

City of Raleigh Partners: Small Business Organizations

The City of Raleigh works closely with a network of support organizations with expertise and resources to help small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Business Alliances

Business Alliances and Chambers of Commerce are organizations that focus on the success of their small business members. No two are alike, but all have a passion for local independent businesses. Common services offered by Business Alliance Organizations include:

- Vendor events and listings in directories
- Promotion, marketing, and advertising
- Networking, partnership, and training opportunities
- Research, planning and advocacy

District-Defined Business Alliances

[Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation \(Live It Up Hillsborough Street\)](#)

[Downtown Raleigh Alliance](#)

[West Raleigh](#)

[Glenwood South Neighborhood Collaborative](#)

[Midtown Raleigh Alliance](#)

[North Raleigh Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Southeast Raleigh Promise](#)

City-Wide Business Alliance Partners

[Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Shop Local Raleigh](#)

[Triangle ArtWorks](#)

[Harmony: NC LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau \(GRCVB – VisitRALEIGH\)](#)

[North Carolina Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce](#)

Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs)

Entrepreneurial and Small Business Support Organizations provide training and development resources, often free of charge. These resources can help small business owners find ways to improve their bottom line. Topics may include business model, customer acquisition, marketing, profitability, accounting, and other technical operating best practices. Many common questions are addressed by subject matter experts in these organizations.

[Economic Development Partners of NC \(EDPNC\) Small Business Advisors](#)

[Small Business and Technology Development Center \(SBTDC / NCSU\)](#)

[Small Business Center \(SBC / Wake Tech\)](#)

[Consult Your Community \(NCSU\)](#)

[Women's Business Center \(WBC\) / The Institute](#)

[SCORE Raleigh](#)

[El Centro Hispano](#)

[Prospera NC](#)

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

Co-Working Startup Hubs and Business Incubators

Co-Working spaces are often for-profit organizations that offer short term shared office and flexible space arrangements for small businesses not quite ready for more expensive long term “bricks & mortar” commercial property commitments. Many Co-Working operators also offer small business incubation support, with training, networking, and other programmatic support. Some examples include:

[Loading Dock Raleigh](#)

[Raleigh Founded](#)

[The Wright Village](#)

[Blue Co](#)

[Center for Entrepreneurial Development](#)

[NC IDEA](#)

[Rural RISE NC](#)

[Entrepreneurship Clinic \(NCSU\)](#)

[First Flight Venture Center](#)

[Launch Chapel Hill](#)

[LaunchWakeCounty \(Wake Tech\)](#)

[RIoT Accelerator Program](#)

Access to Capital and Fundraising Resources

In addition to raising funds from traditional investors, there are several community- and government-based resources to raise funds for your business. These may take the form of grants, loans, or more traditional investment vehicles. Examples include:

[Institute Capital](#)

[Carolina Small Business Development Fund](#)

[Self-Help Credit Union](#)

[Thread Capital](#)

[North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#)

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

Free Legal Resources

There are a number of free legal resources available with a focus on helping entrepreneurs and business owners understand key issues related to their businesses. Each resource varies in terms of the topics that it covers and may have set criteria for the businesses that it helps.

[Campbell University, Norman A. Wiggins School of Law – Business Law Clinic](#)

[UNC School of Law Institute for Innovation – Startup NC Law Clinic, Intellectual Property Clinic, and Community Development Law Clinic](#)

[Duke University School of Law – Community Enterprise Clinic and Start-Up Ventures Clinic](#)

[North Carolina Central University School of Law – Intellectual Property Clinic](#)

[Wake Forest School of Law – Trade & Development Clinic and Intellectual Property Law Clinic](#)

[Elon University School of Law – Small Business and Entrepreneurship Clinic](#)

[North Carolina Bar Foundation Entrepreneurs Assistance Program](#)

[NC Free Legal Answers](#)

[U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#)

[North Carolina Secretary of State's Office](#)

General Small Business Resources

Note: For space efficiency, the lists above are not exhaustive. You can learn more about City of Raleigh Partners, Resources, Events, and Programs on our [Small Business Development home page](#). The most visited topics include:

- [Citywide Partner Event Calendar](#)
- [Start Up Roadmaps](#)
- [Local Business Intelligence \(dynamic market data, heat maps, and more\)](#)
- [Small Business Advisor \(best practices for startup and growth\)](#)
- [Small Business Resource Guide](#)