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## **I WANT TO START A BUSINESS IN RHODE ISLAND. Where do I go? Who do I talk to? Where do I Start?...**

*There are numerous resources available for people interested in starting a business. Some would agree that there are TOO many! We've taken a few sources that offer easy-to-follow instructions and noted them below. By following these links, you can get from thinking about having your own business to actually doing it, or perhaps deciding that you are not prepared or interested in doing it after all.*

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**Before you go any further, please consider taking the Right Trac Assessment.**

### **Rhode Island Small Business Development Centers:**

**Right Trac Assessment** - There are numerous steps you must take before starting your business to reach success. Taking this assessment will help identify your strengths and weaknesses, enabling us to give you detailed suggestions, coaching, and resources that are relevant specifically to you.

To get started, take our straightforward online assessment which will keep you on the right track. Answer a few questions and receive a tailored action plan to begin structuring your business immediately!

Based on the immediate score you receive in Step 3 of the assessment, you will also receive recommended next steps and appropriate resources to improve your business preparedness. You can expect SBDC follow-up via email and/or telephone to help you implement your next steps. **There's no cost to you**, so don't delay. Get started today! Take the Right Trac Assessment on this Web page  
<https://www.risbdc.org/survey.aspx?srvnum=26&issnum=30&public=1>

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### **First Stop Business Information Center** - from the Office of Rhode Island Secretary of State

*We make it easier for you to start or grow a business in Rhode Island. First Stop provides full-service support by creating free, customized packages that make it easier to apply for financing, obtain permits, make contacts and get answers from government **at every level.***

<http://sos.ri.gov/business/businessinfo/>

### **Here are just a few helpful links from the First Stop Business Information Center:**

#### **What Steps are Required to Starting a Business in Rhode Island?**

Click this link for the Step Chart: [http://sos.ri.gov/documents/business/firststop/Step\\_chart\\_english.pdf](http://sos.ri.gov/documents/business/firststop/Step_chart_english.pdf)

**(continued)**

**I WANT TO START A BUSINESS IN RHODE ISLAND**

Where do I go? Who do I talk to? Where do I Start?...

**What Kind of Business Structure Should I Set-up: Corporation, LLC, Partnership, Sole Proprietor**

A list explaining what each one means can be found here:

<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/business/firststop/Business%20Structures.pdf>

**Frequently Asked Questions about Starting a Business in Rhode Island**

<http://sos.ri.gov/business/businessinfo/faq/>

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**Additional Sources for Starting a Business in Rhode Island:**

**Every Company Counts** - an initiative of the RI Economic Development Corporation

[www.everycompanycounts.com](http://www.everycompanycounts.com)

- This Web site offers information and resources for new and existing businesses.
- The Calendar of Events features seminars and workshops of interest to businesspeople (many of them are free.)
- Articles and Publications

**Rhode Island Small Business Development Centers**

The Rhode Island Small Business Development Centers ([www.risbdc.org](http://www.risbdc.org)) is administered by Johnson & Wales University in a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the R.I. Economic Development Corporation and the private sector. RISBDC's mission is to provide entrepreneurs with best-fit resources to create and transform their businesses. RISBDC serves as a focal point for the coordination of

- federal
- state
- municipal
- academic
- banking
- and other resources to aid small businesses.

RISBDC promotes economic development and provides broad-based and high-quality, "No Cost" one-on-one counseling and low-cost group educational services.

**United States Small Business Administration:**

The United States Small Business Administration Small Business Administration ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.