

Small Business Resources in Bellingham, Whatcom County and Washington State

Are you an entrepreneur? This guide outlines resources in Bellingham and Whatcom County that offer assistance to small business owners, whether you are just getting started or want to improve your existing business. For books on all aspects of small business, check our 'Small Business Books' brochure.

Table of Contents

Basic online business guides from government agencies	2
Toll-free Hotlines.....	2
Local resources in Bellingham	
Center for Economic Vitality.....	3
Washington Small Business Development Center	3
SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business	4
Bellingham Angel Group	4
Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce.....	4
Downtown Bellingham Partnership	5
Northwest Economic Council-Whatcom County	5
Northwest Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.....	5
Old Fairhaven Association	6
Sustainable Connections	6
TAG-Technology Alliance Group.....	6
Whatcom Community College Business Center	7
WorkSource Whatcom	7
Resources in Whatcom County	
Chambers of Commerce	8
City Halls.....	9
Business license and tax resources	
Basic online guides from government agencies	10
State business license and tax resources.....	11
Master Application	11
Dept. of Licensing-Business and Professions Division.....	12
Department of Revenue	12
Trade names.....	13
Trademarks.....	13
City business license and tax resources.....	14
Federal business tax resources.....	15
Other small business resources in Washington	
Doing Business in Washington	16
Small Business Administration, Seattle	16
Office of the Secretary of State	17
Department of Labor and Industries.....	17
Office of the Insurance Commissioner	17
Subject headings to use in the library catalog.....	18
Online databases at libraries	19
Internet sites.....	20
Local statistics available on the Internet.....	22

Basic online guides from government agencies

SBA small business resource guide: everything you need to know to start and grow your business

www.sba.gov/wa/

Produced by the Seattle District Small Business Administration in partnership with SCORE, this guide provides information on: SBA programs and services, business licensing, state and local government regulations, steps in preparing a business plan and selecting a legal structure for your business. In addition, there is a listing of small business resources located in Washington State that offer technical assistance and loan options.

Resources available to small businesses search

The State Department of Commerce provides a useful gateway tool for online small business resources. This site allows you to search for training, technical assistance and other services for small businesses within the state of Washington. You can limit your search to resources in Whatcom County or include whole state.

Business Tax Guide

<http://dor.wa.gov/content/getaformorpublication>

Produced by the Department of Revenue, this guide covers tax basics for businesses, ways to file your tax return, recordkeeping requirements, audit information and a directory of services offered by the Department of Revenue.

Toll-free hotlines

1-800-237-1233 Washington State Business Assistance Hotline

Statewide information service providing information and referrals for anyone who has questions about starting or operating a business in the state of Washington.

1-800-827-5722 Small Business Administration Answer Desk

National toll-free telephone service providing information to the public on small business problems and concerns as well as information about SBA programs.

Local resources in Bellingham

Center for Economic Vitality

Western Washington University, College of Business and Economics
 Tom Dorr, Director
 Bellingham Towers
 119 N Commercial Street, Suite 175
 Bellingham, WA 98225-4455
 360-733-4014 fax 360-733-5092

www.cevforbusiness.com email **info@cevforbusiness.com**

The Center provides three services to the community. First: *Counseling/ Technical Services*. The Center's business strategists provide in-depth, confidential business advice to small and medium size businesses, free-of-charge in Whatcom County. Call to schedule an appointment. Second: *Research Services/Economic Gardening*. The Center is funded by the Washington State Legislature to provide business intelligence research tools with counseling. Third: *Special Projects*. Fee-for-service assistance is available to local governments and nonprofits. Examples include surveys, feasibility studies, cost/benefit analysis and business plan development. The Center's website provides information on local workshops and training opportunities, and annotated links to many Internet sites of interest to small business owners.

Washington Small Business Development Center

Western Washington University, College of Business and Economics
 Jennifer Shelton, Center Director
 115 Unity Street #101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 360-778-1762 fax 360-647-9413

www.wsfdc.org email **Jennifer.shelton@wwu.edu**

The SBDC is a cooperative effort of Washington State University, Western Washington University and the US Small Business Administration. Connecting with your local Certified Business Adviser (CBA) is the first step in beginning the process of obtaining our in-depth, confidential, and no-cost management advice. The initial meeting will involve an assessment of the background, current situation and vision for your business. During subsequent meetings you will obtain knowledge and tools to help you develop processes for making well informed business decisions. The SBDC offers periodic small business resource sessions. The website has a wide variety of resources for beginning entrepreneurs and existing businesses, including videos, podcasts and links to other resources.

SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business

Dan Robbins, Chairperson

SCORE Chapter 591

Counseling address: Chase Bank, 1336 Cornwall Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Bellingham

mail: 1313 E. Maple #591, Bellingham, WA 98225

For appointments: 360-685-4259

www.scorechapter591.org

SCORE is sponsored by the Small Business Administration and offers free business counseling and publications. Counseling covers initial capital requirements, operating capital, business plans, marketing plans, pricing products and services, advertising your small business, cash flow and profit loss planning, and all other basic business fundamentals. Call to schedule an appointment. SCORE also presents low cost business workshops through Whatcom Community College. SCORE's website has a calendar of workshops and links to resources helpful to a small business, including business plan and financial plan templates and a variety of online tutorials.

Bellingham Angel Group

www.bellinghamangels.com

The Bellingham Angels are a group of accredited investors dedicated to providing equity capital to early and mid-stage entrepreneurial companies. Their primary focus is on companies based in the Pacific Northwest, with emphasis on companies located in the Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties of Washington State. Go to the website to apply, and for more information.

Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Ken Oplinger, President/CEO

119 N Commercial Street, Suite 110, Bellingham

mail: P.O. Box 958

Bellingham, WA 98227

360-734-1330 fax 360-734-1332

www.bellingham.com email available on website

The Chamber offers a variety of benefits to its members including: networking breakfasts, access to the Chamber's mailing lists, business related community events and seminars, medical insurance benefits and links from the Chamber website to member's business websites. The Chamber's website also includes detailed information on community resources.

Downtown Bellingham Partnership

1304 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham
mail: P.O. Box 1201
Bellingham, WA 98227
360-527-8710 fax 360-527-8709
www.downtownbellingham.com

The Partnership is a strong voice for Downtown and an effective liaison between downtown stakeholders and local decision makers. They offer cooperative advertising campaigns and networking opportunities for businesses downtown. Programs include a gift certificate program, marketing and beautification of downtown Bellingham.

Northwest Economic Council—Whatcom County

Nancy Jordan, Executive Director
115 Unity Street, Suite 101, Bellingham
mail: P.O. Box 2803
Bellingham, WA 98227
360-676-4255 1-800-810-4255 fax 360-647-9413
www.nwecon.org email **nwecon@nwecon.org**

The NECWC is a nonprofit association organized to provide economic development leadership and programs to sustain and enhance the economic vitality of Whatcom County. The Council encourages existing industrial and commercial businesses to expand and thrive. The Council compiles information on local demographics, labor and utility costs, taxes, prevailing wages, local culture and available financial incentives for businesses. The Council's website includes information on Whatcom County in the section 'Demographics' which includes the Whatcom County Profile, County Datasheets and City Profiles.

Northwest Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

2217 Woburn Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-734-2422 email **info@nwwhcc.com**
www.nwwhcc.com

The NWWHCC is organized for the purpose of advancing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural, agricultural, educational, and civic welfare of the Northwest Washington and surrounding communities. The NWWHCC accomplishes this mission by focusing on work force development through its support of education and training.

Old Fairhaven Association

1106 Harris Avenue #313
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 No phone email ofa@fairhaven.com
www.fairhaven.com

The Association is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to promote Fairhaven as a community while preserving its historical character. Support for businesses located in Fairhaven include mutual exchange of discounts for employees, beautification projects, inclusion in a business directory on their website and opportunities to support fun events. The Association holds monthly merchant meetings.

Sustainable Connections

Creekside Building
 1701 Ellis Street, Suite 221
 360-647-7093 fax 360-594-4373

www.sustainableconnections.org individual email listed on website
 Sustainable Connections is a nonprofit network of local, independently owned Whatcom County businesses, farms, organizations and supporters. Their mission is to be the local forum where businesses come together to transform and model an economy built on sustainable practices. They offer a wide variety of programs including sustainable business development, sustainable connections consulting, and 'think local first', a program that highlights the economic benefits of choosing local independently owned businesses.

Tag—Technology Alliance Group for Northwest Washington

1000 F Street, Suite 150B
 mail: P.O. Box 5374
 Bellingham, WA 98227
 360-318-7710 email aehnmark@tagnw.org
www.tagnw.org

TAG connects technology businesses to resources by offering monthly meetings, education and networking opportunities and other business services to the technology sector and its service providers. Their mission is to promote, educate and advocate for technology businesses in the region. TAG provides technology-based economic development services to local government and the business community.

Whatcom Community College-Business Center

Greg Marshall, Director of Community Education
237 W. Kellogg Road
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-383-3200

www.whatcomcommunityed.com/bizcenter.htm

Email **comed@whatcom.ctc.edu** or **gmarshall@whatcom.ctc.edu**

The Community College Business Center provides education and training for owners and employees of small businesses. Training is offered on the college campus or at a business' workplace. Topics include management, computer, sales, and other soft skills training directly applicable to the workplace.

Worksource Whatcom

Gary Smith, Center Manager
101 Prospect Street, Bellingham
mail: P.O. Box 938
Bellingham, WA 98227
360-676-1521 business services fax 360-676-2090

www.go2worksource.biz or www.worksourcenorthwest.com

The Center offers the following benefits and services to small business owners who hire employees: assistance with workplace and occupational skill standards in the development of job descriptions and employee evaluations; cost effective hiring including professional facilities for recruitment and interviewing; prescreening applicants, including applicant testing for specific skills; financial support through on-the-job training wage reimbursements; Internet access for job posting, talent search or labor market research; current information on training resources and training providers; experience working with local businesses and knowledge of the local labor market; tax credit paperwork assistance, as well as seminars targeted to the interests and issues of small business owners.

Local resources in Whatcom County

Chambers of Commerce in the communities of Whatcom County:

Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
7900 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230
360-371-5004
www.birchbaychamber.com email **info@birchbaychamber.com**

Blaine Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Center
728 Peace Portal Drive, Blaine, WA 98230
360-332-4544 1-800-624-3555
www.blainechamber.com email **vio@cityofblaine.com**

Everson-Nooksack Chamber of Commerce
103 W. Main St., Everson
mail: P.O. Box 234, Everson, WA 98247
360-966-3407
www.eversonnooksackchamber.org email **info@eversonnooksack-chamber.org**

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center
5683 2nd Ave., Ferndale
mail: P.O. Box 1264, Ferndale, WA 98248
360-384-3042 fax 360-384-3009
www.ferndale-chamber.com email **info@ferndale-chamber.com**

Lynden Chamber of Commerce
518 Front Street, P.O. Box 647, Lynden, WA 98264
360-354-5995 fax 360-354-0401
www.lynden.org email **lynden@lynden.org**

Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 866, Maple Falls, WA 98266
360-599-1518
www.mtbakerchamber.org email **info@mtbakerchamber.org**

Sumas Chamber of Commerce
360-988-5711
www.sumaschamber.com

City Halls

The incorporated cities in Whatcom County may have assistance for small businesses. Contacts:

Blaine 344 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230
360-332-8311 fax 360-332-8331
www.cityofblaine.com

Everson 111 W Main Street, Everson, WA 98247
360-966-3411
www.ci.everson.wa.us

Ferndale 2095 Main Street, Ferndale,
mail: P.O. Box 936, Ferndale, WA 98248
360-384-4302 fax 360-384-1163
www.ci.ferndale.wa.us

Lynden 300 Fourth Street, Lynden, WA 98264
360-354-1170
www.lyndenwa.org

Nooksack 103 W Madison Street, Nooksack
mail: P.O. Box 4265, Nooksack, WA 98276
360-966-2531 fax 360-966-2505
www.cityofnooksack.com email is info@cityofnooksack.com

Sumas 433 Cherry Street, Sumas
mail: P.O. Box 9, Sumas, WA 98295
360-988-5711
<http://cityofsumas.homestead.com>

Business license and tax resources

Basic online guides from government agencies

Business Tax Guide

<http://dor.wa.gov/content/getaformorpublication>

Produced by the Department of Revenue, this guide covers tax basics for business, ways to file your tax return, recordkeeping requirements, audit information and a directory of services offered by the Department of Revenue.

Tax Information for Businesses

www.irs.gov/smallbiz

The IRS website has a section just for businesses including information on starting a business, operating a business, closing a business, employment taxes and more.

Toll-free hotline

1-800-647-7706 Telephone Information Center

The Washington State Department of Revenue provides tax information and consultation for prospective and established businesses.

State business license and tax resources

Business owners can fulfill many STATE registration and licensing requirements by completing a Master Business Application form and making a single payment of fees. When you complete your Master Business Application, you will be issued a Unified Business Identifier (UBI). The UBI is a unique nine-digit number that you use when dealing with different state agencies.

Master Business Applications are available at:

Washington State Department of Revenue

1904 Humboldt Street, Suite A
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-594-4840

Department of Labor and Industries

1720 Ellis Street, Suite 200
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-647-7300

Employment Security Department, Tax Department

1904 Humboldt Street, Suite B
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-2070

Online

The Master Business Application is also available in two electronic formats. You may download it to your PC and complete it off line, or you may complete the online master business application and pay with a credit card. To access either version, go to:

www.dol.wa.gov/business/file.html

If your business is a limited partnership, a limited liability partnership, a corporation, or a limited liability company you must first register with the Secretary of State. For more information, consult the Corporations Division: **www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/** or see descriptive listing on page 17.

Department of Licensing-Business and Professions Division

mail: P.O. Box 9034

Olympia, WA 98507-9034

360-664-1400 fax 360-586-1596

www.dol.wa.gov/business?homeboxmore email mls@dol.wa.gov

The Department of Licensing Business and Professions Division offers one-stop service that takes care of your basic registration and licensing requirements and gives you complete information about any additional licensing you may need. The Division is the main processing and distribution point for the Unified Business Identifier (UBI) and Master Application programs. Their website offers business license FAQs, checklists, online registration and renewal, and an interactive Business Licensing Guide which guides you step-by-step to determine which licenses your small business needs. You can also check the status of your or other business licenses using the 'Business and Professional License Search.' The website also includes links to city business license and tax information.

Department of Revenue

mail: P.O. Box 47450

Olympia, WA 98504-7450

1-800-647-7706 Telephone Information Center

dor.wa.gov/content/doingbusiness email access point on the website

When you submit your Master Business Application, you will also be registering for state taxes. The Department of Revenue will send you tax information after your business registration has been completed. The Department provides state tax information and consultation for prospective and established businesses. Assistance is provided in registering your business, completing and filing tax returns, and answering tax questions. The DOR's website allows you to file state taxes electronically through E-file. E-file allows you to customize your return to fit your business, provides the option to upload financial data from compatible accounting software and spreadsheets, and offers four electronic payment options. A feature of the website is 'Taxpedia', an online database of Department of Revenue laws and rulings. Many free tax workshops for the new business owner are offered at locations around the state or virtually through the website, as well as online videos and tutorials on a variety of tax subjects. The DOR website includes the [Business Tax Guide](#).

Trade names

You can register a trade name at any of the offices that supply Master Business Application forms (see page 11). You are required to do so if your business is operating with a business name other than the owner's full legal name. For more information, consult: www.dol.wa.gov/business/faqtradename.html/

To research existing trade names, you can search the Department of Licensing License Query System. Go to www.dol.wa.gov and click on 'Business & Professional' and then on 'Check the status of a business or professional license.'

You can also check the Washington State Department of Revenue's Business Record Database, which includes some trade names. This database provides public information for businesses registered in Washington State. It is a free service provided for informational purposes only. Go to www.dor.wa.gov and click on 'Look up a business'.

You can search names of existing corporations in Washington State at: www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/search.aspx

Trademarks

A trademark is a symbol of your business; it is a right to a name, word, phrase, symbol, logo, color, design or a combination of these elements. Trademarks at the STATE level are registered at:

Office of the Secretary of State
Corporations Division
P.O. Box 40234
Olympia, WA 98504-0234
360-725-0377 email corps@sos.wa.gov

www.sos.wa.gov/corps/registration_forms.aspx click on 'Trademark forms'

Trademarks and trade names at the FEDERAL level can be registered through the U.S. Patent and Trademark office. You can search all state and federal trademark registers to see if a proposed name is already being used. Use the USPTO's online TESS system (Trademark Electronic Search System) at www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm and click on the TESS link for different search options search. For more information consult the 'Trademark Basics' link at this website.

City business license and tax resources

There may be other licensing and tax requirements a small business owner must meet, not covered by the Master Business Application.

For the **City of Bellingham** requirements contact:

Office of Business Relations and Economic Development (BRED)

City Hall, 210 Lottie Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

360-778-8105 email business@cob.org

www.cob.org/services/business/doing-business.aspx

BRED staff are available to assist you with your business related questions. The website outlines the four steps necessary for opening a business in Bellingham. Each step includes links to City, State or local resources.

- For zoning and permits information including obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy, go to Step 3 on this webpage, or go to www.cob.org/documents/planning/applications-forms/permit-center-forms/171-co.pdf
- For Business License and Registration, go to Step 4 on this webpage. All individual and firms doing business in Bellingham, whether located inside or outside the City limits, must be registered with the City's Finance Department. There is a link on this page to a searchable database of registered businesses in Bellingham, or go to www.cob.org/cob/FINBusReg.nsf/Registration!OpenForm
- For information on City Business and Occupation taxes, go to Step 4 on this webpage, or go to www.cob.org/services/business/business-occupation-tax.aspx

For requirements from **incorporated cities in Whatcom County**, contact the City Hall:

Blaine 360-332-8311
 Everson 360-966-3411
 Ferndale 360-384-4302
 Lynden 360-354-4270
 Nooksack 360-966-2531
 Sumas 360-988-5711

Depending on the type of small business and other legal requirements you may need to contact other City or County departments. Contact the Northwest Economic Council—Whatcom County (In Local Resources, page 5) if there are questions.

Federal business tax resources

For **FEDERAL** tax requirements, contact the Internal Revenue Service. All businesses except sole proprietors with no employees are required to have a federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). There is no charge for an EIN. This number is used to identify your business on all tax returns, statements and other documents. You can apply for an EIN when filing a Master Business Application. Go to www.irs.gov/businesses/index/html and click on 'Employer ID numbers'.

Or call:

to request forms 1-800-829-3676

to ask questions 1-800-829-1040 or 1-800-829-4477

teletax 24 hour information 1-800-829-4477

The IRS website has many resources available to help the small business owner including online classes and newsletters and many links to other government agencies. Go to www.irs.gov/smallbiz and click on 'Videos and other educational products'.

You can also order free publications or the DVD Virtual Small Business Workshop (also available through the website in streaming video). Call 1-800-829-3676 or go to www.irs.gov and type in keyword search 'small business products.'

You may also want to consult www.business.gov the 'Official business link to the U.S. government'. This site is designed to provide legal and regulatory information to small businesses from a wide variety of Federal agencies.

Local IRS office

Crown Plaza Building
114 W. Magnolia Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-752-4361

Other small business resources in Washington

Doing business in Washington

<http://access.wa.gov/business>

All Washington State government agencies that deal with small business can be accessed through this gateway website. The site includes interactive step-by-step instructions to guide the small business owner through the government maze of requirements and regulations. Topics covered: starting a new business, necessary licenses, permits and inspections, requirements for hiring employees, state taxes, how to get financing, how to select a legal structure for your business, how to do business with the state, laws and rules, and many other resources.

Small Business Administration

Seattle District Office (serving Western Washington)

2401 Fourth Avenue, Suite 450

Seattle, WA 98121

206-553-7310 general information

fax 206-553-7099 1-800-827-5722 SBA National answer desk

www.sba.gov/wa/seattle email **answerdesk@sba.gov**

The SBA is an independent Federal agency that helps entrepreneurs start, build and grow a business. They provides assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, access to equity investment companies, counseling, marketing research, helping small businesses secure government contracts and acting as a special advocate for small business with other government agencies and the private sector. The Seattle SBA offers a variety of workshops and free one-on-one counseling with SCORE volunteers, CPAs, and tax experts. The website contains downloadable SBA publications, offers dozens of online training sessions, videos, podcasts and subscriptions to a variety of free e-newsletters. There are also links to information on all aspects of small business ownership, space to display your business card and the publication [Washington State Small Business Resource Guide](#).

Office of the Secretary of State

Corporations Division
P.O. Box 40234
Olympia, WA 98504-0234
360-725-0377 fax 360-664-8781

www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/ email **corps@sos.wa.gov**

The Corporations Division registers business-related entities in the State of Washington including domestic and foreign corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, and limited liability companies. The Division also registers state-level trademarks. Their website has a helpful list of frequently asked questions, descriptions of business structures, registration and renewal requirements, fee schedules. You can print registration forms (or apply online) and look up existing corporate registrations.

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

P.O. Box 44000
Olympia, WA 98504-4000
360-902-5800 1-800-547-8367 fax 360-902-5798

www.lni.wa.gov click on 'For Business'

The Department of Labor and Industries provides services and information to small businesses who have one or more employees. If your completed Master Business Application form indicates you have employees, the form is automatically forwarded to L&I. The L&I website provides information on rules and regulations for small business owners who have employees, and for those involved in the construction trades who need to register, become licensed, or certified. Workshops are offered throughout the state for new employers. The web site also has many helpful links to other government agencies.

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

1-800-562-6900 Consumer insurance hotline
www.insurance.wa.gov

The Insurance Commissioner's Office is responsible for regulating insurance business in Washington State. As part of their consumer protection services, they have produced publications and information sheets about small business insurance. Access them at **www.insurance.wa.gov/publications/index.shtml** and scroll down to 'Small business and nonprofit insurance'.

Subject headings to use in the library catalog

The following list is not inclusive, but will give you an idea of the range of subject headings assigned to small business-related topics. You will get the best results if you use the **keyword subject** option.

- Accounting*
- Advertising*
- Blogs*
- Bookkeeping*
- Branding (Marketing)*
- Business law – United States*
- Commercial correspondence*
- Consumer satisfaction*
- Customer relations*
- Customer services*
- Electronic commerce*
- Entrepreneurship*
- Home-based businesses*
- Incorporation – United States*
- Incorporation – Washington (State)*
- Internet advertising*
- Internet marketing*
- Limited partnership*
- Marketing*
- New business enterprises*
 - Finance*
 - Management*
 - Planning*
- Online social networks — Economic aspects*
- Publicity*
- Self-employed*
- Selling*
- Small business*
 - Accounting*
 - Finance*
 - Law and legislation*
 - Management*
 - Planning*
 - Taxation*
- Success in business*
- Trademarks*
- Web sites -- design*

Online databases at Bellingham and Whatcom County public libraries

There are many online databases available on all library catalog stations. With your library card, the databases may also be accessed from your home computer. If you have a Bellingham Public Library card, go to: **www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org** click on the link to the Catalog, then click on 'Research Tools'. Depending on the library budget, some of these databases may not be available.

If you have a Whatcom County Library card, go to: **www.wcls.org** Click on the link to the Catalog, then click on 'Research' and then on 'Alphabetical Databases'.

These databases may be of interest to the small business owner:

Business and Company Resource Center (WCLS only)

Search this database to find detailed company and industry news and information, including industry trends and forecasting.

ProQuest: All magazines and newspapers

Articles from over 9,000 magazines, journals and newspapers are indexed here; many articles are full text. **Proquest: Washington State Newstand** limits your search to full-text articles from Washington's major daily newspapers.

Reference USA: Business and Residential

Directory information for 135 million household listings and 14 million businesses in the United States. Allows you to search by size, location, industry group, and other criteria to produce a printed list of companies. **Reference USA: Canadian Business** contains directory information on 1.5 million Canadian businesses.

There are additional business related databases at Western Washington University, which you can use in their library through the Whatcom Libraries Cooperate One Card agreement.

Edward Lowe Foundation

This site focuses on 'second stage entrepreneurs'; those small businesses who have grown past the startup stage but have not yet grown to maturity. Resources offered include 'Peerspectives Roundtables', and an Entrepreneur's Resource Center with hundreds of articles and briefs on a variety of subjects. **edwardlowe.org**

www.entrepreneur.com

Sponsored by Entrepreneur magazine, this site provide information on all aspects of owning a small business. Features include 'how to' guides, advice from 'Ask an entrepreneur', access to blogs, videos and a variety of small business products.

www.entrepreneurship.org

Produced by the Kauffman Foundation, this site provides original articles, blogs and access to online communities related to starting and running small businesses.

inc.com

Sponsored by Inc. magazine, this site has a variety of resource centers covering specific aspects of small business management, as well as a Technology Resource Center and a variety of blogs.

Nolo

Nolo is a publisher of legal self help books. Click on the link for 'Businesses, LLCs & Corporations' for brief information on all aspects of owning and running a small business. **www.nolo.com**

Small Business Development Center National Information Clearinghouse

Contains many annotated links covering demographics, company information, industry research, taxes and accounting, home based businesses, etc. Blogs, online training, and forums are also available. **<http://sbdcnnet.org>**

[Thomasnet.com](http://www.thomasnet.com)

The Thomas Register of Manufacturers is now free and online. You can search by product or service. E-newsletters and product news alerts are also available. **www.thomasnet.com**

Local statistics available on the Internet

Don't forget previously mentioned websites which have local information and statistics:

www.bweduc.org-Northwest Economic Council, Whatcom County
www.bellingham.com-Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of
 Commerce

Center for Economics and Business Research

Local information and statistics on inflation, employment, retail sales, border crossings, economic sector profiles created by the Center at Western Washington University. **www.cbe.wvu.edu** click on Econ. & Bus. Research

City-Data.com

Incredibly detailed statistical portraits of over 54,000 American cities. Includes Bellingham and other small cities in Whatcom County. Statistical sources not always cited. Created by Advameg.
www.city-data.com

Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington

A gateway site for sources of economic and demographic information compiled by MRSC, local, state and federal sources.
www.mrsc.org then click on 'City profiles' or 'County profiles'.

Washington State Labor Market Information—Whatcom County

Statewide and county statistics on the labor force, fastest growing occupations, wages and other economic indicators. Search capability allows you to access employer lists by industry.
www.workforceexplorer.com look for and click on 'Local Area Profile'.

Washington State Office of Financial Management—Whatcom County

Another gateway site for government produced statistics on Whatcom County including general data, population, housing, economy, finance, criminal justice and human services
www.ofm.wa.gov/localdata/what.asp

Whatcom counts: Whatcom County health indicator report

Excellent resource for a wide variety of statistical indicators for Whatcom County, including the economy, education, health, natural environment, public safety, social environment and transportation.
www.whatcomcounts.org