10 Resources ALL Small Business Owners Should Be Aware Of

**The Bank**

Though not all banks provide small business lending or resources, they are a utilization of every small business owner in some way, shape, or form. A good relationship with your preferred bank can go a long way in establishing good finance practices, credit, and referrals to other financial resources.

**Community Lenders**

Community lenders bridge the gap between traditional and predatory lending. Traditional lending is encouraged if individuals are eligible, however, people often find that becoming bankable may be harder than it seems. Community lending provides individuals with opportunity by providing access to capital, allowing them to improve credit and become bankable.

**Co-working Spaces**

Small business owners are often strapped for resources. Co-working spaces replace the traditional office setting providing a more affordable shared space. Often, co-working spaces also provide resources such as printing, food and beverage, computer and internet access, and more. A hidden perk is the networking benefit entrepreneurs get by sharing a space with other business owners.

**Business Professional or Networking Organizations**

For entrepreneurs, networking is key. There are industry-specific or entrepreneur-oriented business professional or networking groups that you as a business owner may join (cost may be associated). These groups not only allow you to access the network of entrepreneurs that they have available, but often hold events and workshops that may help you professionally grow.

**Chambers of Commerce**

A chamber of commerce (or board of trade) is an organization of businesses whose goal is to further the interests of businesses they serve. Business owners locally, regionally, and nationally form these networks to advocate on behalf of their business community. There are often multiple in a city or state divided by region and demographics.

**The Government**

Though handled differently place to place, local, state, and federal governments have a shared interest in economic development concerning small business. As a small business owner, you should be aware of the resources the government, at all levels, can offer you. This includes doing business with the government, certification and licensing, funding, compliance, and assistance.

**Assistance Services**

There is a multiplicity of resources committed to small business success. Most are little or no cost to access and provide valuable counseling services. Common assistance services include Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, economic development centers, entrepreneur centers, and growth incubators. There are also assistance services specific to a demographic or geographical region.

**Demographic Specific Entities**

Individuals often find comfort in being part of an organization or entity they specifically identify with. There are demographic specific business organizations divided by race and ethnicity, geographical region, sexual orientation, career, education, and age.

**Continuing Education Opportunities**

Business practices in context with the world around us change all the time. It is to a business owner’s benefit to continue their education diversely and often. Education is not simply limited to the classroom anymore either. There are conferences, workshops, or events you can attend, online learning tools and portals, counseling and mentoring services, and organizations that are committed to helping.

**YOU**

You can be your own advocate or stand in the way of your own success. Taking time to invest in yourself will make all the difference. As a business owner, this comes in the form of fostering good relationships, building your brand, keeping good credit, continued education, and a healthy combination of work and relaxation. Remember, your business will not succeed without you.