

RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Funding:

- Local Incentives:
 - LB-840 loan/grant - Apply with Chappell Community Development
 - Facade Grant for signage, awnings, doors and windows - apply through the City of Chappell
 - Industrial Loan Fund must be a current Chamber member - apply through the Chamber Office
 - Community for Kids - Coming in Aug
- USDA has a variety of programs available, for businesses, communities, ag-related and housing. Marla can help you determine eligibility for your specific situation! [Business Programs | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)
 - **REAP** Marla Marx: 308-631-3111, Email: marla.marx@usda.gov
- **GRANT OPP:** GROW Nebraska has the grant for businesses 5 years or newer, aimed towards low-moderate income individuals. Business plan required. Based on the individual applicant.
 - Check out details, eligibility guidelines and application here: [Nebraska Small Business Assistance Act - GROW Nebraska](#).
 - Local representative, Starr Lehl: 308-641-3724, Email: starr@grownebraska.org
 - Learn more about [GROW Nebraska](#) and their Women's Business Center: <https://gnwbc.org/>. If you become a member of GROW Nebraska you can sell products through their website and at their store in Kearney!
- **GRANT OPP:** [Backing Small Businesses presented by American Express | Main Street America](#) – Applications accepted from March 14, 2024 – April 7, 2024
- Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) supports small business owners, providing direct lending and GAP financing.
 - [Get Started - Nebraska Enterprise Fund \(nebbiz.org\)](#)
- Center for Rural Affairs: All about supporting rural America, provides small loans.
 - [Small Business Loan Products | Center For Rural Affairs - Building a Better Rural Future \(cfra.org\)](#)
- PADD: Panhandle Area Development District – job creation funding, would still have to work this through a bank, but Bryan can run you through full details and eligibility guidelines.
 - [Business Assistance - Panhandle Area Development District \(nepadd.com\)](#)
 - Contact Bryan Venable, Executive Director: 308-633-3741, Email: bryanv@nepadd.com
 - They also assist with grant-writing!

Business Plan Writing Assistance:

Self-guided templates: [Business Plan Template for a Startup Business \(score.org\)](#). Many are available through SBA as well: [Write your business plan | U.S. Small Business Administration \(sba.gov\)](#)

NBDC Contact: [Alexander Coon | Nebraska Business Development Center | University of Nebraska Omaha \(unomaha.edu\)](#). Email: alexandercoon@unomaha.edu

- NBDC doesn't write the plan for you, but guides you through the process with a program, breaking it down one section at a time and helping identify edits. They use LivePlan, an online platform, FREE when you register through Alex. Check out the video at the top of the page [Online Business Plan Software | LivePlan](#) and the tour of the site: [How It Works - | LivePlan Tour](#) which breaks down each step and what the screens look like. The platform uses AI to help structure sections. Once you have a login from NBDC, there isn't a deadline, you go at your own pace and your account will stay active as long as you are actively working on it. Once you are done with all the sections, NBDC puts it into a printable file format for you. (I am happy to review your business plan as well.)
 - They do not micromanage you, they are there to assist when you have questions and can offer suggestions. The advantage of going through NBDC is that they can do the marketing research and financial planning with/for you.

SourceLink Nebraska, based in Omaha but serving all of Nebraska's entrepreneurs, existing businesses, and resource partners. Their website is full of information - more resource partners, business guides, and training opportunities. By completing a 30 question Personal Action Plan, for FREE, they will create a personalized document for you with referrals to programs and resources. However, you can also access those same resources through a search function on the site! It's just that the action plan saves you time by having a team of two narrow down your resources. They have a great understanding of state programs. [SourceLink Nebraska](#)

Training Opportunities (many are free and have virtual options):

- SourceLink Nebraska has a wealth of information, one being training events. They do what I do, but on a state-wide level. Here is a link to their Training: [Events - SourceLink Nebraska](#)
- Also recommend checking out [Podcasts & Webinars - SourceLink Nebraska](#). Spotify has some great ones too!
- [Home - GROW Nebraska](#) - check out the upcoming events but also take time to look through the "On-Demand Trainings."
- [Business Education Events and Webinars | SCORE](#) – many free virtual opportunities as well. Shows upcoming events as well as previous "on-demand" recordings.
- Follow us and the Chamber on Facebook! We'll share different programs and trainings as we learn about them. [Sidney & Cheyenne County e3 | Sidney NE | Facebook](#)

Mentor/Business Coach: FREE!!

- SCORE: National platform aimed towards assisting small businesses in all aspects. Your request for a mentor would be sent to the Nebraska office in Greater Omaha, but they match entrepreneurs with mentors all over Nebraska.
 - Main site: <https://www.score.org/> (this will also be listed under training resources)
 - The link to requesting a mentor is: <https://www.score.org/find-mentor>.

NavigatorE3

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