

# St. Louis Neighborhood Business Resources

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## Government Resources

### [Missouri Secretary of State, Business Services Division](#)

The Business Services Division is comprised of 3 units. The Corporations Division handles the creation and maintenance of the over 300,000 business entities doing business in Missouri. The Commission's Division performs an array of functions including commissioning notaries public. The UCC Division processes personal property lien filings.

### [Missouri Department of Economic Development](#)

Tools, resources and incentives for Missouri based businesses.

### [Missouri Linked Deposit Program](#)

The Missouri Linked Deposit Program partners with lending institutions to provide low-interest loans to help create and retain jobs, expand the economy and strengthen communities statewide.

### [Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers](#)

SBTD Centers help businesses at every stage of growth. From concept to startup, growth to renewal, maturity to succession. Their experts are located statewide providing help on a variety of business topics including: Professional business analysis, Business consultations and access to technology resources, Educational training seminars on a variety of business topics.

### [Property Assessed Clean Energy \("PACE"\) Program](#)

Financing for residential and commercial properties for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

### [St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment \(SLATE\)](#)

SLATE is City of St. Louis' workforce department offering businesses and job seekers of all ages and socioeconomic background no-cost employment and job training services.

### [St. Louis Business Assistance Center \(BAC\)](#)

The BAC facilitates the licensing and permitting of businesses and act as the ombudsman for the City business community.

## St. Louis Business Financing

- [Local Development Company \(LDC\) Commercial Loan](#) - Direct, low interest, and subordinated loans for working capital, equipment purchase, land and building acquisition, and construction or leasehold improvements.
- [Real Estate Tax Abatement](#) - Tax abatement for real estate development in the City of St. Louis.

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- [SBA 504 Loan Program](#) - Geared towards healthy, expanding for-profit businesses seeking long term, low down-payment financing for major fixed assets. It cannot be used for working capital or inventory.
- [SBA 7\(a\) Loan Guaranty Program](#) - Enables lenders to provide financing to small businesses when funding is otherwise unavailable on reasonable terms.

## [St. Louis Business Institute](#)

The St. Louis Business Institute in conjunction with the St. Louis Develop Corporation offer a technical training course that assist minority and women owned construction companies with capacity building through hands on technical assistance and skilled workshops that address business development, management and operational skills.

## [St. Louis Commercial Facade Program](#)

The Facade Program provides funding to improve the facade and appearance of eligible commercial properties.

## [St. Louis Development Corporation](#)

St. Louis Development Corporation's mission is to stimulate the market for private investment in City real estate and business development and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits the City of St. Louis. SLDC is partially funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds.

## [St. Louis Economic Development Partnership](#)

Works to develop and grow long-term diversified business and employment opportunities by creating innovative solutions that generate increased wealth and enhanced quality of life for the citizens, businesses and institutions of the St. Louis region.

## [US Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)

The SBA delivers of loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses.

## [Veterans Business Resource Center](#)

The Veterans Business Resource Center assists veterans and transitioning service members that want to launch and grow a small business. They provide counseling, mentoring, resources, and education for those seeking the next level of achievement.

## Publications

### [Small Business Monthly](#)

Locally owned and established in 1988, SBM provides marketers the opportunity to access closely held, privately owned companies throughout the St. Louis Metro area.

### [St. Louis Business Journal](#)

Covers business news from a local, regional and national perspective.

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## Private Resources

### [1 Million Cups \(1MC\)](#)

1MC is a simple way to engage entrepreneurs in communities in St. Louis and around the world. Each week, the 1MC program offers two local entrepreneurs an opportunity to present their startups to a diverse audience of mentors, advisors, and entrepreneurs. Presenters prepare a 6 minute educational presentation and engage in 20 minutes of feedback and questioning after they present. Entrepreneurs gain insight into possible ways they can improve their businesses, gather realtime feedback, connect with a community that truly cares about their progress, and walk away feeling like they have advanced their business. The audience also learns a great deal from the presentations. Whether this is through passively listening or deeply engaging with the entrepreneurs, there is much to learn every week from these dynamic and diverse communities.

### [Arch Grants](#)

Arch Grants is a nonprofit organization that is building a new economy by providing \$50,000 equity-free grants and pro bono support services to entrepreneurs who locate their early-stage businesses in St. Louis. Through its competitive Global Startup Competition, Arch Grants retains and attracts the most innovative entrepreneurs to the St. Louis region. This program is an aggressive effort to inspire the next generation of employers, civic leaders, and philanthropists for St. Louis.

### [BRAND of St. Louis](#)

BRAND of St. Louis is a consulting social enterprise that provides content curation, online marketing, business development, and strategic planning services to develop innovative and sustainable collaboratives and programming in communities with need.

They aim to create strategic partnerships within the non-profit sector and with public and private organizations. Their goal is to leverage collective strengths of diverse organizations and facilitate collaborative programming to benefit entrepreneurship, youth development, professional development, community outreach, or quality of life initiatives within the community.

### [Brazen](#)

Brazen exists to help growth-seeking women entrepreneurs advance their businesses to create economic prosperity. They offer continuous, immersive programming that fosters connections for women-owned businesses to existing resources – and to each other. Their highly customized, hyper-niche programming is both affordable and accessible for the individual female president, founder or CEO.

### [Center for Emerging Technologies \(CET\)](#)

Founded in 1998, the Center for Emerging Technologies (CET) is the largest and oldest Innovation Center in Missouri. CET is nationally recognized for providing the infrastructure and resources needed for early-stage, high-growth companies in the fields of information technology, bioscience and manufactured products to innovate and thrive. An affiliate of the Cortex Innovation Community since 2012, CET fills an important program role in the Cortex district and broader St. Louis region.

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## [CONTRACTOR LOAN FUND](#)

To provide M/WBE construction industry participants access to below-market-rate capital, business assistance and other professional resources so they can grow and take on larger projects and meet the construction needs of the St. Louis region.

## [Cortex Innovation District](#)

The Cortex Innovation Community is home to a vibrant 200-acre innovation hub and technology district integrated into St. Louis' historic Central West End and Forest Park Southeast residential neighborhoods, surrounded by nationally ranked universities and medical centers and abundant cultural and recreational assets.

## [The Center for the Acceleration of African-American Business \(CAAAB\)](#)

CAAAB is a non-profit civic organization established to support the growth and development of businesses owned by minority populations, primarily African Americans. The Center's goal is to advance economic development in the St. Louis and metro East Illinois regions by elevating the status of African American businesses and their workforce.

## [Enterprise University](#)

Enterprise Bank's free courses for business, including: Marketing, Social media, Sales management, Financial management, Business valuation, Succession planning, Developing leadership, Employee compensation, Financial Planning.

## [Grace Hill Womens Business Center](#)

With a focus on women and minorities in underserved communities, Grace Hill Women's Business Center is a leader in providing direct services to budding entrepreneurs and current business owners.

## [International Institute of St. Louis, Economic Development Department](#)

The Economic Development Department provides workshops for immigrant & refugee entrepreneurs, for start-ups, businesses that need strengthening or that are looking to expand their goods and services.

## [Invest STL](#)

Engages residents and stakeholders in the St. Louis region for the support of building great neighborhoods. In working toward this mission, we believe in upholding a set of core values to ensure we are serving St. Louis communities effectively.

## [ITEN](#)

ITEN was founded in April 2008 to be the catalyst of the St. Louis region's IT startup ecosystem. They accelerate scalable tech startups with programs for rapid product development, connections to talent, essential networking, and access to funding. The core of their value proposition is enabling experienced entrepreneurs to help other entrepreneurs build successful, growing tech ventures. These critical connections are formed through direct mentoring access, a curriculum of graduated acceleration programs, and their weekly and monthly networking programs.

## [Justine PETERSEN](#)

Justine PETERSEN helps small businesses and individuals achieve new levels of financial capability by focusing on building assets. Emphasis is on the loan applicants' strengths in achieving their goals.

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## [Legal Services of Eastern Missouri \(LSEM\)](#)

### **Community and Economic Development (CED) Program**

This LSEM initiative utilizes the resources of volunteer transactional attorneys to provide business legal assistance and education to entrepreneurs who are low-income and who are starting or expanding small businesses in the greater St. Louis area. The CED Program also provides similar business legal services to nonprofit entities that support entrepreneurship and/or engage in affordable housing and other community development initiatives. By building the capacity of entrepreneurs and related nonprofit organizations described above, the CED Program helps generate jobs and foster economic growth and neighborhood revitalization.

## [Missouri Venture Forum](#)

Missouri Venture Forum's Mission is to serve entrepreneurs – those leading the growth of earlier stage businesses – through peer networking, topical education and access to capital resources.

## [Regional Growth Capital](#)

Regional Growth Capital facilitates local business growth through unique financing. While many alternative financing options require the surrender of equity, Regional Growth Capital provides investments without taking an ownership position.

## [SCORE St. Louis](#)

St. Louis, Missouri Chapter of SCORE is part of a national non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation's small business

## [Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies](#)

Charged with igniting entrepreneurial interest and learning in all disciplines including business, law, physical sciences, social sciences, art, architecture, engineering, medicine and social work, the center is the hub of entrepreneurial activity at Washington University and throughout the region.

## [StartupDigest](#)

The personalized insider newsletter for all things startup in St. Louis.

## [Startup Weekend](#)

Startup Weekends are weekend-long, hands-on experiences where entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs can find out if startup ideas are viable. On average, half of Startup Weekend's attendees have technical or design backgrounds, the other half have business backgrounds.

## [St. Louis Makes](#)

St Louis Makes serves the central Midwest manufacturing community by providing best practices training, project development & execution coaching, and resource connectivity specific focused on three core business functions: Product Management, New Product Innovation, Business Development

## [St. Louis Product Management](#)

Supports product management practices within the St. Louis community; helps product managers and others involved in product development grow their knowledge and skills; shares experiences and best

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practices; helps those interested in product management to improve their effectiveness, and assists those interested in becoming a product manager.

## [TechShop](#)

TechShop is a community-based workshop and prototyping studio on a mission to democratize access to the tools of innovation. Packed with cutting-edge tools, equipment, and computers loaded with design software featuring the Autodesk Design Suite, we offer the space to make, and the support and camaraderie of a community of makers.

## [Washington University School of Law, Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property Clinic](#)

The Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property (EIP) Clinic offers business and transactional legal advice and services to new and emerging nonprofit and qualifying for-profit organizations.