

Start-Up & Side Hustle Entrepreneur Guide

*For Texas Entrepreneurs in the Coastal Bend Region *



Laying the Foundation for Your Business

Starting a business or side hustle is an exciting journey, but having a clear roadmap makes all the difference. This guide will walk you through the essential steps, helping you turn your idea into a successful venture in Texas and Aransas Pass.

Step 1: Develop Your Business Idea

- Identify a product or service that solves a problem or meets a need.
- Research the market demand, target audience, and competition.
- Define your unique selling proposition (USP) – what makes you stand out?
- Select a name for your business.

Step 2: Choose a Business Structure

- **Sole Proprietorship** – Simple structure, easy to start.
- **LLC (Limited Liability Company)** – Protects personal assets, good for small businesses.
- **Partnership** – Shared responsibilities and profits.
- **Corporation** – Ideal for larger businesses with investors.
 - It is advisable to consult with a local CPA to understand the tax implications and benefits specific to your chosen business structure.

Step 3: Register Your Business & Get Permits

- Apply for an **EIN (Employer Identification Number)** through the IRS (irs.gov).
- Obtain required state and local business licenses.
- Check with the **your local city for zoning regulations and permits**.
- If you plan to sell goods, apply for a **Texas Sales Tax Permit** (comptroller.texas.gov).

Step 4: Secure Financing & Funding Options

- **Bootstrapping** – Self-fund with personal savings.
- **Small Business Loans** – Available through banks and credit unions.
- **Grants & Incentives** – Check programs from the **Texas Economic Development** office or the **Small Business Administration** (sba.gov).

Step 5: Set Up Business Operations

- Open a **business bank account** to separate finances.
- Get business insurance to protect assets.
- Set up a simple **accounting system** (QuickBooks, FreshBooks, or connect with a local CPA).
- Consider leasing office or retail space (check Aransas Pass zoning rules).

Step 6: Branding & Marketing

- Create a business logo.
- Build an online presence – **website & social media** (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn).
- Register on **Google My Business** for local searches.

Step 7: Compliance & Taxes

- Keep track of expenses and revenues for tax purposes.
- Understand Texas **state business taxes** and **federal tax obligations**.
- If hiring employees, comply with state and federal labor laws.

Local Resources & Support in Aransas Pass

- **Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)** – Free business consulting & training. [Visit SBDC](#)
- **SCORE Mentorship Program** – Connect with experienced business mentors. [Find a Mentor](#)
- **Coastal Bend Workforce Solutions** – A valuable resource for workforce training, job placement assistance, and career development services. Visit coastalbendworkforcesolutions.com for more information.

Final Tips for Success

- Stay adaptable and be open to learning.
- Build a strong network of fellow entrepreneurs. Become a member of the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce at (361) 758-2750 or visit www.aransaspass.org.
- Take advantage of local and state business resources. **Del Mar College** offers a wealth of resources – check out their trainings and classes for business owners at www.seminarscc.com.

Ready to Get Started? Visit [Texas Economic Development](#) for more business resources.

This guide is for informational purposes only. Always consult with legal and financial professionals before starting your business.