

List of Business Resources

Local financing options

South Central State Bank: Business owners can work with the local South Central State Bank to secure a loan for operating costs, building acquisition, and other various business needs.

<https://www.southcentralstatebank.com/>, (402) 756-3311

Keno Community Betterment Grant: The local business support program offered is the Keno Community Betterment Grant. Any business or organization seeking assistance to better the community, keeping in line with the regulations set forth in the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, can apply during the yearly grant cycle by submitting an application prior to the deadline. The recipients in 2016 were the Blue Hill Community Club, Blue Hill Pool Committee, and the Blue Hill Fitness Center. Those wishing to apply for a Keno Community Betterment Grant can call the City Office, (402) 756-2056, to obtain more information and an application.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF): The City of Blue Hill adopted the Blight & Substandard Study and General Redevelopment Plan in 2017 and a Community Development Authority was created. In doing so, the City opened the door to the possibility of using TIF in the Redevelopment Area for acceptable projects. For more information, please contact City Attorney, Dan McMahon at (402) 834-2022, or City Clerk, Tricia Allen, (402) 756-2056.

Regional financing options

South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD) has a revolving loan fund available for eligible businesses in the District, to which Blue Hill and Webster county belong. <http://www.scedd.us/>, contact Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director: at (308) 455-4770 or sharonh@scedd.us.

Center for Rural Affairs /Rural Enterprise Assistance Program (REAP) offers the loans to eligible businesses. <http://www.cfra.org/reap>, South Central Region Loan Specialist: Dena Beck, (308) 528-0060, email: denab@cfra.org

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) financial programs offered by USDA RD promote economic development through loans to businesses provided through banks, credit unions, and community-managed lending pools. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/programs-services-businesses>, contact Business Programs Specialist: Kelley Messenger, (308) 455-9837, email: kelley.messenger@ne.usda.gov

Central Community College Small Business Institute provides financial assistance to aid in the startup of a new business and to provide loan funding to existing businesses. <http://www.cccneb.edu/small-business-incubator/>. Contact: SBI Coordinator: Don Hulme, (402) 461-2461, email: hhulme@cccneb.edu

Nebraska Enterprise Fund provides various lending options to small and micro-businesses to support their capital needs and growth. These programs include: direct lending, GAP financing, invoice financing, loan guarantees, and intermediary lending. <http://nebbiz.org/business-resources/loan-products>, – (402) 685-5500, email: nef@nebbiz.org

Small Business Administration provides the following funding opportunities: general small business loans, disaster loans, microloans, real estate & equipment loans. <https://www.sba.gov/loans-grants>, Nebraska District Office, (402) 221-4691, email: michael.foutch@sba.gov

Nebraska Economic Development Corporation provides assistance with SBA 504 loans to small business owners in Nebraska. These loans can help finance capital investments. <https://nedcolans.org/>, Contact: Loan Officer: Will Sailors, (402) 483-4622, email: will@nedcolans.org

Business and Entrepreneurial Assistance

South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD) provides technical support to businesses in all phases of development, including business start-up, business expansion or retention, or business succession. <http://www.scedd.us/>, contact: contact Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director: at (308) 455-4770 or sharonh@scedd.us.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) is the official lead economic development agency for Nebraska. The Business Development Division provides direct assistance to businesses, while also providing assistance to communities with business and economic development programs and recruiting businesses to the state. <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/start-your-business/>, <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/expand-your-business/>, <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/move-your-business/>. Contact: Business Development Consultant/Central Region: Kelly Gewecke, (308) 627-3151, email: kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension – Community Vitality Initiative Education offers connections to resource providers for business assistance. The Community Vitality Initiative is a UNL Extension program that focuses on working with resource providers and programs to help grow businesses. https://epd.unl.edu/county.php?county_fips_id=83, contact Ben Dutton, (308) 345-3390, email: ben.dutton@unl.edu

Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) provides technical assistance for businesses through financial planning, aiding in the development of loan applications and proposals to various funding sources, completing business plans, and many other vital services that promote economic growth. <https://www.unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center/index.php>, Contact: Business Consultant: Sara Bennett, (308) 382-9210, email: benettsa2@unk.edu

Center for Rural Affairs /Rural Enterprise Assistance Program (REAP) provides business training, technical assistance, and networking, REAP strengthens rural communities through small, self-employed business development. <http://www.cfra.org/reap>, contact South Central Region Loan Specialist: Dena Beck, (308) 528-0060, email: denab@cfra.org

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives start their businesses and improve the overall effectiveness of their operations. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/programs-services-businesses>, contact Business Programs Specialist: Kelley Messenger, (308) 455-9837, email: kelley.messenger@ne.usda.gov

Nebraska Enterprise Fund provides business acceleration training, business acumen workshops, and one-on-one mentoring with cash flow analysis, market planning, and business planning.

<http://nebbiz.org/business-resources/training-and-mentoring>, contact (402) 685-5500, email: nef@nebbiz.org

Small Business Administration assists with business planning, launching a business, business management, and business expansion. <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide>, contact Nebraska District Office, (402) 221-4691, email: michael.foutch@sba.gov

GROW Nebraska provides business training, technical assistance, promotion, and access to markets. Grow Nebraska also provides free training that is open to the public and is known as Third Thursday Training. Grow Nebraska also hosts the MarkeTech Conference to inform attendees of how to integrate marketing and technology into their business strategy. <http://www.grownebraska.org/about-us/awards-and-accomplishments/grow-nebraska-serves/>, contact (308) 493-5394

SCORE Central Nebraska provides business assistance for startups, current businesses, or business owners looking to transition out/retire. Business owners are paired with a mentor to receive business advice. SCORE also hosts workshops covering topics from marketing, finance and accounting, management, and more. SCORE also provides free tools to business owners that vary from local business templates, guides, current blogs, and other various resource tools. <https://centralnebraska.score.org/>, contact (402) 817-3822

Women's Business Center is part of REAP. The Women's Business Center provides specialists that provide training and outreach to rural women entrepreneurs. Other services provided include connecting to resources to launch a business, business expansion, and getting into the global marketplace. <https://www.cfra.org/reap/wbc>, contact Monica Braun, (402-687-2100), email: monicab@cfra.org