

## **SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CONTACTS**

**Center for Rural Affairs, Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP)** <http://www.cfra.org/reap>

REAP offers technical assistance, training, loans up to \$250,000. For special training opportunities the Women's Business Center and Hispanic Business Development Center. Central Region: Griselda Rendon, [griseldar@cfra.org](mailto:griseldar@cfra.org) 308-850-4820

**Nebraska Business Development Centers** <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/>

NBDC offers business planning, training, valuations, loan packaging, government contracting, and a variety of technical assistance. Link to local contacts: <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/financing-options/consultants.cfm>

**Nebraska Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO)** <http://www.nedcoloans.org/#>

NEDCO is a SBA 504 lender, and has USDA Intermediary Relending Program and EDA Revolving loan funds. They are good with helping with buildings and usually only require 10% equity.

**Invest Nebraska** <http://www.investnebraska.com/>

Invest Nebraska offers venture capital and angel investment programs.

**Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF)** <http://www.nebbiz.org/>

NEF offers technical assistance and loans up to \$150,000. Tonia Franklin, [toniaf@nebbiz.org](mailto:toniaf@nebbiz.org) 402-685-5500 Ext 206

**Cooperative Extension** <http://communityvitality.unl.edu/category/growing-nebraska-businesses>

UNL Cooperative Extension offers technical assistance.

**South Central Economic Development District** <http://scedd.us> Nebraska regional development districts offer various revolving loans funds and technical assistance. Sharon Hueftle is the Director contact 308-455-4770

**USDA Rural Development** <http://www.rd.usda.gov>

The USDA Rural Development program promotes economic development through loans to businesses provided through banks, credit unions, and community-managed lending pools. They also offer energy efficiency grants and loans to businesses. **Regional Contact:** Kelley Messenger, Area Specialist (308) 237-3118, [kelley.messenger@ne.usda.gov](mailto:kelley.messenger@ne.usda.gov)

**GROW Nebraska** [www.grownebraska.com](http://www.grownebraska.com)

Training and technical assistance with marketing Nebraska products. Janell Anderson Ehrke, phone 888-growneb

**LB840** – Local Option Sales Tax funds collected in many communities for the purpose of economic development and assisting local businesses. Contact the City office or local Economic Development office of the community you are interested in..

**Imagine Nebraska Tax Incentives** – <https://imagine.nebraska.gov/about-the-program>

Mostly for manufacturers and must have a minimum of 5 new employees and 1 million in investment for rural areas.

**Micro-Enterprise Tax Credits** – <http://www.revenue.nebraska.gov/incentiv/microent/microent.html>

Micro-Enterprise Tax credits provide a 20 percent refundable tax credit to micro businesses on increased compensation for employees or increased investment in targeted communities. Applicants may qualify for a maximum of \$10,000 for the life of the program. The credit is limited to companies with five or fewer employees at the time the application. Credits are approved on a first in - first out basis with an application process through the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

**Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program-** <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/start-your-business/resources/>

Grants are available for qualified businesses that want to: create a prototype, do research and development, commercialize a product, apply for SBIR and Economic Gardening.

**Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**

CDBG/ED is a grant to a city, village, or county that re-loans the money to a local qualifying business for gap financing. These funds have to create jobs that benefit low to moderate individuals. Usually run through an NDO when paid back.