

May 2025 National Small Business Month

By SCORE

WASHINGTON—Small businesses employ nearly half (45.9%) of the American workforce, help fuel the national economy, and add to the rich fabric of communities nationwide. This National Small Business Month, SCORE—the nation’s largest network of free, expert business mentors—is celebrating America’s entrepreneurs and the more than 17 million businesses SCORE volunteers have helped to start and grow since 1964.

“From rural farms to tech startups, mom-and-pop Main Street shops to manufacturers crafting made in the USA products—small businesses are both the heart and economic driver of this great country. SCORE salutes them for their innovation, their dedication, and their passion. We are proud to have partnered with these incredible entrepreneurs for 60 years, providing critical guidance and support to help them overcome challenges, find success and achieve the American dream,” said SCORE CEO Bridget Weston.

Small business owners: the heart of America

When Helen Ianniello first became the owner of Stockmen’s Drug, a pharmacy in Nebraska that provides health care access to over 200 miles of rural communities, she had no background in business. Working with a SCORE mentor, multifaceted business, and gained the knowledge and confidence she needed to succeed. “Without SCORE’s assistance, I believe that I would still be struggling with a lot of the basics,” said Helen.

After a devastating injury, SCORE client Donna Lee was inspired to launch her Massachusetts company R-YOLO, offering machine washable, hypoallergenic yoga mats that are made in the USA from eco-friendly materials. Donna entered SCORE’s 60th anniversary pitch competition, where she was paired with a mentor who helped her perfect her pitch and her business plan. Ultimately, she finished as a finalist out of more than 2,200 competitors, and found SCORE’s free resources to be critical to her small business journey. “My SCORE mentor helped with financial projections and provided me with valuable

connections to help secure necessary funding for my business,” explained Donna.

Many entrepreneurs view business ownership as a way to pursue their passion. Lisa Basini launched The Baking Coach in Bellport, New York,

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984

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

SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2025

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! 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 include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1117070520999>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 9:30 am–11:00 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. For this and other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.sba.gov/event/65219>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, May 22, 2025, 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 online 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.

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MAYOR MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU - CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
June 15, 2010

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