

# Self-Employment Resources

**Small Business Development Center:** Offers information and tools online as well as free advice by phone at (800) 940 – 7232 [www.wisconsinsbdc.org](http://www.wisconsinsbdc.org)

**Small Business Administration:** Start-up help, research, business plan help. <http://www.sba.gov/>

**Wisconsin Community Action Programs (WISCAP):** A voluntary association of Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and 3 special purpose agencies that have state-wide anti-poverty missions. WISCAP programs offer microenterprise planning resources. WISCAP programs are located throughout the state. [www.wiscap.org](http://www.wiscap.org)

**Community Action Program (CAP) Services Virtual Business Incubator:** Is an online, interactive business planning service offered by national Community Action Programs. <http://vbi.biz/v2/>

**Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative (WWBIC):** Provides quality business education, technical assistance and access to capital for entrepreneurs <https://wwbic.com/>

**Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE):** Offers business planning tools and templates on their website as well as in-person advice from a mentor. [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

**Wisconsin Entrepreneurs Network Business Assistance Program:** Fill out a quick application to get up to 2 hours of free legal advice for new and emerging businesses. [www.wenportal.org](http://www.wenportal.org)

**NOLO:** free legal and accounting information for businesses <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia>

**Start-Up-USA:** A national training and technical assistance center on self-employment for people with disabilities. This site features FACT sheets, as well as free and low cost webinars on business planning topics and other resources including State VR Policies. [www.start-up-usa.biz](http://www.start-up-usa.biz)

**Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities:** Self Employment – Steps for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors <http://selfemploymenttraining.ruralinstitute.umn.edu/TOC.htm>

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**WI DVR Toolkits on Self-Employment:** Wisconsin DVR provides very detailed instructions and tools for DVR counselors and DVR consumers on different kinds of self-employment development - including small business start up, Customized Self-Employment, and assistance for existing farm businesses:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/toolkits.htm>

**The Internet:** The internet is a great place to do research. Spend time looking at the websites of similar kinds of businesses or read about business issues and trends on websites like these:

[www.Entrepreneur.com](http://www.Entrepreneur.com) [www.Inc.com](http://www.Inc.com) [www.About.com](http://www.About.com) [www.HowStuffWorks.com](http://www.HowStuffWorks.com)  
[www.BizStats.com](http://www.BizStats.com)

To find industry and census data to include in the market analysis section of the business plan, visit:

U.S. Economic Census [www.census.gov/econ/census02](http://www.census.gov/econ/census02)

U.S. County Business Patterns <http://censtats.census.gov/cbpnaic/cbpnaic.shtml>

U.S. Census <http://censtats.census.gov/pub/Profiles.shtml>

**Print Publications:** Visit your local library, bookstore, or search Amazon.com for books on starting a business or writing a business plan. There are also industry specific guides such as "Hand Made for a Profit" by Barbara Brabec, "How to Start a Home-Based Gift Basket Business" by Shirley George Fraizer, "How to start a Home-Based Landscaping Business" by Owen E. Dell.

**Example Plans and Articles:** Sample business plans. <http://www.bplans.com/> Some sample plans to review for free \* Will try to sell software package (\$100-300). Business Owner's Toolkit:

<http://www.toolkit.com/>