



Start-up & Small Business Resources

Business Link North Carolina

BLNC, or "blink," is a business resource ACCESS point for an extensive network of experts who can help your business succeed. Business Link North Carolina can connect you to services provided by state-supported agencies, many of which are free.



Call BLNC toll-free, 1(800) 228-8443, or local at 919-807-4280 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, to talk with one of our business counselors, or visit www.blnc.gov/ for more information

U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their business. SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Please call 1(800) 827-5722 or visit www.sba.gov for more information

Durham Technical Community College---Small Business Center (SBC)

The Small Business Center Network ([SBCN](#)), comprised of 58 Small Business Centers located at community colleges throughout North Carolina, supports the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses as a community-based provider of business training, counseling, and resource information. As part of the Small Business Center Network, the Small Business Center (SBC) at Durham Tech provides business owners with the information they need for success, including – but not limited to – advice on marketing, sales, bookkeeping, and financial management.

The SBC offers the following services at little or no cost:

- Training and technical assistance in starting your business;
- Business skill seminars, workshops, and courses;
- Confidential counseling to help you develop your business plan or address your business needs;
- Resource and referral services; and
- A Resource Center with small business publications and literature.

The Small Business Center is located in the SOUTHBank Building, 400 West Main Street, on the third floor. Office hours are 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Please call 919-536-7241 or visit www.durhamtech.edu/sbc/ for more information.

NC Small Business Technology and Development Center (SBTDC)

The SBTDC's location in Durham is committed to helping make your business better. Our team of experienced business professionals is here to help your small & mid-size business:

- Make better, more informed decisions
- Access sources of capital and financing
- Evaluate and improve your financial performance
- Obtain quality business and market information
- Improve leadership skills and employee performance
- Plan for a better future

The Durham SBTDC office is located at NC Central University -1801 Fayetteville St, Willis Building, Office 133, School of Business Durham, NC 27707.

Client Meeting address: 201 West Main St, American Underground @ Main, Suite 012

Call (919) 530-7386 or visit www.sbtcd.org/offices/nccu/ for more information.

SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives)

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. SCORE mentors deliver FREE, confidential, valuable advice for your business needs. SCORE provides the following services at no charge or at very low cost: Volunteer Mentors who share their expertise across 62 industries, Free, confidential business counseling in person or via email, Free business tools, templates and tips here online, Inexpensive or free business workshops (locally) and webinars (online 24/7). The Chapel Hill Chapter is located at 321 West Rosemary Street Chapel Hill, NC 27516. Please call (919)240-7765 or visit www.chapelhilldurham.score.org for more information.

City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) Small Business Advisory Committee

The City of Durham's Small Business Advisory Committee is comprised of banks, colleges and universities, seasoned entrepreneurs and other entities that provide financing and technical assistance. Member organizations offer an array of programs and services targeted to small businesses, such as business plan and marketing strategy development, financing, management skills training, and business counseling.

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) connects prospective and existing small businesses and entrepreneurs directly to those member organizations focused primarily on technical assistance.

OEWD is located at Golden Belt, 807 East Main St., Suite 5-100 Durham, NC 27701. Call SBTDC (919) 560-4965 ext.15205 or visit www.durhamnc.gov for more information

The Institute

The Institute is a nonprofit management consulting and services firm focused on business diversity. The Institute helps small businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans and people with disabilities start and grow. Client services include customized one-on-one assistance, training, knowledge, networks and solutions that create diverse, globally competitive companies. The Institute is a leading voice and constant advocate for public policies and business practices that promote marketplace diversity.

The Institute is located at 114 West Parrish St. Durham, NC 27701. Call (919) 956-8889 or visit www.theinstitutenc.org for more information.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

The Institute offers comprehensive, customized services to help minority-owned business start and grow. MBDA's small business experts offer one-on-one counseling, technical assistance, training and networking in all areas of business success:

- Market Access and Analysis – Market and industry-specific information, networking and matchmaking to help you connect with opportunity.
- Management Training and Assistance – Business planning, strategy and training that prepares you for every aspect of running a business.
- Money Management and Access – Helping you learn how to manage your money, credit and risk effectively and access the financial resources you need to operate and grow.

The Minority Business Development Agency Business Center is located at 5800 Faringdon Place, Raleigh NC 27609. For more information call (919)838-9950 or email mdba@TheInstituteNC.org.

Women's Business Center of North Carolina (WBC)

The Institute's Women's Business Center of North Carolina (WBC) helps women-owned businesses start and grow.

WBC empowers women by offering tools and support to establish businesses, stabilize their companies, generate sustainable profits, strategize for future growth and contribute to the growth and economic development of the community.

WBC's small business experts offer:

- Customized, one-on-one business counseling.
- Seminars and classes focused on key business topics, such as marketing, finance, certification and small business resources.
- Review and feedback on written business plans.
- Loan package preparation assistance and lender referrals.
- Certification assistance and review.
- Networking opportunities to find mutual support, access to resources and business referrals.

The Women's Business Center is located at 5800 Faringdon Place, Raleigh, NC 27609. For more information call (919)956-8889 or email wbcnc@TheInstituteNC.org.