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[Help us celebrate 40 years!](#) \* [March 22nd is SBDC day](#) \* [New guide to starting a business released](#) \* [Upcoming Events](#)

### **Maine SBDC Celebrates 40 Years of Service to Maine** *Helping small businesses succeed for four decades!*

We are excited to announce that we are celebrating 40 years of helping build and strengthen Maine's small businesses through no-cost business advising and training.

In 1977, the University of Southern Maine (USM) was among eight pilot sites funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to test the concept of leveraging federal, state and higher education resources to assist entrepreneurs and spur economic growth. The program proved successful. Beginning in 1980, small businesses nationwide could access the services provided by the SBA's Small Business Development Centers.

Since then, Maine SBDC business advisors have helped tens of thousands of entrepreneurs to **start over 2,000 new businesses, create and save over 13,400 jobs** and **obtain over \$563 million in capital** to start and grow their businesses.



**To our clients, stakeholders, partners, advisors and staff:**

# THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of our program! We look forward to many more years of providing no-cost, professional business advising to entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout Maine.

## Want to help us celebrate? Help spread the word about our program! Here's a few suggestions:

1. [Share your story with us here](#). We are want to highlight your business as a thank you for your support of our program!
2. Review and share your experience with us on [Facebook](#)!
3. Tell a friend about our services or [share our website](#).
4. Help us celebrate the first annual [#SBDCday](#)! Details below!

### **SAVE THE DATE: March 22nd is the first ever #SBDCday** *A celebration of a nationwide network of SBDCS!*

Did you know that the Maine SBDC is part of a nationwide network of nearly 1,000 Small Business Development Centers?

For the first time ever, we are all teaming up to celebrate **#SBDCday on March 22, 2017**. SBDC day is a national, collective proclamation of the success and impact our program has across the nation in the economic development and small business communities! #SBDCday will celebrate the hundreds of thousands of clients we serve by sharing, in real time, the success stories and notable impacts.

Help us showcase the small business community in Maine! We want the



**March 22, 2017**  
[americasbdc.org/SBDCDay](http://americasbdc.org/SBDCDay)

Follow #SBDCDay on social media to join the conversation!

*SBDC Day will unite the nearly 1,000 SBDC centers across the country and the hundreds of thousands of clients they serve by sharing, in real time, the success stories and notable impacts SBDCs collectively have on the small business community at large.*

highlight the impact of the Maine SBDC. You can help us participate in this inaugural #SBDCDay campaign. [Share your story](#) with us! [Pledge your support on Thunderclap!](#) Like, share and review us on [Facebook!](#) Help us create some buzz and spread the word about the great services that are available to any Mainer who seeks assistance in starting, managing or growing their business! For more information, [click here](#).

## **Starting a Business? We have a guide for that!**

*All the information you need to start your business in one place*

Starting a business is challenging - there are many things to think about, decide upon and do. At the Maine SBDC one of the most frequent requests we get is for assistance with starting a business. Our goal is to make sure you are on the right track with access to helpful information, resources and expert advice.

[\*A Guide to Starting a Business in Maine\*](#) will help you with your

questions, planning, research and preparation to launch a business.

The Guide will answer your

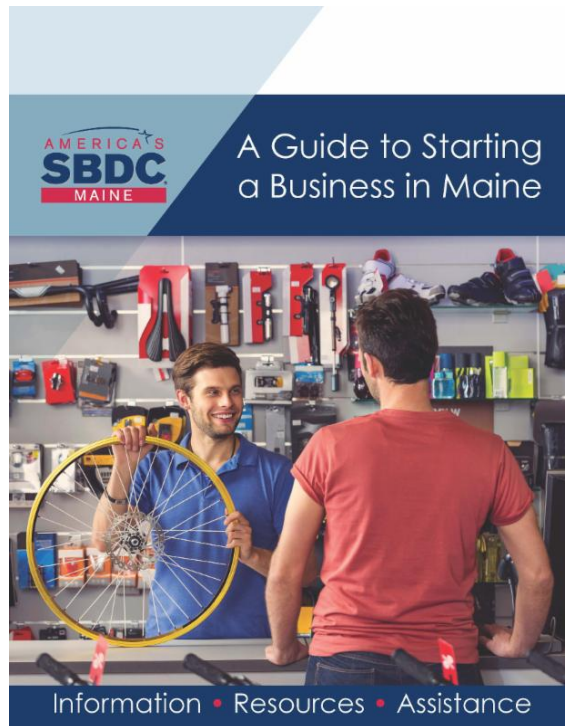
questions about determining the

probable success of your business, selecting a business entity, finding

financing, writing a business plan, registering your business, getting

insurance, selecting a name, reporting taxes and much more.

[\*View the guide now!\*](#)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*March 9 - Wiscasset - Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission*  
**Social Media and Branding for Small Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 9 - Online - Small Business Administration*  
**SBA Programs & Services \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 9 - Bangor - Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce*

**Proven Strategies for Avoiding Discrimination Claims \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 9 - Bangor - Eastern Maine Development Corporation*  
**Basics of Buying & Selling a Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 9 - Augusta - Cynergy*  
**Entrepreneurial Panel \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 14 - Brunswick - Coastal Enterprises, Inc.*  
**39th Annual Meeting \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 14 - Auburn - Maine International Trade Center*  
**Quebec-Maine Business Forum \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 14-15 - Augusta - Maine Office of Tourism*  
**2017 Governor's Conference on Tourism \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 15 - Presque Isle - Maine SBDC*  
**How to Start a Business in Maine \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 15 - South Portland - New Ventures Maine*  
**Work for yourself @ 50+ \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 16 - Brunswick - CareerCenter / Maine SBDC*  
**Starting a Small Business in Maine \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 16 - Lewiston - Career Center / US SBA / Maine SBDC*  
**Small Business Startup \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 16 - Portland - E2Tech*  
**Cleantech Open and Networking \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 16 - Norway - Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce*  
**90 Days to Jumpstart your Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 16 - Falmouth - Institute for Family-Owned Business*  
**Behavioral Finance \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 20 - Bucksport - Maine SBDC*  
**Sales & Customer Service \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 21 - Rockland - CareerCenter / Maine SBDC*  
**Starting a Small Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 21 - Mexico - New Ventures Maine*

**Clean up your Credit \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 21 - Bangor - Eastern Maine Development Corporation*

**Hire, Train and Retain \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 22 - Brunswick - Women's Business Center / Maine SBDC*

**Managing the Impact of the Minimum Wage Law on the Increase Cost of Labor \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 22 - Brunswick - New Ventures Maine*

**Tax Prep for the Self-Employed \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 22 - Portland - LIFT360*

**Portland Unwrapped \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 22 - Westbrook - Institute for Family-Owned Business*

**HR for Family Business: Part 1 of 3 \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 23 - Portland - Women's Business Center*

**Better Records, Better Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 23 - Waterville - Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce*

**Business-to-Business Showcase \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 23 - Camden - New Ventures Maine*

**Tax Prep for the Self-Employed \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 27 - Bucksport - Maine SBDC*

**Online Marketing for Small Business \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 28 - Brunswick - Maine Technology Institute*

**National Science Foundation SBIR/STTR \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 29 - Portland - Women's Business Center / Maine SBDC*

**Managing the Impact of the Minimum Wage Law on the Increase Cost of Labor \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 29 - Westbrook - Institute for Family-Owned Business*

**HR for Family Business: Part 2 of 3 \* [Learn More](#)**

*March 31 - Bangor - FUSION: Bangor*

**Magnetize Maine: Generating creative ways to attract and retain more young people in Maine \* [Learn More](#)**

Have Questions? Need assistance? Contact us now:

**mainesbdc@maine.edu \* 207-780-4420 \***  