

BENTON COUNTY

A GUIDE TO STARTING YOUR BUSINESS



GETTING STARTED

YOU HAVE AN IDEA!

Evaluate your business idea and develop your strategic plan. Here are some resources as you work through your business idea:

- * Evaluating your business idea (Small Business and Technology Development Center)
<https://missouribusiness.net/article/evaluating-business-idea/>
- * Outline for building your business plan
<https://www.mosourcelink.com/guides/start-a-business/plan-your-business>
<https://www.sba.gov/tools/business-plan/1>
- * On-Line business plan templates
<https://www.score.org/resource/business-planning-financial-statements-template-gallery>
- * Consider meeting with a business counselor and/or attending a workshop. The Small Business Development Center provides free counseling to help with marketing, finance, management and technology development. In addition, Benton County Economic Development and the Chambers are ready to help with your business questions.

GET LEGAL!

What's your business name? Things to consider.

- * Is the name available in Missouri? Search here:
<https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/BESearch.aspx?SearchType=0>
- * Search to ensure there is an available website and e-mail extension to go with your business name. You can begin your search here:
<https://www.godaddy.com/domains/domain-name-search>

What structure should you use for your business?

- It is important to consult an expert before making this critical decision but a good place to start your research is here:
<https://www.sba.gov/starting-business/choose-your-business-structure>
- Form Your Entity. Create an account with the state of Missouri here:
<https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/Account/AccountSetup.aspx?lobID=1>
- * Get an employer identification number (EIN). Apply online here:
<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>
- * Sales Tax Number and other tax registrations: Contact MO Dept of Revenue.
<https://dor.mo.gov/faq/business/register.php>

KEY TO SUCCESS

We are thrilled you want to do business in Benton County. We are here to help you navigate the process and connect you with the right people along the way.

NEED MORE HELP?

Benton County Economic Development

Jo Ann Lane

660-492-3402

jlane@kaysinger.com

bceddevelopment.com

181 W. Harrison Street

Warsaw, MO 65355

DID YOU KNOW BENTON COUNTY IS

An Agri-Ready County

<https://mofarmerscare.com/agri-ready>

Has an Enhanced Enterprise Zone

www.ded.mo.gov/content/benton-county

Lincoln Civic Redevelopment Corporation-Chapter 353 Tax Abatement

Opportunity Zone-Warsaw

GET LICENSED!

Once you have the location, you can apply for your merchants/business license. Each community and business is a little different so individual processes may vary. These steps are intended to provide a basic outline on what to expect during the application process.

- Visit Cole Camp City Hall for businesses located inside Cole Camp City limits . Open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 401 W. Main Street or call 660-668-4444.
- Visit Lincoln City Hall for businesses located inside Lincoln City limits . Open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 122 E. Main Street or call 660-547-2718.
- Visit Warsaw City Hall for businesses located inside Warsaw City limits . Open Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM at 201 W. Main Street or call 660-438-5522.

- Visit the Benton County Courthouse for your Benton County Merchants License. Open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at 316 Van Buren, Warsaw or call 660-438-7721.



Benton County Courthouse

LOCAL PROCESS

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Where are you going to locate? What type of space do you need? Are you leasing or buying? How much space? Consult with your realtor and get in touch with Benton County Economic Development to find out current buildings available.

