

SBA and VA Resources

SBA's network of resource partners provide assistance specific to veteran and service-disabled veteran business owners/entrepreneurs. There are also tools specifically designed to help self-employed members of the Reserve and National Guard balance successful business ownership with Title 10 activations and deployment, including restarting or reestablishing their businesses upon de-activation from active duty.

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) - <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/sbdc/>

Small Business Development Centers operate in each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. They provide consulting and education services to small business owners on topics ranging from management practices to technical skills. For example, you can receive training on conflict management and Oracle databases at the same center.

Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBO Centers) -

<http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html>

VBO Centers provide business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals. Their staff can assist you in the development of market research and business plans, and give you training assistance on how to become an entrepreneur.

Veteran Business Development Officers (VBD Officers) -

<http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html>

Assigned to local SBA servicing offices, VBD officers are a great point of contact as you begin the development process. In addition to providing general business development assistance, they have crucial knowledge of local markets and businesses.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - <http://www.score.org/index.html>

A nonprofit organization, SCORE is made up of retired business owners and executives with decades of experience starting and operating businesses of all types. SCORE provides free and confidential counseling and low-cost workshop services, which can help you learn to write a business plan, apply for a loan, hone your management skills, and become a more confident small business owner.

Women's Business Center - <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/onlinewbc/index.html>

If you are a female veteran, the Women's Business Center can provide additional assistance, such as counseling and training, and a variety of need-based funding and financing opportunities.

Native American Affairs - <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/naa/index.html>

Within the Office of Entrepreneurial Development, the Office of Native American Affairs concentrates on outreach and support for Native American small business owners. If you are Native American, this office can help you find specific business resources and other Native American businesses. In addition, the office will assist you in attending national economic development conferences.

Small Business Training Network (SBTN) - <http://www.sba.gov/training/>

Through the SBTN, you can take online courses in a variety of business and management areas, receive online counseling, access the full SBA library of resources, and view connections to other educational and training opportunities.

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Reserve and Guard Tools - <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/reservists/index.html>

In addition to quick access on topics such as training, debt relief, and local resources, this site provides access to the SBA document, Getting Veterans Back to Business. This is a great resource tool that can guide you as you start your business venture.

Center for Minority Veterans – <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>

The CMV exists to educate, inform, and identify minority veteran business owners and potential business owners on the intricacies of contract and business procedures, processes, and contracting opportunities available in both the government and private sectors.

WomenBiz – <http://www.womenbiz.gov>

Contract Assistance to Women Business Owners (CAWBO) and the National Women's Business Council, in cooperation with other federal agencies, developed this website. It provides over 100 links to federal procurement and subcontracting information, opportunities and registration sites for bidders' lists.

Taken from <http://hirevetsfirst.dol.gov/smallbizown.asp>