

SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (OEDIT)

The mission of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is to foster a positive business climate through financial and technical assistance for local and regional economic development activities throughout Colorado.

The Office of Economic Development and International Trade works with business owners starting, expanding or relocating in/to Colorado. OEDIT offers a wide range of services to assist new and existing businesses of every size. The services focus on making Colorado the premier business climate for: quality jobs, excellent infrastructure, exceptional environment, superior education system and workforce training, reasonable taxes and regulatory climate, quality of life and entrepreneurial opportunity and success. The following programs are offered by OEDIT. www.advancecolorado.com

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network

The SBDC network is dedicated to helping small businesses throughout Colorado achieve goals of growth expansion, innovation, increased productivity, management improvement and success. The SBDC network combines information and resources from federal, state and local government with those of the education system and the private sector to meet the specialized and complex needs of the small business community. Regulatory, management, financial and marketing experts work in partnership to provide entrepreneurs with crucial information that can mean the difference between success and failure. This partnership includes the State of Colorado, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Colorado's institutions of higher education, local economic development organizations and local

chambers of commerce.

The Colorado SBDC operates the SBDC Small Business Hotline (303) 592-5920. The hotline serves as the first point of contact for information regarding federal, state and local licensing requirements for starting a business. This office provides referrals to a variety of federal, state, local small business training, counseling and assistance programs. Sixteen community-based SBDC service centers provide free one-on-one counseling services in the areas of business research, marketing, new business feasibility analysis, business plan preparation, finance packaging and other small business topics. Local SBDCs offer low-cost workshops and seminars for business owners and act as information clearing houses. Individual local offices also specialize in international trade, government procurement, manufacturing, home-based business and technology resources. The Colorado Leading Edge entrepreneurial training program assists businesses in completing a comprehensive business plan. The primary emphasis of the Leading Edge program is to provide assistance to established business owners. However, new and prospective business owners are also encouraged to participate in training programs. www.coloradoSBDC.org

Colorado Business Resource Center (CBRC) is a program under the SBDC that provides county specific information for start up businesses. For more information call (970) 339-6427.

LOCAL SBDC OFFICES IN COLORADO

Small Business Hotline	(303) 592-5920
Alamosa	(719) 587-7372
Boulder	(303) 442-1475
Colorado Springs	(719) 262-3844
Delta	(970) 874-8772
Denver	(303) 620-8076
Durango	(970) 247-7009
Fort Collins	(970) 498-9295
Fort Morgan	(970) 542-3263
Glenwood Springs	(970) 384-8522
Grand Junction	(970) 243-5242
Greeley	(970) 352-3661
La Junta	(719) 384-6959
Lakewood	(303) 233-5555 x1202
Pueblo	(719) 549-3224
South Metro Denver	(303) 548-5300
Trinidad	(719) 846-5644
Westminster	(303) 460-1032

www.coloradoSBDC.org

The Minority Business Office (MBO)

The Minority Business Office (MBO) acts as an advocate for Colorado's Minority Business community. Services include the provision of training seminars, conferences or workshops, and the identification of procurement opportunities within both the public and private sector. The MBO collaborates with other state agencies, the private sector, and various organizations to expand economic opportunities for minorityowned businesses. The MBO also works with regional business councils throughout the state to ensure that all programs address the needs of minority business owners. For more information visit: www.advancecolorado.com/mbo.

International Trade Office (ITO)

The International Trade Office (ITO) is part of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. ITO is located at 1625 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80202. The Trade Office assists Colorado companies sell products and services to international markets and encourages foreign investment in Colorado to create jobs and strengthen Colorado's economy. Specialists offer export counseling in a variety of areas including sales and marketing, foreign contacts, and shipping and documentation. Staff members speak at seminars across Colorado on export-related topics. ITO also provides opportunities for Colorado companies to expand their businesses internationally through trade missions and participation in major foreign trade shows, and helps foreign buyers find suitable Colorado products and services. The International Trade Office has representative offices in Japan, Germany and Mexico that work with export promotion and investment. For more information call (303) 892-3850 or contact the website: www.advancecolorado.com/ito

Advance Colorado Center

The Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is pleased to announce the formation of a unique development venture, the Advance Colorado Center (ACC). The ACC will provide a common headquarters for a number of business development and high-tech associations. The creation of the ACC is one of several initiatives that OEDIT is undertaking to support its overall mission of creating a robust and enduring state economy and maximizing the Colorado brand through communication, integration and culture. The first tenants include:

CTEK: Expert financial and business volunteers mentor entrepreneurs working with innovative technologies. www.ctek.biz

Colorado Film Commission: Stimulates and supports growth of all segments of the Colorado film and video industry. Promotes the state as a competitive location for film-making. www.coloradofilm.org

Colorado Software & Internet Association:

Fosters innovation and growth for the technology industry in Colorado. www.coloradosoftware.org

Colorado BioScience Association:

Grows the state's bioscience workforce, provides networking opportunities, educational and technical programs, created corporate partnerships and finds investors. www.cobioscience.com

Colorado Environmental Business

Alliance: Promotes Colorado as a center for environmental commerce and sustainable technologies. www.ceba.org

CAMI: (Colorado Association of Microenterprise Initiatives) Statewide alliance or organizations with a mission to support self employment in microenterprise development for self sufficiency. www.coloradoalliance.org

Business Development Recruitment and Retention

Assistance is provided to new and existing companies looking to expand or relocate in Colorado. Business Development Representatives (BDRs) provide a variety of technical and financial assistance services including assistance with site selection, research on economic conditions and comparisons and coordination with local and regional economic development agencies and services. BDRs also act as liaisons with state regulatory programs.

Marketing activities are conducted nationwide to promote sectors of the Colorado economy that are growing and provide high quality jobs. Marketing activities include attendance at selected trade shows, company visits, cooperative marketing with local enterprise zones, and community economic development councils and industry research. The Colorado "Data Book," at www.advancecolorado.com is published annually by OEDIT and includes statistics and comparisons of key indicators to evaluate Colorado's economic climate and to provide information of special interest to the business community. Other services provided are:

• Community Development Block Grants

(CDBG): These grants are provided to the State of Colorado by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In turn, OEDIT uses these funds to assist rural communities with their economic development efforts. Businesses receiving CDBG assistance are required to create or retain jobs for low- and moderate- income persons. In some situations, businesses may be eligible if the owner of the business is of low- to moderate-income and the business qualifies as a microenterprise. OEDIT uses these funds to further economic development in two ways: First, the CDBG Infrastructure Program in support of a specific business or businesses. Local government-sponsored projects may generally receive infrastructure grants of up to \$500,000. Local matching funds may be required. Second, OEDIT provides financial resources to 15 regional Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs), which use the funds to make loans to businesses within their service areas. The RLF programs are available locally, each with its own loan review committee and Board of Directors. The RLFs have considerable flexibility to make small loans from a few thousand dollars up to \$250,000. In some cases, loans greater than \$250,000 have been approved. For both the Infrastructure and RLF Programs, applicants can be existing or start-up businesses. OED & IT and, when appropriate, the Governor's Financial Review Committee reviews and approves all requests for funding. **NOTE:** The state's CDBG program does not cover any of the metropolitan areas of Colorado (known as "entitlement" areas), because those areas receive their own allocation of CDBG funds directly from HUD. For more information on the CDBG programs, please contact OEDIT's Finance Staff at (303) 892-3840, or for loans, contact the RLF in your service area directly (see RLF listings).

• The Colorado First and Existing Industries Job Training Programs:

These programs assist employers with customized job training. Assistance is provided to new and existing businesses to retain workers and improve their workplace skills.

The goal of the Colorado First Program is to assist companies in training employees to fill newly created permanent, full-time quality jobs. Training has been provided to over 40,000 employees since 1986. For more information regarding the Finance and Business Development programs contact OEDIT at 1625 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver CO 80202, (303) 892-3840.

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

The SBA provides most business counseling and training programs through its various resource partners. The agency's main mission is to help entrepreneurs start, grow and expand their businesses. SBA helps to build communities one small business at a time. Below is a listing of SBA's business counseling and training programs available in Colorado.

SCORE

SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, is a 11,000-member volunteer program, sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration. There are over 150 members throughout Colorado. The program matches experienced volunteers with small businesses that need expert advice. These men and women business executives, whose collective experience spans the full range of American enterprise, share their management and technical expertise with present and prospective owners/managers of small businesses. The SCORE chapter in Denver runs four workshops entitled Starting Your Business, Expert Advice, Promoting Your Business and Writing a Business Plan. For additional information on SCORE or to locate your nearest SCORE office, call the SBA at (303) 844-3985. The Denver Chapter's website can be accessed at www.score.denver.org

Women's Business Center

The Women's Business Center (WBC) in Colorado is located at three Mi Casa Resource Center locations in Colorado. These locations are Pueblo, Denver and Colorado Springs. The purpose of the WBC is to promote the growth of women-owned

businesses through programs that address business training, technical assistance, access to credit, federal contracts, and international trade opportunities. The programs offered by Mi Casa are based on the needs of the small business community. For more information call 303-573-1302 or go to www.micasadenver.org.

Women with Disabilities Self-employment Project

Women with work disabilities experience economic hardships out of proportion to their representation in the population. Their unemployment rate exceeds that of men with work disabilities and women with no disabilities, and their representation in the poverty population is equally dismal. Studies document that the road to self-sufficiency and out of poverty is often business ownership. Women with disabilities are not less interested in taking this route. The Small Business Administration has embarked upon a nationwide series entitled "Tools for Self Employment for People with Disabilities." It has been documented that more than half of those attending these workshops are women with disabilities.

The Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, developed a project to facilitate the dream of women with disabilities wanting to start their own business. Over a two-year period, contractors chosen in four regions recruited, trained and provided mentoring services to assist women with disabilities to become business owners. By the end of the first phase, the Denver Region helped 10 women become business owners. Now in the second phase, the project contractors are looking for 18 women with severe disabilities to participate in the project. They will receive multi-week training on how to become an entrepreneur, life-skills training, technical assistance for obtaining loans and/or grants for the purpose of starting or expanding their business, and the benefit of a mentoring relationship and/or participation in support-group activities with other women entrepreneurs.

Call Catalyst Resources Inc. at (303) 455-3099, or toll free (888) 382-6730, for more information or to enroll in the program.

LOCAL SCORE CHAPTERS

Colorado Springs (719) 636-3074
www.coloradospringsscore.org

Denver (303) 844-3985
www.scoredenver.org

Grand Junction (970) 242-3214

Pueblo (719) 542-1704
www.puebloscore.org

Ernestine Wardlaw-Thomas, SCORE
District Director (719) 544-9010

SBA OnLine (www.sba.gov)

This website provides fast and easy help on all services provided by the SBA. SBA OnLine services include: SBA publications, access to SBA programs and services, points of contact, calendars of local events, on-line training, access to other federal agency on-line services and data, electronic and Internet mail, information exchange by special-interest groups, and downloadable files. SBA's home page is located at www.sba.gov

SBA'S OFFICE OF ADVOCACY Office of the Regional Advocate

This advocate serves as the SBA Chief Counsel's direct link to local communities. Regional advocates monitor the impact of federal and state regulations and policies on communities within their regions. They also work with state officials to develop policy and legislation that shape an environment in which small companies can prosper and grow. Contact SBA's Region Eight Advocate in Denver by calling (303) 844-0503. Visit its website at www.sba.gov/advo.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman

The ombudsman receives comments from small businesses about the regulatory enforcement and compliance activities of federal agencies and refers comments to the appropriate agency's Inspector General on a confidential basis. It also coordinates

the efforts of the 10 small business regulatory fairness boards and reports annually to the SBA Administrator and to the heads of the affected agencies on the boards' activities, findings, and recommendations. Call 1-888-REG-FAIR or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/ombudsman

SBA Disaster Assistance Program

The SBA Disaster Assistance Program, administered by the Office of Disaster Assistance, is the primary federally funded disaster assistance loan program for funding long-range recovery for private sector, nonagricultural disaster victims. In addition to presidential declarations, the program handles disaster loans when a declaration is made by the SBA Administrator. There are three disaster loan programs: loans for homes and personal property, physical disaster loans to businesses of any size, and economic injury loans to small businesses without credit available elsewhere. For more information, visit SBA's home page at www.sba.gov/disaster

U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEAC)

USEAC combines the trade-promotion and export-finance resources of the SBA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank and, in some locations, the Agency for International Development. Designed to improve delivery of services to small- and medium-sized businesses, USEACs work closely with other federal, state and local trade partners in your area. Colorado's USEAC is located in Denver at the World Trade Center Building, 1625 Broadway, Suite 680 or call (303) 844-6623. Its webpage is located at <http://www.usatrade.gov>

SBA's Surety Bond Guaranty Program

This SBA program guarantees bid, performance and payment bonds for contracts up to \$2 million for eligible small businesses that cannot obtain surety bonds through regular commercial channels. By law, prime contractors to the federal government must post surety bonds on federal construction projects valued at \$100,000 or more. In addition, many states, counties, municipalities,

COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION RESOURCES

Colorado Home Page

Anyone with access to the Internet can obtain Colorado state information at www.colorado.gov. The Colorado home page contains useful information about services and regulatory responsibilities of all state agencies. As a small business owner and/or a general taxpayer, this resource will allow you to download federal and state publications and applications for registration purposes and updates you on Colorado's tourism. The most current edition of the complete Business Resource Guide and the licensing database is also online. These publications provide links to economic development, federal, state and local programs for assistance with questions on licensing, permitting, registration, etc.

and private sector projects and subcontracts also require surety bonds. Contractors must apply through a surety bonding agent, since the SBA's guaranty goes to the surety company. For more information on the SBA's Surety Bond Guaranty Program Office, call (303) 844-2607 ext. 261.

Business.gov

Business.gov is a website designed to help small businesses find, understand and comply with the federal, state and local laws and regulations that impact their operations. Business.gov will also reduce for small business some of the hassle with regulatory issues. Business.gov is intergovernmental. Users can educate themselves on the state and local laws where they operate, including those dealing with hiring and managing employees, taxes and zoning. Small businesses can apply online for licenses and permits in several states. Go to www.business.gov for more information.

This website provides a one-stop electronic link to the government's business information and services. With the website, small businesses no longer have to contact

dozens of agencies and departments to access applicable laws and regulations, or figure out on their own how to comply. They can download business forms and conduct a myriad of other business transactions through this web site. The website is www.business.gov

PROCUREMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Office of Certification

The Office of Certification administers the Colorado Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification Program. This certification process determines the eligibility of minority and women-owned businesses to participate as DBEs on projects for the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District and the Denver Water Board. For more information call (303) 894-2355.

Small Disadvantaged Business Program (SDB)

SBA certifies SDBs to make them eligible for special bidding benefits. Evaluation credits available to prime contractors boost subcontracting opportunities for SDBs. Under federal procurement regulations, the SBA certifies SDBs for participation in federal procurements aimed at overcoming the effects of discrimination. SBA certifies small businesses that meet specific social, economic, ownership, and control eligibility criteria. Once certified, the firm is added to an online registry of SDB-certified firms maintained in PRO-Net. Certified firms remain on the list for three years. Contracting officers and large business prime contractors may search this online registry for potential suppliers. See SBA's home page located at www.sba.gov/sdb/

SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program

The 8(a) program assists the development of small firms owned and operated by individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged. By

extending government contract preferences and other business development support, it helps these firms gain access to the economic mainstream. Typically a

the National Institute of Standards and Technology. There are field engineers in five offices across Colorado who have five to thirty years each of practical and relat-

For more information, contact the MAMTC office near your business: Boulder (303) 499-9081 Fort Collins (970) 689-0887 Grand Junction (970) 255-2802.



small business must have been in operation for at least two years before applying to this program. Contact the SBA's Colorado District Office at (303) 844-2607 ext. 224 for more information.

Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC)

The Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC) helps small, medium and start-up manufacturers improve manufacturing competitiveness. MAMTC is a nonprofit organization created to help manufacturers become more competitive by improving quality, boosting sales and productivity and reducing costs. It is the result of a partnership between the University of Colorado at Boulder and

ed manufacturing experience. MAMTC staff may apply their own expertise to solve problems or draw on the services of universities, federal laboratories, community colleges, economic development specialists or private consultants to deliver these services. From hands-on consulting to seminars and workshops, MAMTC provides low cost solutions that can be measured in bottom line benefits. Services provided by MAMTC include:

- waste, energy and OSHA audits
- bar coding
- industrial engineering projects
- total quality management assistance
- plant layout consulting
- product/processing testing & analysis, and
- software systems recommendations.

Hazardous Materials and Waste Division

This office provides business owners with the permitting requirements under various environmental compliance programs. For more information call the Colorado Department of Public Health's Technical Assistance line at (303) 692-3320.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

A large amount of federal information from the U.S. government is available via the Internet. Two excellent indexes to federal Internet information are the U.S. Business Advisor and Fedworld located at www.business.gov and www.fedworld.gov respectively. Both indexes can be used to locate information from a variety of federal agencies.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) home page is found at www.sba.gov The SBA home page provides information on SBA financing and counseling services nationwide.
- The SBA's on-line Women's Business Center is a free, interactive training site for women on the web. You can reach this page at www.onlinewbc.org
- The IRS is located at www.irs.gov. Federal income tax forms can be downloaded from that site. You can also order the Small Business/Self-Employed Tax Calendar CD-ROM, Introduction to Federal Taxes CDROM, Virtual Small Business Workshop CD-ROM, and the Small Business Resource Guide CD-ROM by calling 1-800-829-3676.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides environmental information and assistance at www.epa.gov

Taxpayer Education and Communication (TEC)

The mission of TEC is to educate and inform Small Business and Self-employed (SB/SE) taxpayers and representatives

INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET!

Here are some informative sites:

State Home Page

www.colorado.gov

This page links you to the Secretary of State, Department of Revenue forms, demographic information, State procurement and much, much more.

SBDC Small Business Hotline

(303) 592-5920

Colorado SBDC Home Page

www.coloradosbdc.org

Advance Colorado Center

www.advancecolorado.com

SBA Home Page

www.sba.gov

U.S. Business Advisor

www.business.gov

Fed Stats — Federal Government Statistics

www.fedstats.gov

NAICS Codes

www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html

Law Research

www.lectlaw.com

IRS Research

www.irs.gov

Business Law Information

www.businesslaw.gov

Federal Government Research

www.firstgov.gov

about their obligations by developing educational products and services focused on customer needs and by providing top quality pre-filing service to help taxpayers understand and comply with the tax laws. TEC has many CD-ROMs and publications to assist small business owners with their tax obligations. A list and description of items available can be found at the IRS website, www.irs.gov under TEC Outreach Products.

ACCESS COLORADO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORK (ACLIN)

ACLIN is a project of the Colorado library community. It provides access to state library information resources to support education, business, health, social service and personal growth activities of Colorado residents. It is a statewide library computer network that:

- Links the automated systems and online catalogs of participating libraries in a single network
- Includes academic, public, private and specialized (medical, legal, etc.) library participants
- Provides access to over 175 library catalogs, that list over 11 million books, as well as 22 other information databases
- Connects users via a single phone call, local or toll free, using a microcomputer and a modem from home, office, school or library.

ACLIN can be accessed via the Internet at www.aclin.org. At the first prompts (www.aclin.org and user name) type ac in lower case letters, press the return key, then follow the online instructions. If you have a modem but do not have Internet access, use the local access number for your area. If you are outside a local calling area, call 1-800-748-0888.

NOTE: If you attempt to use the 800 number from an area with a local number your call will be blocked. For more information about ACLIN, contact your local public library or the Colorado Department of Education, ACLIN, 201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 309, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 866-6939.

BUSINESS RESEARCH AND INFORMATION NETWORK (BRAIN)

The BRAIN is a direct computer link through the NASA Industrial Application Center to 1,800+ national and international database files. The CU Business Advancement Center (CUBAC), the operator of BRAIN, is a business research, information and technology commercialization center of the University of Colorado at Boulder. It provides access to business, market and technical information from hundreds of public and private resources. For more information contact CUBAC at 5353 Manhattan Cr., Suite 202, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 554-9493 or visit their web address at www.colorado.edu/cubac/

SBA's Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

The SBIR provides a vehicle for small businesses to propose innovative ideas in competition for Phase I and Phase II grant awards, which represent specific R&D needs of the participating federal agencies. These awards may result in commercialization of the effort at the Phase III level. This program is administered by the SBA's Office of Technology. Currently, there are ten participating federal agencies with \$100 million in extramural R&D budgets. For more information go to www.sba.gov/SBIR or call the Small Business Administration at (202) 205-6450

SBA's Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)

STTR requires each small firm competing for an R&D project to collaborate with a nonprofit research institution. This program is a joint venture from the initial proposal to the project's completion. The program is administered by the SBA's Office of Technology. Currently, there are five federal agencies with extramural research and R&D budgets of \$1 billion: NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Health & Human Services. For more information go to www.sba.gov/SBIR

JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

Colorado Community Colleges and Occupational Education System

Colorado offers a wide variety of education and training programs for youth and adults through the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System. The system provides training in more than 400 specific occupations ranging from basic entry level skills to highly technical positions. It also provides industry specific training programs to entry level employees and helps current employees upgrade skills. Additional information is available through the Small Business Development Centers and the community colleges listed below:

- **Aims Community College**, Greeley (970) 330-8008 x6251 www.aims.edu
 - **Colorado Northwestern Community College**, Rangely (970) 675-2261 or 1-800-562-1105 www.cncc.edu
 - **Emily Griffith Opportunity School**, Denver (303) 575-4700 www.egos-school.com
 - **Front Range Community College**, Ft. Collins (970) 226-2500 www.frontrange.rightchoice.org
 - **Mesa College Area Vocational Technical School**, Grand Junction (970) 248-1020 www.mesastate.edu
 - **Northeastern Junior College**, Sterling (970) 521-6600 or 1-800-626-4637 www.nejc.cc.co.us
 - **Otero Junior College**, La Junta (719) 384-6831 www.ojc.edu
- A complete list of Colorado's community Colleges can be found at www.rightchoice.org

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

The DOLE operates a statewide network of Workforce Centers (WCs) providing a number of free employer services including:

- **Screening and Referral:** Employers may list their job openings with a local WC and obtain assistance with screening and referral of qualified applicants. Interviewers will match experience and capabilities with the job requirements specified by the employer. Employers

make the actual hiring decisions.

- **Mass Recruitment:** Employers may take advantage of mass hiring services while expanding their businesses or newly locating in Colorado.
- **Affirmative Action Hiring:** Employers may list an Affirmative Action Job Order with a WC to assist in meeting affirmative action hiring goals.
- **Employer Roundtable Seminars:** Workshops are available to employers on a regular basis on topics such as unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, equal employment opportunity, etc. **NOTE:** Services not available at all Service Centers.
- **Layoff Assistance:** WC staff can assist employers who are about to lay off some or all of their employees with developing information packages, job search workshops and retraining referrals.
- **America's Job Bank:** Employers who wish to recruit nationally may have their requests posted at Workforce Centers throughout the United States and via the Internet. For location and phone number of the Workforce Center in your area call (303) 318-8000 or visit the Workforce website at www.americasjobbank.com.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Business Incubators

Business incubators provide facility and management assistance for emerging growth companies. They offer new and existing companies affordable office, manufacturing or kitchen space, resource libraries, shared services and office equipment, meeting rooms and access to professional administrative services. The objectives of these centers are to stimulate small business growth, assist with the beginning stages of start-up, direct new businesses toward realistic and achievable goals and support cultural and neighborhood revitalization. Each center provides services to a very specific clientele. Business incubators are helping build healthy, lasting businesses and they are doing it for low cost and with a good return on investment to supporters. For more information and to check

on space availability contact the incubator administrator in your area.

- CTEK (303) 546-9595
- Fremont Economic Development (719) 275-8601
- Denver - Enterprise Center/Kitchen Center (303) 296-9400
- Denver - Small Business Growth Center (303) 298-8371
- Colorado Venture Centers Inc. (303) 237-3998
- Grand Junction - Western Colorado Business Development Corporation and Commercial Kitchen (970) 243-5242
- Pueblo - Business & Technology Center (719) 546-1133
- Manitou Springs - Business of Art Center (719) 685-1861

Local Economic Development Offices (EDOs)

Economic development offices provide a variety of different services to the businesses in their areas, including: permitting assistance, relocation, demographics, site location information, counseling and support services. A few offices administer small loan programs. Some are agencies of local city or county governments. Some are independent, non-profit organizations that receive funding from local governments and/or chambers of commerce. Contact the Small Business Hotline at (303) 592-5920 for the EDO nearest you.

Chambers of Commerce

Chambers of commerce provide a number of opportunities for business owners. Your local chamber of commerce is where you can meet and network with other business owners from your community. Some chambers provide additional services including counseling, training programs and guest speakers on useful business topics. Contact the Small Business Hotline at (303) 592-5920 for the phone number of the chamber of commerce in your community.