

Louisiana Expands Business Resource Portal

By Louisiana Economic Development

BATON ROUGE—Louisiana Economic Development has announced the expansion of its digital platform to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners in Southeast Louisiana with local resources to help them start and grow their businesses. Small Biz NOLA brings order to the often chaotic search for information, networking, and resources that are the lifeblood of every small business. <https://louisianabizhub.com/smallbiznola/> Visitors gain access to a searchable database of resource providers around the state offering a wide range of services from business planning, entrepreneurial training, and business counseling, to sales and marketing, human resources, and more. “Helping small business owners connect with the right resource at the right time is key to ensuring that they are truly supported,” LED Small Business Services Director Stephanie Hartman said. “This effort brings together partnerships from across the entire region to do just that, making it all the more powerful.”

Launched through a partnership between LED and Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO), the platform features an events calendar containing information about trainings, webinars, and other events of interest to entrepreneurs at every stage of small business ownership. LED will manage the page, which is an offshoot of the statewide resource portal, Louisiana Business Hub. GNO is the regional economic development organization for the ten-parish region that includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Charles, Saint James, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes, and will drive efforts to populate resources for businesses across southeast Louisiana. “Small businesses are the backbone of our region’s economy, and are in need of streamlined access to essential resources that fuel their growth and success,” CEO of GNO Michael Hecht said. “The creation of Small Biz NOLA, as part of the Louisiana Business Hub, is a testament to the state’s commitment to fostering a robust business climate. By bringing this platform to life with partners from around the region, we are empowering



local business owners to thrive and contribute to the community’s economic vitality.” Small business resources in the Southeast Region are continuously added to the Louisiana Business Hub database. Organizations can submit

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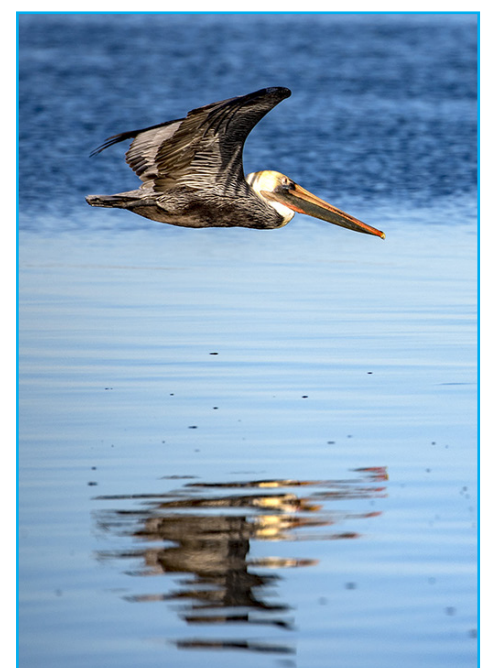
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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2024

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, July 18, 2024, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>
Fee: Free; registration required
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government’s goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA’s Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, July 25, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc. is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

