

SUPPORTING GEORGIA'S SMALL BUSINESS



Georgia's small businesses comprise 99 percent of the state's companies. The state supports entrepreneurs and the growth of small businesses with assistance from the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD).

These efforts integrate every aspect of economic development, from technology and tourism promotion to direct business assistance and local community support.

Direct Services to Small Companies

- Tax credits for jobs, investments and research and development.
- Resources and connections to industry; financial and technology expertise; and information on tax credits, exemptions and incentives.
- Connecting technology-oriented businesses and start ups with direct access to applied research, commercialization, resources, technology connections, matching grant funds and potential investor networks.
- Export assistance provides knowledge and connections to get Georgia products to the world.
- Small business resource website with critical links for starting, growing and enhancing business operations.

Business-to-Business Opportunities

- Identifying Georgia suppliers for Georgia companies.
- Promoting vendor opportunities for small business within Georgia's entertainment industry for film makers and production companies.
- Connecting the artisan community to potential marketing opportunities.

- Creating synergies and partnerships among music, technology, creative, corporate, government and education sectors and creating brand awareness of talent and assets statewide.
- Supporting a high-level mentorship program that matches small, emerging Georgia companies with some of Georgia's largest businesses and the world's leading corporations.

Local Community Support

- Equipping Georgia's communities with resources and tools that foster business growth at the local level and help sustain an entrepreneurial environment.
- Promoting best practices of key activities intended to support growing businesses and encourage entrepreneurial efforts.

Small Business Incentives and Legislation

- *Angel Investment Tax Credits*: This provides an income tax credit of up to \$50,000 for individuals who invest in innovative start-up companies in Georgia.

GEORGIA
CONTINUOUSLY
RANKS IN THE
TOP 10
LIST OF BEST STATES
IN WHICH TO DO
BUSINESS

More Small Business Incentives and Legislation

- R&D Tax Credits: Emerging companies can apply the credit to offset payroll withholding.
- Opportunity Zones: check with your local chamber of commerce or development authority to see if your business qualifies for special tax credits.
- Entrepreneur & Small Business Loan Guarantee: 50 percent loan guarantee for businesses located in specified rural communities.
www.onegeorgia.org/programs/esb
- SSBCI - State Small Business Credit Initiative is designed for small business lending through banks or CDFIs offering loan guarantees and partnership lending opportunities.
www.georgia-ssbci.com

Ranking Georgia's Business Climate

- Georgia ranks #1 for best state to do business (Site Selection 11/13)
- Georgia continues to rank among the highest levels of entrepreneurship in the U.S.
- Georgia ranks #1 in the U.S. for fastest growth of women-owned businesses (American Express)
- Georgia ranks #4 in the U.S. for best business climate (Site Selection)
- Georgia ranks #10 for small business friendliness (Thumbtack/Kauffman)
- Georgia ranks #9 amongst best states for starting a business (Entrepreneur.com)

Business Owners and Communities Respond

"The 'Entrepreneur Friendly' designation has allowed Brantley County to not only boost business for our local entrepreneurs but also to focus on the development of youth entrepreneurs through our 'E-Camps,' giving them exposure to businesses, business planning, resources and nurturing the entrepreneurial dream."

*Jeanie P Boland, Executive Director
Brantley County Development Authority*

"I think that these trade services are vital for small American companies such as mine to participate in more international events [such as Domotex 2009]."

*Greg George, Thermal Systems
Whitfield County, 5 employees*

For more information please visit Georgia.org/smallbusiness or contact Mary Ellen McClanahan at 404.962.4820 or memclanahan@Georgia.org

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