

Thank you for doing business in the City of New Orleans. New businesses and business expansions mean new jobs and greater opportunities to generate wealth for the citizens of New Orleans. We value your investment in this great City and are available to assist you in meeting your goal of starting and growing your business.

The City of New Orleans is committed to enriching the business climate by making it efficient to open and operate a business in the City. We work with businesses to resolve issues and concerns that involve City government processes and we serve as an information resource center for businesses that may qualify for tax and other financial incentives.

We are here to help you navigate through the process. Simply put, our goal is to simplify the process of obtaining all licensing needed to allow you to open your doors for business, including –

- A Full Range of Business Information
- Occupational Licenses
- Location and Zoning
- Building Construction or Alteration
- Home-Base Business
- Purchase of an Existing Business
- Special Events and Itinerant Vendors
- Special Licenses & Permits
- Louisiana Requirements for New Businesses
- Financing Assistance
- Incentives

A FULL RANGE OF BUSINESS INFORMATION

We are here to assist you in opening a new business or expanding an existing business in New Orleans. Below are some of the areas in which we can help.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

Every business operating in the City of New Orleans (Orleans Parish) is required to have a current Occupational License. When you register for your Occupational License, you automatically register for applicable sales and use tax collection. You may apply for an occupational with the One Stop Shop at 1300 Perdido Street 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, call (504) 658-7100, or visit www.nola.gov/onestop/ for more information.

LOCATION AND ZONING

Prior to purchasing a building or signing a lease, you should be certain your intended new space is zoned correctly for your particular business. Please do not assume prior use automatically continues with a change of ownership or tenants. To check the zoning of a location you may visit the One Stop Shop Property Viewer (www.nola.gov/onestop/property-viewer/), in person at 1300 Perdido Street 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, call (504) 658-7100.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION

Before you begin to construct your new building or alter an existing building, you must obtain a building permit. To apply visit www.nola.gov/onestop/building/, in person at the One Stop Shop, 1300 Perdido Street Room 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 or call (504) 658-7100.

HOME-BASED BUSINESS

To operate a business from your home, your business must comply with City ordinances and restrictions. In addition, you are required to have a “use and occupancy” certificate. You may apply for a Home-Based Business online (www.nola.gov/onestop/business/), in person at the One Stop Shop, 1300 Perdido Street 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 or call (504) 658-7100 for more information.

PURCHASE OF AN EXISTING BUSINESS

Before you finalize the purchase of an existing business or its assets, check with the Bureau of Revenue, (504) 658-1637. This important call can save you from the liability of unpaid sales or property taxes.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ITINERANT VENDORS

To obtain information regarding the exchange of goods or services for a fee during one of the city’s special events (Mardi Gras, The Jazz & Heritage Festival, etc.), visit www.nola.gov/onestop/building/, in person at the One Stop Shop, 1300 Perdido Street Room 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 or call (504) 658-7100.

SPECIAL LICENSES & PERMITS

We can help you determine whether your business venture requires special permits. For example, any business involved in the sale of alcohol, tobacco or entertainment is required to obtain a special permit. It is always important to determine if business may be subject to any additional approvals.

LOUISIANA REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW BUSINESSES

The State of Louisiana has a set of rules and regulations that govern businesses operating within its borders. To receive more information regarding these rules and regulations, please contact the Louisiana Secretary of State Geaux Biz at <https://geauxbiz.sos.la.gov/> or (225) 925-4704.

FINANCING ASSISTANCE

If you are seeking financing for a business start-up or an expansion, information on Small Business Administration Loan programs and other financing assistance is available by contacting the Regional Loan Corporation.

INCENTIVES

There is a range of federal, state and local incentives available to businesses in the City of New Orleans. To find out more information regarding available incentives, please visit www.nola.gov/economic-development/business-services/tax-incentive-programs or call (504) 658-4200.

For additional information, please contact Margrett Magee at momagee@nola.gov / to request the "Guide to Doing Business in New Orleans."

NOLA 311

NOLA 311 provides a prompt, courteous, and professional customer service experience to New Orleans residents, visitors, and businesses seeking general information and services. (504) 311 / (504) 658-2299 / (877) 286-6431

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Better Business Bureau	(504) 581-6222
Bureau of Revenue	(504) 658-1666
Revenue (ABO)	(504) 658-1674
Chamber of Commerce	(504) 522-7226
City Planning	(504) 658-7000
Councilmember At Large	(504) 658-1060
Councilmember At Large	(504) 658-1070
Council District "A"	(504) 658-1010
Council District "B"	(504) 658-1020
Council District "C"	(504) 658-1030
Council District "D"	(504) 658-1040
Council District "E"	(504) 658-1050
Social Services	(888) 524-3578
French Market Corp.	(504) 522-2621
Flea Market	(504) 596-3420
GNO, Inc.	(504) 527-6900
Good Work Network	(504) 309-2073
Historic District	(504) 658-7040
Idea Village	(504) 304-3284
IRS	(800) 829-4933
LA Geaux Biz	(225) 925-4704
LA Sec. of State	(225) 925-4704
LA Small Bus. Dev. Ctr.	(504) 831-3730
Mayor's Office	(504) 658-4900
NewCorp	(504) 208-1700
NOLA 311	(504) 658-2299
N.O. Regional Bus. Park	(504) 254-4603
One Stop Shop	(504) 658-7100
Orleans Civil Dis. Court	(504) 407-0000
Orleans Land Records	(504) 407-0005
Regional Loan Corp.	(504) 524-6172
S&P Zoning	(504) 658-7125
S&P Building	(504) 658-7130
S&P Plan Review	(504) 658-7115
S&P Taxi Cab Bureau	(504) 658-7102
State Health Dept.	(504) 568-7970
State Fire Marshall	(504) 568-8506
State Revenue	(504) 568-5233
Urban League	(504) 620.2332
U.S. Patent	(800) 786-9199
U.S. SBA	(504) 589-6685
Vieux Carre Commission	(504) 658-1420

DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



City of New Orleans
Mayor LaToya Cantrell
Office of Community and Economic
Development

1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1800
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 658-4200 / (504) 658-4238 Fax
www.nola.gov

The Mayor's Office of Economic Development exists to spur the growth of a diverse economy that creates good-paying jobs and provides equal access to economic prosperity. We promote economic growth through several initiatives, development projects and incentive programs.