

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

for new start-ups or existing businesses in Texarkana, USA and beyond



10 Steps to Starting a Small Business:

- Assess the viability of your idea
- Project Cost and Review Finance Options
- Develop a business plan
- Choose a legal structure
- Check the availability of your business name
- Set up your record keeping system
- Understand tax obligations
- Limit risk while protecting your investment (insurance)
- Look before you lease
- Market analysis and marketing strategy

Find an expanded list at
<https://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us/749/10-Steps-to-Starting-a-New-Business>

City offices to know:

Economic Development (Consulting, Incentives, & Data)

Phone: (903) 798-1743
220 Texas Blvd., 4th floor
Contact: Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@txkusa.org

Inspections Department (Permitting, Zoning, & Construction)

Phone: (903) 798-3912 Fax: (903) 794-1257
Physical Address: 220 Texas Blvd., Room 301
Contact: Cindy Foster, cindy.foster@txkusa.org

Community Planning & Development (Planning, Grants/Loans)

Phone: (903) 798-1743
220 Texas Blvd., 4th floor
Contact: Vashil Fernandez, vashil.fernandez@txkusa.org

Additional Resources in this Guide:

COVID Relief + Texarkana Business Resources
Minority and Woman Business Enterprise Certification
Local Small Business Support



What programs are currently available for small business COVID relief?

COVID-19 EIDL:

This loan provides economic relief to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. The purpose is to meet financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

This program is administered by the SBA (Small Business Administration) and more information can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/eidl/covid-19-eidl>.



SBA Debt Relief:

As a part of the CARES Act, SBA is authorized to pay six months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all 7(a), 504, and Microloans reporting in regular servicing status (excluding Paycheck Protection Program loans) approved up to September 27, 2020, even if not fully disbursed. This option is only available to small business owners with existing SBA debt. This program is administered by SBA, and more information can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/sba-debt-relief>.



Local Small Business Support:



City of Texarkana, Texas
Economic Development Office
(903) 798-1743
220 Texas Blvd. Texarkana, TX
4th Floor of City Hall
<https://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us/255/Economic-Development>

What they do?

Support existing businesses in the jurisdiction, while creating incentives to attract new businesses to the area and promote entrepreneurship and help stimulate the economy. Consult with potential partners who are interested in locating in Texarkana.

When to connect?

Reach out before you start your business to request demographic data, real estate contacts, potential incentive information, and to get help accessing City contacts.



Ark-Tex Council of Governments
Economic Development
(903) 255-3583
4808 Elizabeth St. Texarkana, TX
<https://atcog.org/economic-development/>

What they do?

Assist with Revolving Loan Fund applications and 504 funding.

When to connect?

Reach out when your established or new business needs funding assistance.



North East Texas
 Small Business Development
 Center (903) 434-8237
<https://www.ntcc.edu/sbdc>

What they do?

Offer one-on-one business advising at no cost to entrepreneurs and small business owners-- linking to resources, training, and information to start or expand your business. The SBDC can help you identify sources of financing and develop a solid financing proposal.

When to connect?

The SBDC can help if you're starting a business, are already in business and need assistance with financial management or marketing, or if your business has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and you need information about relief programs and resources.



Texarkana USA
 Chamber of Commerce
 (903) 792-7191
 819 N. State Line Ave. Texarkana, TX
<https://www.texarkana.org/>

What they do?

The Texarkana USA Regional Chamber of Commerce is a partnership of businesses, organizations, and professionals working together to build a healthy economy and improve the quality of life in a community.

When to connect?

During the early stages of business development, the Chamber will allow you to connect your business to a wide network of resources that will help to create a strong foundation from which to build your business.

Are there programs for minority, women, disadvantaged and veteran-owned businesses?

Yes! There are advantages for each of these types of business owners. Qualifications vary, and businesses must be certified to take advantage of these programs.

Minority or Women-Owned Business:

There are many advantages to becoming certified as a minority or women-owned business enterprise (MBWE), including prioritization by corporate contracting agencies, both corporate and municipal. Certification as a MWBE could also allow you access to networks, mentors, publicity, listing in National Supplier Database, access to technical assistance and advisers, and professional development sessions.



Learn more at the following links:

- <https://www.mwbe-enterprises.com/>
- <https://www.txdot.gov/business/partnerships/dbe.html>
- <https://www.texassba.org/minority-owned-business-certification.php>

Contact the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for more information:
<https://www.ntcc.edu/sbdc> or (903) 434-8237

Veteran-Owned Businesses:

Similar advantages may be available to a veteran-owned business. For more information about registering as a veteran-owned business, or help for veterans who are interested in owning their own business, find more information at:

- <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/entrepreneurs/>
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/franchise/veteran-business.php>



We can think of a million reasons why you should do business in Texarkana. We are a regional center for employment, health care, and education. Our retail and services trade area encompasses a 17-county region in parts of three states. Our workforce is drawn from a 60-mile radius.

The defense cluster is the region's largest employment segment. The medical, educational, and retail clusters contribute to Texarkana's role as a regional center for commerce and industry.

Transportation has long been a key to growth and development of Texarkana. Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern railroads serve the region as does the TX Northeastern short line railroad. Vehicular traffic has access to I-30, I-49, US-59, US-67, US-71, and US-82. Proposed I-69 will connect with I-30 in Texarkana.

Texarkana Regional Airport has two runways and is served by American Airlines. TAC Air provides fixed base operation (FBO) services.

We have all the resources of a metropolitan city, but we're small enough to feel like home. The real question is... what are you waiting for? Call one of the resources listed in this guide to get started today.

