The provisions vary for some agencies, so you should review the Independent Contractor section in the companion publication, [*Employer's Guide for Doing Business in Oregon*](#) and check with agency representatives if you need more information.

For some agencies, independent contractors are defined in ORS 670.600, which includes that an independent contractor must be free from direction and control. For workers' compensation purposes, an independent contractor must be free from direction and control and even free from another's right to direct and control.

BOLI and US Department of Labor Definition

The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), and the US Department of Labor, use criteria established through court cases, known as the "economic realities" test to make determinations on independent contractor status.

Internal Revenue Service Definition

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) uses a 20-factor control test to determine employer control of the Independent Contractor or employee. Please [click here](#) for more information, or call 1-800-829-4933.

OREGON MINIMUM WAGE

Oregon's minimum wage is adjusted annually for inflation by the Bureau of Labor and Industries. For information on the current minimum wage, contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) at 971-673-0824 or visit the website at www.oregon.gov/BOLI.

CHECK STATE & LOCAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License Requirements

The State of Oregon does not have a general business license. However, many occupations and business activities require special licenses, permits, or certifications from state agencies or boards. The State of Oregon offers a searchable online License Directory containing information on how to acquire a license, registration, certification, or permit. This is a comprehensive directory of over 1,100 licenses, permits, registrations, and certifications. In addition, the Business Information Center's "Business Wizard" provides information on state and local license requirements based on business activity, and location. These online services are available at:

[License Directory](#)

[Business Wizard](#)

Cities and counties may require a license for businesses operating within their jurisdictions. If your business is located within the city limits, check with your city offices to see if a local business license is required. If there is no specific listing for business licenses in your directory, the city hall information number is an appropriate initial contact. Licensing offices for the following cities are:

Eugene Building & Permit Services

99 W 10th Ave., Ste. 240
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-5379

Salem Permit Application Center

555 Liberty St. SE, Room 320
Salem, OR 97301
503-588-6256

Medford Finance Department

411 W 8th St.
Medford, OR 97501
541-774-2030

Portland Bureau of Licenses

111 SW Columbia St., Ste. 600
Portland, OR 97201-5840
503-823-5157
www.pdxbl.org

To check on business license requirements at the county level, contact your county administrative offices. The county planning department or county commissioner's office is an appropriate first contact. You may be able to find your city, county and special district [licensing requirements online](#).

CONSTRUCTION & LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR LICENSES

Who Should be Licensed with the Construction Contractors Board (CCB)

Oregon's Construction Contractor License Act, ORS Chapter 701, requires you to become licensed with the Oregon Construction Contractors Board if you are engaged for compensation in any construction activity involving improvements to real estate.

Licensing is required for any individual or business entity that advertises, offers, bids, arranges to do, or actually does any construction, alteration, remodeling, or repair involving residential, commercial, industrial, or public works improvements. Inspection, tree service, and chimney sweep businesses are also required to be licensed. Violations can result in civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per offense.

Some categories of construction work are exempt from the license, according to ORS 701.010. If you have any questions about whether you must be licensed, contact:

Construction Contractors Board (CCB)

700 Summer St., NE, Ste. 300 (to visit)

P.O. Box 14140 (for mail)

Salem, OR 97309-5052

503-378-4621

www.oregon.gov/ccb

CCB Requirements

Contractors are required to have a bond and liability insurance. They also have continuing education requirements. Before becoming licensed, contractors must complete a 16-hour education course and pass a state test. Contractors performing residential home inspections or locksmith work must also be certified by the CCB. Contractors doing lead-based paint renovations must also be licensed by the CCB. Contractors performing lead-based paint activities or individuals working for contractors on lead-based paint must also be licensed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). OHA may be reached at 9710673-0440 or toll free 877-290-6767.

Class of Independent Contractor

Contractors must choose an independent contractor license class, nonexempt (has employees), or exempt (does not have employees).

- **Nonexempt** sole proprietorships have employees. Nonexempt partnerships have employees, or have more than two individual partners, or have partners who are not family members. Nonexempt corporations and limited liability companies have employees and/or more than two working corporate officers or LLC members.
- **Exempt** sole proprietorships have no employees. Exempt partnerships have no employees, or they have two individual partners, or they have only family members as partners. Exempt corporations and limited liability companies have no employees with two or fewer working corporate officers, who qualify as non-subject workers under ORS 656.027(9), or they have no employees and all corporate officers are members of the same family (related by blood, marriage or adoption).

If you are licensed as exempt and you hire one or more employees, you must immediately notify the CCB to change your independent contractor class, supply the appropriate employer workers compensation account numbers, and pay the change fee. If you wish to change from nonexempt to exempt, you must immediately notify the CCB and pay the change fee (ORS 701.035). Commercially endorsed contractors that are exempt, are required by law to carry personal election coverage. (ORS 701.035(5)).

Employees or Subcontractors?

Oregon law, ORS 701.035(1), requires a business to qualify as an independent contractor in order to obtain a license from the Construction Contractors Board.

All contractors licensed with the Construction Contractors Board have signed an independent contractor certificate stating they are independent businesses and not employees, as defined by statute. By operating their businesses according to the standards, they are recognized as independent businesses by the Department of Revenue, the Employment Department, and the Workers' Compensation Division, as well as the Construction Contractors Board.

The standards for independent contractor certification and operation are provided in ORS 670.600. Contractors need to be aware that hiring someone licensed as an independent contractor with the Construction Contractors Board does not automatically free them from paying taxes and workers' compensation insurance on those individuals. Contractors can only avoid these responsibilities if the subcontractor meets the independent contractor definition.

Note: Workers' compensation case law takes a more broad interpretation on independent contractor status than ORS 670.600. Workers' compensation questions should be directed to the Workers' Compensation Division at 503-947-7815.

Applying for a CCB License

There are two ways to become licensed. By mail, licensing takes about two weeks. In person, contractors can become licensed the same day if they come to the Construction Contractors Board's Salem office and have fulfilled all the requirements that are listed in the application form.

The Construction Contractors Board must have all of the following items before licensing can be completed:

- Completed application form
- Payment of the correct fee
- An original surety bond
- A Certificate of General Liability Insurance
- Proof of completion of 16 hours of education and passage of a state test
- Signed independent contractor certification form
- Assumed business name or other business entity filed with Corporation Division, if applicable
- Employer account information, if applicable, including state account (business identification number), workers' compensation, and federal IRS numbers

General Information

A business with employees must check with some additional agencies to determine its obligations as an employer. Since the definition of "employee" differs among Oregon state agencies, read the section under each agency and under each type of tax carefully to determine if you are considered an employer for that agency or tax. If you have any questions about whether you are considered an employer, write or call the Construction Contractors Board at 503-378-4621.

For additional information about whether you are considered an employer, please refer to the [*Employer's Guide for Doing Business in Oregon*](#).

Who Should be Licensed with the Landscape Contractors Board (LCB)

Oregon law, ORS Chapter 671, requires all businesses engaged in work as a landscape contracting business to be actively licensed with the LCB during all times the business performs landscape contracting work. Work as a landscape contracting business is defined by statute (ORS 671.520).

Licensing is required for any business entity that advertises, offers bids, and arranges to do, or actually does any landscaping work. Landscaping work includes the planning or the installation of lawns, trees, shrubs, vines and nursery stock; preparation of the property on which they are to be installed; the construction or repair of ornamental water features, drainage systems or irrigation systems for landscape plant material. The license also is required for the installation of fences, decks, arbors, driveways, walkways, patios, landscape edging and retaining walls.

Businesses that conduct landscape maintenance functions only, i.e. mowing, weeding, trimming and/or the upkeep of an already-installed landscape project are not required to be licensed with the LCB and are not restricted in the amount of landscape maintenance they perform. However, they may only perform \$500 of “casual, minor or inconsequential” landscaping work per calendar year on property where they already perform landscape maintenance work. “Casual, minor or inconsequential work” is defined in OAR 808-002-0200. Landscape maintenance businesses cannot install or repair irrigation or drainage systems.

To inquire about licensing requirements check the [LCB website](#) or you can mail the LCB:

Landscape Contractors Board (LCB)
2111 Front Street NE Ste 2-101
Salem, Oregon 97301

Phone: 503-967-6291 ext. 221
Fax: 503-967-6298
email: LCBinfo@state.or.us

If the landscape contracting business changes the form of business from one to another, e.g., proprietorship to LLC etc. and a new Employer Identification Number is required, the business must apply for a new license and pay a new license fee after which a new license number is assigned.

LCB Requirements

Landscape contracting businesses are required to have a surety bond and liability insurance and carry workers' compensation insurance if they have employees. The business must also employ at least one licensed landscape construction professional or have an owner who is a licensed landscape construction professional. In order to be a licensed landscape construction professional the person must pass a multi-section examination that qualifies them for the phase of licensure and work they are allowed to perform.

If a person who is not a licensed landscape construction professional, desires to start a landscape contracting business, this owner (or another designated person who is an employee of this business) must take the Owner/Managing Employee course through a board approved provider, pass the Owner/Managing Employee examination, and meet all the other license requirements before the business is licensed.

Class of Independent Contractor (Employer Accounts)

Landscape contracting businesses may license as either nonexempt (has employees and carries workers' compensation insurance), or exempt (no employees and does not carry workers' compensation insurance).

- **Nonexempt** applies to sole proprietorships that have employees and partnerships that have employees, have more than two individual partners, or have partners who are not family members. Nonexempt corporations and limited liability companies have employees and/or have more than two working corporate officers or LLC members.

- **Exempt** applies to sole proprietorships that have no employees and partnerships that have no employees, or have only two partners that are family members. Exempt corporations and limited liability companies have no employees with two or fewer working corporate officers who qualify as non-subject workers under ORS 656.027(9), or they have no employees and all corporate officers are members of the same family (related by blood, marriage or adoption).

If the business is licensed as exempt and then hires one or more employees, the business must immediately notify the LCB and supply the appropriate workers compensation documentation.

Employees or Subcontractors

Oregon Law, ORS 671.525, requires a business to qualify as an independent contractor under ORS 670.600 in order to be licensed with the LCB. All landscape contracting businesses licensed with the LCB have signed an independent contractor certificate stating they are independent businesses and are not under the direction and control of another entity as defined by ORS 670.600. By operating their businesses according to these statutory standards, the business is recognized as an independent contractor by the Department of Revenue, the Employment Department and the Workers Compensation Division, as well as the LCB.

The standards for independent contractor certification and operation are found in ORS 670.600 and OAR 808-003-0260. See the definition of independent contractor to determine what standards an individual or business entity must meet before it is recognized as an independent contractor. Landscape contracting businesses need to be aware that contracting with another licensed landscape contracting business that qualified as an independent contractor with the LCB does not automatically free them from paying payroll taxes and workers' compensation insurance on the individuals performing the landscape work. Landscape contracting businesses can only avoid these responsibilities if the subcontractor meets the independent contractor definition at the time the work is being performed.

Note: Workers' compensation case law takes a broader interpretation on independent contractor status than ORS 670.600. If you have questions contact the Workers' Compensation Division at 503-947-7815.

Completing the LCB Licensing Process

The LCB must have all of the following items before licensing can be completed:

- A completed application form ([available on the web](#))
- Payment of the correct application and license fee
- A Surety Bond (\$3,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 depending on job charges)
- Certificate of Liability insurance (\$100,000 minimum)
- Certificate of Workers' Compensation insurance (if nonexempt) and verification of leasing company's Workers' Compensation insurance (if exempt and using an employee leasing company)
- Proof of having a licensed individual landscape construction professional as the owner or as an employee at the same phase level of licensure desired by the business
- Designate an owner or employee who is to be in the role of Owner or Managing Employee. If this individual is not a licensed landscape construction professional, then the designated person must take a 16-hour course and pass an examination on the Law, Rules and Business Practices for a landscape contracting business
- A signed independent contractor certification form
- An assumed business name or other business entity filed with the Corporation Division, if applicable
- Employer account information, if applicable, including state payroll tax account number (Business Identification Number), and federal IRS number (FEIN)

General Information

A business with employees must check with some additional agencies to determine its obligations as an employer. Since the definition of “employee” differs among Oregon state agencies, read the employment sections under each agency and under each type of tax carefully to determine if you are considered an employer for that agency or tax. If you have any questions about whether you are considered an employer, call the LCB at 503-378-5909 or write the LCB.

For additional information about whether you are considered an employer, please refer to the [Employer’s Guide for Doing Business in Oregon](#).

SALE OF SECURITIES

The Corporate Securities Section of the Department of Consumer & Business Services regulates the sale of securities in Oregon. The most common types of securities are stocks, bonds, and limited partnership interests. However, any type of agreement that obligates you or your business to pay another person part of your profits or make interest payments probably involves a security. If you plan to finance your business with funds other than your own, you may be involved in the offer and sale of securities.

Oregon Securities Law, ORS Chapter 59, may require that you file an application to register your securities before you offer or sell them. Contact the Corporate Securities Section before you talk to anyone about helping to finance your business. The staff can explain the law, let you know what exemptions may be available, and provide copies of the securities law and forms required for registration. You can also find the securities law and registration forms on the Division of Finance & Corporate Securities’ website. If you would like to stop by and talk to someone, call first to be certain a qualified staff member will be available to assist you.

Department of Consumer & Business Services

Corporate Securities Section
350 Winter Street NE, Room 410
Salem, OR 97301-3881
503-378-4140 (voice/TTY)
866-814-9710 (Toll-free)
www.oregondfcs.org

CHECK ZONING FOR BUSINESS LOCATION

Zoning Requirements

Be sure the location you choose for your business is properly zoned for your business activity. Other factors to consider include regulations on business signs and parking at the location.

If you are planning to operate a business from your home, you will need to determine if there are restrictions on home-based businesses in your area. Your local city or county planning offices will be able to provide you with this information.

SALES TAX INFORMATION

Oregon does **not** have a state sales tax. The Department of Revenue has created a website for questions about sales tax information that includes a [self-authenticating “Resale Certificate”](#) that business owners can fill out to use for buying wholesale or for exemption of sales taxes on goods purchased in another state.

INCOME TAX INFORMATION

Federal and State Income Taxes

All businesses must fulfill their tax obligations to the federal government and the state of Oregon. When you start a business, it is important to determine what kind of tax obligations you will have and when you will be required to pay your taxes.

This section identifies the federal and state tax forms that are filed by different types of business entities to meet their income tax obligations. However, for specific requirements and responsibilities, contact the Internal Revenue Service and the Oregon Department of Revenue.

For information on federal taxes, contact:

Internal Revenue Service

1220 SW Third Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

1-800-829-4933 in Oregon

www.irs.gov

For information on Oregon taxes, contact:

Oregon Department of Revenue

955 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2555

503-378-4988

1-800-356-4222

www.oregon.gov/DOR

Income Tax for Sole Proprietors

Sole proprietors must file Form 1040 with a Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ to meet their federal income tax obligations. A sole proprietor is liable for self-employment tax and Social Security tax, which is filed on Schedule SE if net profit is \$400 or more. To meet state obligations, a sole proprietor files state Form 40 with an attached copy of the federal Form 1040. A sole proprietor may be required to make estimated tax payments. A non-resident sole proprietor files state Form 40N with an attached copy of the federal Form 1040.

Income Tax for Partnerships

Federal tax law requires that a partnership (both general and limited) file Form 1065. To meet state tax obligations, a partnership files Form 65 with an attached copy of the federal filing.

Individual partners file Form 1040 for federal income taxes and may be liable for self-employment taxes and Social Security taxes filed on Schedule SE if net income from the partnership is \$400 or more. For state income taxes, the individual partners file state Form 40 with an attached copy of the federal Form 1040. Partners may be required to make estimated tax payments. Non-resident partners should contact the Department of Revenue for instructions specific to their need.

Income Tax for Limited Liability Companies

Generally, a limited liability company (LLC) files the same tax forms as a partnership: federal Form 1065 and state Form 65 with an attached copy of the federal filing. Write “LLC” on top of the state Form 65.

Individual members file Form 1040 for federal income taxes and may be liable for self-employment taxes and Social Security taxes filed on Schedule SE if net profit is \$400 or more. For state income taxes, the individual members file state Form 40 with an attached copy of the Federal Form 1040. Members may be required to make estimated tax payments.

Income & Excise Tax for Oregon Corporations

Corporations file federal taxes using Forms 1120 or 1120A. Corporations doing business in Oregon pay excise tax and file state Form 20 with an attached copy of their federal tax forms. “Doing business” is defined as being engaged in any profit-seeking activity in this state that is not protected by federal Public Law 86-272. A taxpayer with one or more of the following in Oregon is clearly doing business here:

- A stock of goods.
- An office.
- A place of business (other than an office) where affairs of the corporation are regularly conducted.
- Employees or representatives providing services to customers as the primary business activity, such as accounting or personal service, or services incidental to the sale of tangible or intangible personal property, such as installation of a product or warranty work.
- An economic presence through which the taxpayer regularly takes advantage of Oregon’s economy to produce income.

Generally, if you have an Oregon address you file Form 20. There is a minimum excise tax as provided in ORS 317.090.

Corporations not doing business, but having income from an Oregon source, pay income tax and file Form 20-I with a copy of their federal tax forms. There is no minimum income tax. Income is from an Oregon source if it is derived from:

- Tangible or intangible property located in Oregon; or
- Any activity carried on in Oregon, whether intrastate, interstate or foreign commerce.

Insurance companies, other than title insurers, file Oregon Form 20-INS. Title Insurers file Oregon Form 20.

For information on state tax credits for corporations, contact the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#) online or by phone 503-378-4988.

Income & Excise Tax for S Corporations

An S corporation files its federal tax return on Form 1120S. The state tax return is filed on Form 20-S with a copy of Federal Form 1120S attached. Shareholders of the S corporation should obtain information on their reporting requirements from the IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Estimated Income Tax Payments (Individual)

A sole proprietor, partner, limited liability company member, or shareholder may be required to make quarterly estimated income tax payments. In most cases, if you expect to owe \$1,000 in federal taxes for the year after subtracting any withholding and tax credits, you must file Form 1040-ES each quarter with the IRS. Generally, if you expect to owe \$1,000 or more on the tax-to-pay line on your Oregon tax return, you are required to file Form

40-ESV each quarter with the Oregon Department of Revenue. Interest is assessed if payments are not made when they are due. Contact the IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue for specific information.

Estimated Income Tax Payments (Corporations)

A corporation that expects to owe tax of \$500 or more at the federal level is required to make estimated tax payments to the IRS. A corporation that expects to owe tax of \$500 or more at the state level must pay estimated tax payments to the Oregon Department of Revenue. A taxpayer can make estimated tax payments by Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). If a corporation is required to use EFTPS to pay its federal estimated tax, it must also use EFT to pay its Oregon estimated tax. A corporation may pay Oregon estimated tax with **Form 20-V** if it is not required to pay by EFT. Interest is assessed if the correct installment of the tax due is not paid by the due date.

More information about paying corporation estimated income and excise taxes by EFT [is available online](#), or call the EFT message line at 503-947-2017.

More information on paying Federal Corporation Estimated Tax [is available online](#).

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REPORT

Personal Property

All businesses are required to file a personal property report with the county assessor's office each year. The report should include all personal property on the business premises on the assessment date. If your business has personal property in more than one county, you must submit a separate return in each county.

Examples of taxable personal property include machinery, furniture and equipment, tools of the trade, non-inventory supplies, leased equipment, and libraries (such as repair manuals, sample books and law books). Any property not currently used in the business or expensed on your federal income tax business return is considered taxable personal property and must be reported. Property placed in storage or held for sale is also taxable and must be reported.

You must report all property you own or had in your possession as of January 1 at 1:00 a.m. The report must be filed by March 1 with the county assessor in the county where the property is located. Penalties are assessed for failure to file a return and for late filings. The penalty can be as much as 50% of the tax owed.

Contact your county assessor's office for more information relating to what personal property is taxable and to obtain the forms for filing the report. See "Oregon County Assessor Phone Numbers" at the back of this publication.

CHECK ON OTHER BUSINESS TAXES

Federal Taxes

There are some federal taxes that apply to specific commodities, products or services. To determine if there are other federal taxes that apply to your business activity, check with the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-4933.

State Taxes

Contact the Oregon Department of Revenue by phone at 503-945-8091 or 1-800-356-4222, by email at payrollhelp.or@state.or.us, or [on the internet](#) for information on state withholding taxes.

Contact the Oregon Employment Department by phone at 503-947-1488, by email at taxinfo@emp.state.or.us, or [on the internet](#) for information on state Unemployment Insurance taxes.

Contact the Department of Consumer and Business Services by phone at 503-378-2372, by email at wbfassess.fabs@state.or.us, or [on the internet](#) (Click on WBF assessment information under Resources) for information on the Workers' Benefit Fund assessment.

State Taxes (continued)

- 1) Amusement device tax - paid by owners of establishments with Oregon Lottery video poker machines. Contact the Oregon Department of Revenue at 503-945-8247.
- 2) Cigarette tax and tobacco products tax - paid by distributors, manufacturers, and consumers of cigarettes and tobacco products in Oregon. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#) or call 503-945-8120.
- 3) Dry cleaning fee - paid by owners of dry cleaning businesses and "dry" stores. Contact DEQ at 503-229-6240.
- 4) Dry cleaning solvent tax - paid by owners of dry cleaning businesses and distributors of dry cleaning solvents. Contact DEQ at 503-229-6240.
- 5) Emergency communications (9-1-1) tax - telephone and cellular companies providing telecommunication with access to the Oregon 9-1-1 Emergency Reporting System collect this tax from their customers. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#) or call 503-945-8247.
- 6) Forest products harvest tax - paid on timber cut from any land in Oregon. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#).
- 7) Hazardous substance fee - paid by possessors of non-petroleum hazardous substances. Visit the [Oregon State Fire Marshall](#).
- 8) Lane Transit District Self-Employment tax (LTDSE) - paid by business owners with business activity in the Lane County Transit District. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#).
- 9) Petroleum load fee - paid by sellers of petroleum products from Oregon bulk facilities and importers of petroleum products into Oregon. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#) or call 503-945-8247.
- 10) Timber privilege tax - paid by timber owners on harvested timber's value. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#).
- 11) TriMet Self-Employment tax (TMSE) - paid by business owners with business activity in the TriMet Transit District. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#).
- 12) State lodging tax - collected by lodging providers, paid by guests. Visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#) or call 503-945-8247.

For taxes related to alcoholic beverages, contact the Oregon Liquor Control Commission at 503-872-5166 or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-6522.

For information on gasoline taxes paid by persons licensed to operate as motor vehicle fuel dealers in Oregon, contact the Oregon Department of Transportation, Fuels Tax Group at 503-378-8150.

The Oregon Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Transportation Program, at 503-378-6699, can provide information on weight-mile taxes paid by for-hire and private motor carriers operating into, within, and through the state of Oregon.

For information on the annual fee paid by railroads, call the Oregon Department of Transportation at 503-986-4125.

The Public Utility Commission at 503-378-4373, provides information on the annual fee paid by investor-owned utilities operating within the state.

Local Taxes

Local governments in Oregon may collect other specific taxes, such as a hotel-motel tax. Contact the city and county in which your business is located for complete information on local taxes.

If you are self-employed and have business activity in the TriMet area (Portland) or Lane Transit District area (Eugene), you may be liable for the TriMet or Lane Transit District Self-Employment Tax. For more information, visit the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#). You may also direct your questions by email to tse.help.dor@state.or.us.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (EIN)

General Information

All businesses, except certain sole proprietors, are required to obtain a federal tax employer identification number (EIN).

- [Application for EIN](#) requires identification of responsible party
- [Change in Application](#) for Employer Identification Number
- [Use of Nominees](#) in the EIN Application Process

How to update Incorrect Information

- [Updating Incorrect Business Entity Information](#)

If you have any questions regarding the federal tax identification number, contact your local IRS office or:

Internal Revenue Service
1220 SW Third Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
1-800-829-4933
www.irs.gov/

Apply for Tax Identification Number (SS-4)

To obtain a Federal Tax Identification Number, you must complete an SS-4 Form. SS-4 Forms are available at all IRS offices or the IRS will send you a form if you call 1-800-829-3676. The application is also available [here](#).

You may either apply online, phone in, fax or mail the form to the IRS. Be sure you include a daytime phone number on the application in case additional information is required.

- Online:** A provisional number will be assigned immediately when the form is [submitted online](#). A confirmation letter will be mailed two to three weeks after the form is processed confirming your EIN number.
- Phone:** 1-800-829-4933
You will need a completed SS-4 in hand
- Fax:** You can fax the completed Form SS-4 (PDF) application to your state fax number (see Where to File – Business forms and filing Addresses), after ensuring Form SS-4 contains all of the required information. If it is determined the entity needs a new EIN, one will be assigned using the appropriate procedures for the entity type. If the taxpayer's fax number is provided, a fax will be sent back with the EIN within four (4) business days.

Mail: **Internal Revenue Service**
Attn: EIN Operation
Cincinnati, OH 45999
Fax-TIN (859) 669-5760
You will receive your EIN by mail in four to five weeks.

DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS & REGULATIONS

Check with Oregon DEQ

Contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for information on permits or regulations if your business activity involves any of the following:

- Putting waste-water into rivers and streams
- Disposing of wastes on land or into the ground
- Producing storm-water runoff associated with disturbing one or more acres of land with clearing, grading, excavation or construction activities
- Producing storm-water runoff from industrial activity
- Emitting air pollutants
- Removing asbestos-containing material
- Operating a landfill, transfer station, incinerator, material recovery facility, composting facility or septic lagoon for non-hazardous wastes
- Storing, using or transporting waste tires
- Owning an underground storage tank
- Contracting to work on an underground storage tank, including testing or cleaning up of petroleum-contaminated soil
- Creating, storing, treating or disposing of hazardous wastes

For spills or emergency response, state statute requires that when you have a release (spill) or a threat of release of oil hazardous materials, you must call the Oregon Emergency Response System at 1-800-452-0311, not DEQ.

For information about handling or storage of petroleum products, visit the [State Fire Marshal's office](#) or call 503-378-3473, not DEQ.

DEQ Information and Technical Assistance

Please visit DEQ's website for more complete information on environmental permits and regulations.

For air quality permitting and licensing resources, solid waste permit information, underground storage tank information and water quality permitting information visit the [DEQ website](#).

For more information on dealing with hazardous waste, see DEQ's [Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook](#).

For other hazardous waste technical assistance visit the [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#).

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW Sixth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204-1390

503-229-5696 (in Portland)
1-800-452-4011 (toll-free in Oregon)
503-229-6993 (TDD)

Check with State Fire Marshal

The Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act directs the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to develop and distribute the annual Hazardous Substance Information Survey.

Facilities in Oregon with reportable quantities of hazardous substances are required to report those substances annually on the survey. In addition, facilities that receive the survey for the first time are also required to complete and submit the survey. Failing to complete and submit the survey as required may result in civil penalties.

A hazardous substance is defined in Oregon Administrative Rule, 837-085-0040, as a substance required to have a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) pursuant to Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or, any substance designated as hazardous by the Office of State Fire Marshal. This includes substances produced on site, waste substances, solutions and refrigeration system gases.

A reportable quantity is any hazardous substance that is on site at any time that meets or exceeds the following amounts:

- Liquids - 50 gallons or more
- Gases - 200 cubic feet or more
- Solids - 500 pounds or more

Lower reporting quantities apply to poisons and explosives. If a poison or explosive is on site at one time *and* meets or exceeds the following quantities, it must be reported.

- Liquids - 5 gallons or more
- Gases - 20 cubic feet or more
- Solids - 10 pounds or more

In addition, **any** quantity of radioactive substances (except sealed sources) is reportable including radioactive wastes.

A separate survey is required to be submitted for each site address in Oregon that has a reportable quantity of any hazardous substance.

Request a survey for an unreported site

Request [online survey](#) or

Send an email to: cr2k.sfm@state.or.us.

For more information on State Fire Marshal requirements

[Visit the website](#) or

Call the Hazardous Substance Information Hotline at (503) 378-6835 or (800) 454-6125 in Oregon between the hours of 8:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

COMPLY WITH AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against disabled persons in the areas of employment, public accommodation, and public services.

Title III of the ADA requires that public accommodations make facilities and services accessible to the disabled. Many private businesses are considered public accommodations under this law. The ADA specifies twelve types of entities that, regardless of size, are public accommodations: places of lodging, exhibition or entertainment, public gathering, public display or collection, recreation, and exercise; private educational institutions; establishments serving food or drink; sales or rental establishments; service establishments; stations used for specific public transportation; and social service center establishments.

Title I of the ADA deals with private employment and prohibits discrimination against “any qualified individual with a disability” in all aspects of employment. Title I applies to employers who have 15 or more employees.

General Information

For General information on the ADA, contact:

Northwest ADA & Information
Technology Center, CDRC/OHSU
PO Box 574
Portland, OR 97207
1-800-949-4232 (Voice and TDD)

For information on Title III of the ADA (public accommodation issues), contact:

Office on ADA, Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Disability Rights Section - NYAV
Washington, DC 20530
www.ada.gov
1-800-514-0301 (Voice)
1-800-514-0383 (TDD)

For additional information on Title I of the ADA (private employment issues), contact:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
909 First Avenue, Ste. 400
Seattle, WA 98104-1061
1-800-669-4000 (Voice)
1-206-220-6882 (TDD)

Employers with six or more employees are subject to the state disability law and should contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries for information at 503-731-4073.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY LAW

Complying with Oregon's Unclaimed Property Law

Unclaimed property is any amount of money owed to another person or entity that cannot be found. Oregon law requires businesses and organizations to report all unclaimed assets each year to the [Oregon Department of State Lands](#).

Common types of unclaimed property include:

- Uncashed payroll checks
- Refunds and other deposits
- Accounts receivable – credit balances
- Stocks and securities

Free training seminars on how to remit unclaimed property are offered annually, in the spring and summer. Additional information on how to report is in the Department's [step-by-step guide](#) on unclaimed property reporting.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The business assistance programs listed in this guide are divided into three broad categories: management and technical services, financial resources, and marketing and international trade assistance. However, some of the programs provide assistance in more than one area. **Note:** This is not a complete list of resources available in Oregon; this list is intended to give you some initial contacts for assistance in these areas.

MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network

The Oregon Small Business Development Center Network provides a variety of services to the business community. Services include business counseling, training, and referrals, and are aimed at both new and ongoing businesses.

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) have classes that provide basic background information for individuals starting a business. SBDCs also offer publications and other resources that can be helpful. Additional assistance is available in the areas of international trade and technology transfer.

For more information on the services offered, call the SBDC Network Office or the SBDC in your area. There is an SBDC at each of Oregon's community colleges and at two other state educational institutions. Addresses are listed below and on the next page.

Oregon SBDC Network Office

1445 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-463-5250
541-345-6006 (fax)
www.bizcenter.org

Oregon Small Business Development Centers

BLUE MOUNTAIN CC

Art Hill, Director
2411 NW Carden Ave.
P.O. Box 100
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-6233 Fax (541) 276-6819
1-888-441-7232 (Toll free in Oregon)
art.hill@bluecc.edu
afowler@bluecc.edu

CENTRAL OREGON CC

Steve Curley, Director
1027 NW Trenton Ave.
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 383-7290 Fax (541) 383-7503
scurley@cocc.edu
kcondon@cocc.edu

KLAMATH CC

Jamie Albert, Director
7390 South 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(541) 880-2278 Fax (541) 885-7758
albert@klamathcc.edu

LANE CC

Jim Lindly, Director
101 West 10th Ave., Ste. 304
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 463-6200 Fax (541) 463-6203
lindlyj@lanecc.edu
robinsonbg@lanecc.edu

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Jack Vitacco, Director
101 S. Bartlett St.
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 552-8300 Fax (541) 552-8101
vitaccoja@sou.edu
johnsok11@sou.edu

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CC

Arlene Soto, Director
2455 Maple Leaf Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-6866 Fax (541) 756-5404
asoto@socc.edu
mloiselle@socc.edu

Oregon Small Business Development Centers (continued)

CHEMEKETA CC

Marcia Bagnall, Director
626 High Street NE Ste. 210
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 399-5088 Fax (503) 581-6017
marcia.bagnall@chemeketa.edu
tatyana.sukhodolov@chemeketa.edu

CLACKAMAS CC

Rob Campbell, Director
7736 SE Harmony Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
(503) 594-0738 Fax (503) 594-0726
rcampbell@clackamas.edu
bizcenter@clackamas.edu

CLATSOP CC

Kevin Leahy, Director
1455 N. Roosevelt
Seaside, OR 97138
(503) 338-2402 Fax (503) 338-2351
k Leahy@clatsopcc.edu
bduerkop@clatsopcc.edu

COLUMBIA GORGE CC

Mary Merrill, Director
400 E Scenic Dr. #2.108
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 506-6121 Fax (541) 506-6122
mmerrill@cgcc.cc.or.us
abernal@cgcc.cc.or.us

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Greg Smith, Director
1607 Gekeler Lane
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 962-1532 Fax (541) 962-1532
gregory.smith@eou.edu
sbdc@eou.edu

LINN-BENTON CC

Marc Manley, Director
6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Rm WH-120
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 917-4929 Fax (541) 917-4831
manley@linnbenton.edu
green@linnbenton.edu

MT. HOOD CC

Antonio Paez, Director
501 NE Hood Ave. Ste. 240
Gresham, OR 97030
(503) 491-7658 Fax (503) 666-1140
antonio.paez@mhcc.edu
gerri.raisanen@mhcc.edu

OREGON COAST CC

David Price, Director
3788 SE High School Dr.
Lincoln City, OR 97367
(541) 994-4166 Fax (541) 996-4958
Newport office:
(541) 574-7122 Fax (541) 265-3820
dave.price@occc.cc.or.us
kathleen.knight@occc.cc.or.us

PORTLAND CC

Tammy Marquez-Oldham, Director
1626 SE Water Ave. #308
Portland, OR 97214
(971) 722-5080 Fax (503) 288-1366
tammy.marquez@pcc.edu
yjohnson@pcc.edu

ROGUE CC

Ron Goss, Director
214 SW Fourth Street
Grants Pass OR 97526
(541) 956-7494 Fax (541) 471-3589
rgoss@roguecc.edu
DJacklin@roguecc.edu

TILLAMOOK BAY CC

Dan Biggs, Director
4301 Third Street
Tillamook, OR 97141
(503) 842-8222 Fax (503) 842-9368
d.biggs@edctc.com
lyman@tillamookbay.cc

TREASURE VALLEY CC

Andrea Testi, Director
650 College Blvd.
Ontario, OR 97914
(541) 881-5762 Fax (541) 881-5511
atesti@tvcc.cc
dwilson@tvcc.cc

UMPQUA CC

Pete Bober, Director
522 SE Washington Ave.
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 440-7824 Fax (541) 440-4607
pete.bober@umpqua.edu
penny.groth@umpqua.edu

STATE NETWORK OFFICE

Michael Lainoff, Director
Mark Gregory, Assoc. Director
1445 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 463-5250 Fax (541) 345-6006
lainoffm@lanecc.edu
gregorym@lanecc.edu

Washington Small Business Development Centers

LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Jerry Petrick, Director
1946 SW Third Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 578-5449 Fax (360) 423-9986
Jerry.Petrick@wsbdc.org

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Buck Heidrick, Director
11700 NE 95th St., Ste. 102
Vancouver, WA 98682
(360) 260-6369
Buck.Heidrick@wsbdc.org

TRAINING SEMINARS ONLY

CLARK COLLEGE

Jennifer Ward, Program Coordinator
18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 992-2939
jward@clark.edu

SCORE “Counselor to America’s Small Business”

If you want individual counseling, contact the **closest** SCORE Chapter address listed below. When calling by telephone, please ask for “SCORE Counseling.”

SCORE Chapter #11

601 SW Second Avenue, #950
Portland, OR 97204-3192
(503) 326-3441
(503) 326-2808 Fax
scorepdx@wa-net.com
portlandor.score.org

SCORE Chapter #566

Clark College
SCORE, TBG 232
1933 Fort Vancouver Way
Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 699-1079
info@scorevancouver.org
ftvancouver.score.org

SCORE, Central Oregon Chapter #701

PO Box 1843
Redmond, OR 97756
(541) 316-0662
office@centraloregonscore.org
centraloregon.score.org

SCORE Chapter #460

P.O. Box 4024
Salem, OR 97302-1024
(503) 370-2896
score460@gmail.com
salem.score.org

SCORE Chapter #416

c/o Chamber of Commerce
1401 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 465-6600
(541) 484-4942 Fax
score@eugenechamber.com
willamette.score.org

SCORE North Coast/Seaside

(503) 338-9749
jcapella@q.com

Electronic Counseling via INTERNET can be done via www.score.org

OREGON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Oregon Business Development Department (doing business as ‘Business Oregon’) works to retain and create jobs in the state. In partnership with the private sector, the state’s business development agency provides direct services such as access to capital, lean manufacturing consulting, assistance with international markets, business recruitment, and more.

The department offers information and a directory of primarily public sector sources to help customers with business plans and ideas about where to start looking for help. Those interested in doing business in Oregon should investigate private sources of assistance as well.

Business Oregon

775 Summer Street NE, Ste. 200

Salem, OR 97301-1280

503-986-0123

1-800-735-2900 (TTY)

www.oregon4biz.com

Business Development Assistance

Business Oregon focuses on creating opportunities for Oregon companies. These opportunities pave the way for businesses to expand production, enter new global markets, and compete and win in the global economy. Whether through its own programs and expertise, or by matching clients with specialized partners, Business Oregon’s job is to support Oregon business. Business Oregon has business development officers located across the state to work closely with businesses and local officials. Business Oregon helps businesses access capital, find industrial property, export to global markets, and identify available business incentives. Staff have a wealth of experience to do all this and help identify what programs or assistance are best suited to help grow Oregon’s industries. For more information, call 503-986-0123 or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Small Business Assistance

Business Oregon supports the Oregon Small Business Advisory Council, as well as works with entrepreneurs and small businesses in Oregon to increase their potential for success. The department coordinates with venture funds, entrepreneurial organizations and service providers by helping them to access different sources of equity capital. It facilitates improved communications and linkages among various providers of services, including small business development centers, government contracts, marketing, minority business and other small business organizations. For information, call 503-986-0123 or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Access to Markets

Business Oregon’s global trade strategists and overseas representatives can open the door for Oregon companies to market their goods and services internationally. Oregon businesses require a wide variety of tools and resources to remain profitable in an increasingly competitive technologically complex global economy. Our global strategies experts help Oregon companies’ access international markets by providing one-on-one business counseling, market research, market entry strategies and grants to help companies appear at international trade shows. For more information call 503-229-5006 or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Other export-related resources include:

- U.S. Government contracts: 541-736-1088
- Oregon state government contact: 503-378-4642
- Getting started in international trade: 503-274-7482
- Exports of agricultural products: 503-872-6600

Access to Capital

Business Oregon has a team of professionals to assist businesses with their financing needs by packaging loan programs or by matching a partner service provider with a business. For more information call 503-986-0172 or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Fixed asset and working capital loans are available through regional and local economic development organizations, the Small Business Administration, and other state agencies. For more information, please call:

- Small Business Administration loan guarantees: 503-326-2682.

Contact Business Oregon's Development Officers

**Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln,
Tillamook, counties**
[email](#)
503-791-2732

Marion, Polk, Yamhill counties
[email](#)
503-837-1808

Benton, Linn, Lane counties
[email](#)
541-346-8620

**Hood River, Multnomah, Wasco
counties**
[email](#)
503-229-5115

**Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson,
Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler
counties**
[email](#)
541-322-2036

**Harney, Jackson, Josephine,
Klamath, Lake counties**
[email](#)
541-219-2825

**Baker, Grant, Malheur, Morrow,
Umatilla, Union, Wallowa counties**
[email](#)
541-508-3147

Clackamas, Washington counties
[email](#)
503-229-5117

Coos, Curry, Douglas counties
[email](#)
541-267-4651

Business Recruitment
[email](#)
541-229-5224

Business Recruitment
[email](#)
503-551-0997

Other Business Oregon Contacts

Business Finance: 503-986-0172

International Trade: 503-229-5625

Telecommunications: 503-508-0178

EMERGING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

There are a number of organizations that offer assistance to small businesses with special emphasis on minority and women-owned businesses. They provide resources for technical assistance and promote targeted economic opportunities for these businesses around the state.

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME)

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) is a non-profit organization that maintains a database of business opportunities, which are matched with its membership. The association has several loan programs available to members. They maintain a business incubator and conference rooms for meetings or events. For more information, contact OAME, 4134 N Vancouver Avenue, Portland, OR 97217, 503-249-7744, or visit www.oame.org.

Governor's Office - Economic & Business Equity (MWESB)

Economic & Business Equity is established as part of the Office of the Governor, a cabinet-level position created in statute. The Director is appointed by the Governor and serves as the senior policy advisor on issues related to minority, women and emerging small business. The Director's most important role is to promote access to contracting opportunities and advocate for certified firm utilization. Contact information: 255 Capitol St. NE, Suite 126, Salem, OR 97301, Phone: 503-986-6524, Fax: 503-378-3225, or [visit us online](#).

Opportunity Register & Clearinghouse Project

The Oregon Opportunity Register & Clearinghouse is part of Economic & Business Equity and helps develop and support opportunities by working with state agencies and local jurisdictions to ensure Oregon's certified firms receive timely information regarding contracting opportunities. Contact 503-986-6526 or [visit us online](#).

Office of Minority, Women & Emerging Small Business (OMWESB)

The Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB) administers the Disadvantaged, Minority and Women and Emerging Small Business Enterprise Certification programs. As the sole certification authority in Oregon for targeted government contracts for MWESB owners, OMWESB provides "one-stop" certification services. OMWESB, a unit within Business Oregon is located at 775 Summer Street NE, Ste. 200, Salem, OR 97301-1280, 503-986-0075, or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

ONABEN – A Native American Business Network

ONABEN, (Native American Business Network), founded in 1991, is a non-profit organization by four Oregon tribes. ONABEN currently serves entrepreneurs and tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. Since inception, ONABEN has been accomplishing its mission as a developer, facilitator, and content provider for a network of Tribally-sponsored Small Business Development Centers and projects. Its growth over the years mirrors the growth of entrepreneurship throughout Indian Country.

Oregon Main Street

This community-driven downtown revitalization program developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation was launched in Oregon in 2008. Through an application process, 62 communities enrolled or were selected into the

program. Cities as small as Mitchell to as large as Salem are using the comprehensive Main Street Approach™ to build and strengthen their downtown commercial districts. The Oregon Main Street program assisted communities in this process through training workshops, meetings with local groups, community assessments, historic surveys and other technical assistance. Through a grant program, 10 communities received awards for façade and sign improvements in their downtown districts.

The state program supported the development of the Clackamas County Main Street Program and the Portland Main Street Program. In partnership with the state program, these programs will provide increased assistance to additional communities that will stimulate new investment, create jobs and increase business in Oregon.

The Oregon Main Street Program is located in the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; phone 503-986-0679.

Telecommunication Assistance

Business Oregon provides technical and training assistance, consulting, planning and financial assistance to rural and distressed communities to improve access to advanced services, route diversity and increased bandwidth. For more information, contact 503-508-0178, or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Small Business Legal Clinic (SBLC)

The Small Business Legal Clinic (SBLC) located at Lewis & Clark Law School, provides business transactional legal services to low-income small and emerging businesses, primarily those owned by women, minorities, or recent emigrants. As part of Lewis & Clark Law School, the SBLC provides valuable hands-on training to future business attorneys while providing a service to those who need it most. Clients placed in the SBLC Intern Program work with upper-division law students who are closely supervised by a clinical law professor. For more information, [visit online](#).

Women's Business Center (WBC) at Mercy Corps Northwest

The WBC at Mercy Corps Northwest works to assist motivated low-income individuals to improve their lives through starting or expanding a small business. The WBC provides funding, matched savings and other services that help clients increase their economic self-sufficiency through self-employment. WBC programs serve women, men, minorities and veterans. The Women's Business Center at Mercy Corps Northwest is the only Women's Business Center (WBC) in Oregon. The WBC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the US Small Business Administration (SBA).

Self Employment Assistance (SEA)

The Self Employment Assistance (SEA) program allows qualified unemployment insurance claimants to start or expand a business while receiving unemployment benefits. Approved participants then work full-time on their self-employment venture instead of looking for work. The income earned from your approved SEA business while in SEA will not reduce your weekly benefit amount. SEA is a program for unemployment claimants determined likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits before they can find work in their regular occupation. When you apply for SEA, your business idea is evaluated, and you must continue to seek work until you are approved for the program in writing. Please go to www.workinginoregon.org or contact the Training Programs Unit at the Oregon Employment Department at 1-800-436-6191.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Federal, state, and local governments provide some financial assistance to small businesses in the form of loan programs. These loan programs generally do not provide funds for more than 30-50 percent of a business proposal and the loan applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient capital, in addition to the loan, to fund the business. Loan applicants should demonstrate repayment ability, sufficient management expertise, and commitment to operate the business successfully.

Many Oregon cities and counties have economic development programs, which include financial assistance. A business should contact the city and county in which they are located, or are interested in locating, for details of their programs.

The following is a list of some financial resources available to small businesses. Contact your local Small Business Development Center or local economic development agencies for additional information on financial assistance in your area.

Local Revolving Loan Funds

There are many revolving loan funds for small business financing administered by local governments and development groups. In most cases, funding has been provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the State of Oregon or by the federal Economic Development Administration. For additional information, contact the U.S. Economic Development Administration at 503-326-3078.

Oregon Contacts for Revolving Loan Funds

Portland Development Commission
1900 SW Fourth Ave Suite 100
Portland, OR 97201
503-823-3201

CD Business Development Corporation
744 SE Rose Street
Roseburg, OR 97470
541-672-6728

Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments
105 High St. SE
Salem, OR 97301
503-588-6177

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc.
332 West Sixth St.
Medford, OR 97501
541-773-8946

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
400 E Scenic Dr. Suite 420
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-296-2266 or 541-296-2267

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
2363 SW Glacier Place
PO Box 575
Redmond, OR 97756
541-548-8184

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
1400 Queen Ave. SE
PO Box 686
Albany, OR 97321
541-967-8551

NE Oregon Economic & Community Development District
105 Fir St. Suite 321
La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-2399
101 NE First St Suite 100
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3598
1-800-645-9454

Oregon Business Loans, Guarantees, Revenue Bonds and Referrals

See the section “Oregon Business Development Department, Access to Capital” in this guide.

SBA Loan and Loan Guarantee Programs

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is a federal agency created by Congress to help small businesses. The SBA offers small firms financial assistance through guaranteed loan programs. To obtain information on the loan programs, contact the U.S. Small Business Administration, 601 SW Second Ave, Suite 950, Portland, Oregon 97204-3192, call 503-326-2682, or [visit SBA online](#).

The SBA also sponsors programs, which provide business counseling and assistance with business development, international trade, and obtaining government contracts. In addition, the SBA furnishes assistance for women and minorities in business.

MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Business Oregon

Business Oregon's global trade strategists and overseas representatives can open the door for Oregon companies to market their goods and services internationally. Oregon businesses require a wide variety of tools and resources to remain profitable in an increasingly competitive and technologically complex global economy. Our global strategies experts help Oregon companies' access international markets by providing one-on-one business counseling, market research, market entry strategies, and grants to help companies appear at international trade shows.

For more information call 503-229-5006 or visit www.oregon4biz.com.

Government Contract Assistance Program

The Government Contract Assistance Program (GCAP) is Oregon's only Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), helping businesses successfully compete for federal, state and local government contracting. GCAP provides, 1) free counseling on every aspect of government contracting, 2) training workshops and conferences, and 3) a computer matching service that automatically matches a business with related federal, state and local bidding opportunities and emails the leads on a daily basis. For example, if an Oregon business manufactures a product or provides a service, the GCAP bid-matching service emails the small business every time a solicitation matches their profile from any federal agency in the country along with international, state, and local government agencies as well. GCAP offers the bid lead service free for a 60-day trial, then after the trial, the annual subscription is \$100.

GCAP provides training for your business on many topics, including registrations and certification, market assessment, solicitations, bids, and proposals, and the potential of getting your business on a GSA schedule. For more information contact GCAP, 1144 Gateway Loop, Suite 203, Springfield, OR 97477, visit the website at www.gcap.org, or contact by phone:

Springfield	541-736-1088 or 1-800-497-7551
North Bend	541-756-5596
Portland	503-929-5005
Grants Pass	541-955-9693

Agricultural Products Marketing

The Oregon Department of Agriculture works to promote, develop, and expand worldwide markets for Oregon's agricultural products. The staff works with producers, cooperatives, and processors; organizes overseas trade missions, and hosts incoming foreign business delegates. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Development and Marketing Division, 1207 NW Naito Parkway, Suite 104, Portland, OR 97209-2832, call 503-872-6600, fax 503-872-6601, or email: Agmarket@oda.state.or.us.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture also produces the Oregon Agripedia, which combines the information of the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, the Oregon Farmer's Handbook, and the Oregon Agricultural Resource Directory into one handy reference for Oregon agriculture facts, laws, and resources. Visit online to view the [Oregon Agripedia](#).

Portland Export Assistance Center

[U.S. Commercial Service](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

The Portland Export Assistance Center helps companies in Oregon and SW Washington who want to increase their export sales and expand into the global marketplace. The Export Center is a quick access point for all federal export assistance programs and offers business counseling in the following areas: information on markets abroad, international contacts, product promotion and export financing, and SBA export loan guarantees.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Service offers

- Research and counseling on identifying appropriate international markets
- Identifying potential international agents and distributors
- Participating in international trade exhibitions
- Qualifying international business partners
- Developing international documentation
- E-Commerce Services

U.S. Small Business Administration offers

- Research and counseling on identifying methods, strategies and programs
- SBA loan application information to finance export sales of small business exporters
- Loan packaging services for SBA's Export Working Capital Program applications
- Information on export credit insurance programs and brokers' contact list

Export Assistance Center, Portland

One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon Street, Ste. 242
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 326-3001

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

Through special benefits and reforms, the State of Oregon is making health insurance more available and affordable for employers, their employees, and employees' dependents.

Cover Oregon

Cover Oregon is a health insurance marketplace where Oregonians can choose from different health insurance carriers and plans that fit their needs and budget, and also access financial help to pay for coverage. Employers with 50 or fewer employees are able to shop within Cover Oregon, compare plans side-by-side and offer employees a broad range of plans.

To learn more view [Cover Oregon](#) online or call 1-855-CoverOR (1-855-268-3767)

Get Tax Credits To Pay For Health Insurance

Businesses with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees, that purchase insurance through Cover Oregon, may be eligible for tax credits to help pay for employees' coverage. The tax credit covers up to 50 percent of premium costs for taxable organizations and up to 35 percent for tax-exempt organizations. To qualify, you must:

- Provide health insurance to your employees
- Pay at least 50 percent of employee-only health insurance premiums
- Pay average annual wages of less than \$50,000 a year

Visit www.irs.gov for more information or consult your tax adviser.

Small Employer Health Insurance

The Small Employer Health Insurance (SEHI) program offers accessible health insurance for businesses with 2 to 50 eligible employees. An eligible employee is one who works on a regularly scheduled basis of 17.5 or more hours per week. More information about the [SEHI program](#) is available online or from:

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Insurance Division
350 Winter St NE Room 440
Salem, OR 97301
503-947-7980

Small Business Guide to Insurance and Worksite Safety

The Department of Consumer and Business Services regulates areas ranging from insurance to worksite safety that are important to small employers. As a business owner, understanding the types of insurance that can protect your investment and what you can do to promote worksite safety is key to your success. The [Oregon Small Business Guide to Insurance and Worksite Safety](#) provides an overview of these topics, along with contact information so you can easily obtain more detailed information.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The Oregon Employment Department's Workforce & Economic Research Division has a team of Workforce Analysts who collect and analyze labor market information for individual businesses, who can then apply the information to their everyday business decisions. The Workforce Analysts are available to provide concise, up-to-date information about local, state, and national economies, on the population trends for those areas, and their effects on Oregon's workforce. Their focus is to provide information as requested by Oregon businesses related to the labor market in general, and can provide specific occupational supply and demand data, or do an analysis of a business's wage levels relative to the labor market. Workforce Analysts are also available to create customized reports for specific businesses when the data is available. The research division also publishes and distributes information that has been gathered through surveys sent to employers. Businesses can then use this labor market information to identify challenges and opportunities. Economic development planners, educators and training providers, job applicants, legislators, and the news media also regularly rely on this information to learn about workforce issues that affect Oregonians.

Information on the Internet

The Oregon Employment Department maintains a nationally recognized website where employers can find local, regional, and statewide information about employment, unemployment rates, the Consumer Price Index, workplace skills, wage levels, industry and occupational projections of employment, and much more. Research staff are on hand to show businesses how to retrieve such data – and how to apply it directly to their venture. [Visit our website.](#)

Labor Market Information Publications

Oregon Employment Department staff prepare and distribute thousands of publications to schools, businesses, planners, and the public. A complete list of labor market information publications is [available online](#).

PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS & TRADEMARKS

Some businesses begin with a new idea, invention, innovative concept, or new process. If your business is dependent on such intellectual property, you may want to protect it by applying for a patent or copyright. If you use a trade or service mark to identify goods or services that you provide, you may choose to register the trade or service mark.

U.S. Patents

A patent is an exclusive property right to an invention and is issued by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, U.S. Department of Commerce. It gives an inventor the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling the invention in the United States, its territories, and possessions.

If you decide to apply for a patent, professional assistance from a patent attorney or patent agent is recommended because the patent procedures are detailed and technical. However, it is possible to perform a preliminary patent search to determine if your invention may qualify for a patent, by using the services of the Boley Law Library of the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, which has been designated as the Oregon Patent & Trademark Depository Library. **Note:** Although library staff will show you the process for performing a patent search, you will have to perform the search yourself. Be sure to call ahead for library hours. For more information contact:

Northwestern School of Law Lewis and Clark College

Boley Law Library - Patent Specialist
10015 SW Terwilliger Blvd.
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 768-6676

U.S. Patent information, the application process and forms for applying for a patent are [available online](#). Additional information is available from:

Mail Stop Assignment Recordation Services
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

U.S. Copyrights

A copyright protects literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, or other intellectual creations from unauthorized copying or exploitation. Items such as written materials, works of art, musical compositions, and computer programs are protected by copyright. No publication, registration, or other action in the Copyright Office is required to secure a copyright; the copyright is secured automatically when the work is created and fixed in a tangible form of expression. However, there are definite advantages to registering a copyright. Copyrights are registered with the U.S. Library of Congress. To obtain information on copyrights and copyright application forms, contact:

Library of Congress

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000
(202) 707-3000 or 877-476-0778 (toll free) general information

Trade and Service Mark

A trade or service mark identifies goods or services made or sold by a person to distinguish them from goods or services made or sold by others. It can consist of words, names, symbols, devices, or any combination of these. The mark must be in use before it can be registered. The registration is optional.

The trade or service mark registration advises the public that the registrant believes he or she is the only person who has a right to use the mark in connection with those goods or services. It prevents the registration of an identical or similar mark, and also helps prove the date of first use.

Oregon Trade and Service Mark Registration

It is the use of a trade or service mark in Oregon, rather than registration, which creates ownership. A trademark has been used in Oregon when goods are sold or distributed in the state and the mark is placed in any manner on the goods, containers, tags, labels, or displays associated with those goods. A service mark has been used in Oregon when the mark is used or displayed in the sale or advertising of services rendered in this state. Research [Oregon Trade Marks online](#).

The Oregon trade and service mark registration form is [available online](#). There is a non-refundable processing fee of \$50 for filing a trade or service mark application, and the mark can be renewed every 5 years.

Please allow one to two weeks for processing documents submitted by mail.

Note: Businesses are encouraged to check for conflicts with federally registered trade or service marks before registering a trade or service mark in Oregon. Since trade and service mark rights arise from the use of the mark, a current federal registration may indicate prior use of the mark by another person. Federal trademark information is available at the United States Patent and Trademark Depository Library, located at Paul L. Boley Law Library, Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, in Portland, Oregon. The library receives periodic updates on both current and pending federal trademark registrations. For further information, call 503-768-6676. Be sure to call ahead for library hours. Trademark searches may also be [done online](#).

Federal Trade and Service Mark Registration

A Trade or Service Mark may be registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office if the mark has been used on goods or associated with services that have been rendered in commerce. An applicant who has not yet used the mark may apply based on a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce. The term of federal trademark registration is 10 years, with 10-year renewal terms. However, the registrant must submit an affidavit stating that the mark is currently in use between the fifth and sixth year after registration or the registration is cancelled. Trademark rights can last indefinitely if the owner continues to use the mark to identify the goods or services.

Federal Trade or Service Mark Registration information is also [available online](#). Information on the application process and forms for registering a Trade or Service Mark is [available online](#). Additional information is available from:

Mail Stop Assignment Recordation Services
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BUYING WHOLESALE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

If you attempt to make wholesale purchases for your business, the seller may ask for your wholesale or resale license number. Oregon does not have either a wholesale or a resale license. The number generally accepted for use as a wholesale or resale number in Oregon is the eight-digit Business Registry Number assigned when you register an assumed business name or a business entity with the Corporation Division. The Department of Revenue has created a website for questions about sales tax information that includes a self-authenticating “Resale Certificate.” Business owners may use this certificate for buying wholesale or for exemption of sales taxes on goods purchased in another state. [Visit online](#) to generate a “Resale Certificate.”

IF YOU USE MUSIC IN YOUR BUSINESS

U.S. Copyright Law gives copyright owners the exclusive right to publicly perform or authorize performance of their works. Most music is protected by a copyright. The proprietor of a business in which copyrighted music is performed is liable for infringement of copyrighted music in his or her place of business. If you use music in your business in any way, including as background music or on your phone system, you should be aware of your liability for using the music.

Three organizations license performance rights for most of the music copyright holders in the United States. You can obtain more information on how to comply with the Copyright Law regarding music use by contacting an attorney or one of these organizations.

**American Society of Composers
Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)**
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, NY 10023
(212) 621-6000
www.ascap.com

Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI)
10 Music Square East
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 401-2000 or 1-800-925-8451
www.bmi.com

SESAC Inc.
55 Music Square East
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 320-0055 or 1-800-826-9996
www.sesac.com

OREGON IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT

Oregon law requires individuals, businesses, and organizations that collect and maintain personal identifying information to follow requirements to help protect consumers from identity theft.

Personal identifying information is a consumer's name in combination with a Social Security number, Oregon driver's license or Oregon identification card number issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles-Oregon Department of Transportation, or a financial account or credit or debit card number along with security or access codes or password that would allow someone to access a consumer's financial account.

Those who maintain Social Security numbers are prohibited from printing them on any documents that are mailed to but not requested by the consumer. If the consumer requests mailed documents that contain a SSN, the number must be redacted or obscured. Further you cannot print a SSN on a card used by the customer that is required to access products or services, nor can you publicly display or post a SSN (such as on a website) unless redacted or obscured. In addition, the law requires anyone who owns personal identifying information to notify affected consumers of any security breach if computer files containing that personal information have been subject to a security breach.

Oregon businesses and organizations also must safely protect the personal information they maintain by developing, implementing and maintaining reasonable safeguards, including the proper disposal of information that is no longer needed.

Owners of a small business (200 employees or less in a manufacturing business, or 50 employees or less in other types of business) comply with the safeguard requirements if its information security and disposal program contains the administrative, technical and physical safeguards and disposal measures appropriate to the business' size and complexity as well as the nature and scope of its activities, and the sensitivity of the personal information it collects.

Those who are subject to and comply with the notification and data safeguard requirements or guidance adopted under the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act already meet Oregon's requirements for notification and data safeguarding for customers' personal information. In addition, those who are subject to and comply with the data safeguard requirements or guidance adopted under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for data safeguarding of patient information do not need to develop further processes. However, if a breach involves personal information of your employees, or you are developing safeguards to protect employees' personal information, you must follow Oregon's notification and data safeguard requirements.

For further information contact:

Department of Consumer and Business Services

[Division of Finance and Corporate Securities](#)

350 Winter St. NE, Room 410

Salem OR 97301-3881

503-378-4140 1-866-814-9710 (toll free in Oregon)

For information on [Identity Theft and your Federal Tax Records](#), visit online.

OREGON COUNTY ASSESSOR PHONE NUMBERS

Visit online for a list of [county web pages and phone numbers](#).

County	Phone	County	Phone
Baker	541-523-8203	Lake	541-947-6000
Benton	541-766-6855	Lane	541-682-6798
Clackamas	503-655-8671	Lincoln	541-265-4102
Clatsop	503-325-8522	Linn	541-967-3808
Columbia	503-397-2240	Malheur	541-473-5117
Coos	541-396-7900	Marion	503-588-5144
Crook	541-447-4133 x 226	Morrow	541-676-5607
Curry	541-247-3294	Multnomah	503-988-3326
Deschutes	541-388-6508	Polk	503-623-8391
Douglas	541-440-4222	Sherman	541-565-3505
Gilliam	541-384-3781	Tillamook	503-842-3400
Grant	541-575-0107	Umatilla	541-276-7111
Harney	541-573-2246	Union	541-963-1002
Hood River	541-386-4522	Wallowa	541-426-4543
Jackson	541-774-6059	Wasco	541-506-2540
Jefferson	541-475-2443	Washington	503-846-8741
Josephine	541-474-5260	Wheeler	541-723-4266
Klamath	541-883-5111	Yamhill	503-434-7521

OREGON COUNTIES MAP



OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Fostering Collaboration for Better Business

Oregon's Office of Small Business Assistance serves as an independent voice for small businesses within state government.

Small businesses account for 98 percent of Oregon firms, employ more than half the state's workforce and play a vital role in our economy. The Small Business Advocate brings together businesses and government to improve Oregon's business climate.

When problems arise, the advocate works collaboratively with small businesses and state agencies to help resolve issues.

Get Help

The Small Business Advocate's core mission is to assist entrepreneurs who believe they've been subjected to unreasonable or unfair state regulatory actions, such as investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats or other enforcement by a state agency. The Advocate investigates complaints and works toward a mutually acceptable resolution.

If you feel your business has been aggrieved by an Oregon agency and you've tried to resolve the issue without success, [request assistance online](#) or phone the Office of Small Business Assistance at 503-986-2193 or toll free at 1-844-469-5512.

About the Small Business Advocate

Created by the Oregon Legislature in 2013, the Office of Small Business Assistance is housed in the Secretary of State's Corporation Division. As an appointee of Oregon's Secretary of State, the Small Business Advocate operates outside of both the executive branch and the legislative branch to provide an objective voice for entrepreneurs within the halls of government.

[*Meet the Advocate*](#)



**Corporation Division
Office of the Secretary of State**

Business Information Center

Public Service Building, Suite 151
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-1327
(503) 986-2200

How to Start a Business in Oregon
Publication No. BICGUI1100
January, 2014