

City Fact Sheet



City of Vancouver Business Assistance Program An Overview

The City of Vancouver recognizes the value of small businesses to our community and economy. More than 95% of Vancouver businesses are small businesses that provide jobs, services and amenities for the people who live here. Our Business Assistance Program encompasses a variety of programs and services designed to support business startup and growth citywide.

Adaptive Reuse Program

This program provides targeted assistance to property owners of existing buildings that present significant challenges to redevelopment. This includes historic buildings, buildings located on brownfield sites, and long-vacant buildings that are out of compliance with existing code. This program supports businesses in two ways: (1) It helps spur improvement of owner-occupied spaces, where the building owner is also the business owner; (2) It helps spur improvements to existing commercial spaces, creating more ready-to-lease commercial space and decreasing the need for substantial upfront tenant improvements from the business owner.



Destination Downtown

This program offers transportation information, services and incentives to downtown employees to help them walk, bicycle, carpool, and take transit to work more often. By helping employees drive less, Destination Downtown hopes to free up parking for downtown business patrons and cultivate a more vibrant, successful downtown.

<http://www.mydestinationdowntown.com/about.htm>

www.cityofvancouver.us
(360) 487-8600 | WA Relay 711
415 W. 6th St. | PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

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Mobile Food Vending Business Assistance and Pilot Projects

The City of Vancouver recognizes that mobile food vending offers a unique economic opportunity for local entrepreneurs, because it combines lower startup costs with increased flexibility to test a variety of locations and products. We offer a mobile vending-specific version of our pre-lease program for mobile operators, and have developed partnerships with public health and labor & industries to help facilitate information sharing. In addition, we have initiated two pilot projects that allow mobile food vendors to locate in underutilized public spaces in our downtown core.

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/ced/page/mobile-food-vending>

Pre-Lease Program

This program targets business owners who want to buy or lease a commercial space, property owners that want to improve an existing commercial space, and food truck vendors locating in the City of Vancouver. Staff from relevant city departments meet with the customer in the space, conduct a walk through, and provide comments and answer questions. Typically, customers that utilize the pre-lease get information on zoning, use and occupancy classifications, and the permitting process. They also get contact information for City staff that they can contact directly with additional questions. This service is free of charge.

www.cityofvancouver.us/ced/page/pre-lease-program

SDC Assistance Program

The City recognizes that SDCs constitute a substantial upfront cost for new food and beverage businesses. The SDC Assistance Program allows eligible tenants to lease sewer capacity on a monthly basis, rather than purchase it up front. Lease payments are attached to a monthly utility bill and are calculated as a percentage of the total SDC assessment. Food and beverage businesses opening in existing commercial spaces that will incur additional sewer SDCs are eligible to participate.

Small Business Individual Development Accounts

The City of Vancouver supports SHARE's Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, which allow people with modest means to save for a future asset, including starting or expanding a small business. Participants in the program receive a 2:1 match on savings that they can use to start or grow a business, make a down payment on the purchase of a home, or to pursue higher education. More information can be found at <http://sharevancouver.org/share-ida-program/>



To request other formats, please contact:
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Small Business Month

Each May, the City and its partners celebrate small business month with a series of workshops, trainings and social events that support small businesses in our community.



Small Business Technical Assistance

The City of Vancouver funds two non-profit organizations that provide free business technical assistance services to income-qualified customers. The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber provide comprehensive business development and support services to individuals looking to start a new business or grow an existing business.

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

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

Startup In A Day Initiative

Startup in a Day is a City of Vancouver initiative to streamline licensing, permitting and other requirements needed to start a business, with the goal that any entrepreneur can apply for the basic permits to start a business within one day. Startup in A Day was launched by the [United States Small Business Administration](#) in 2014, and cities across the U.S. have joined, pledging to make the startup process easier. Vancouver was the first city in the region to join the Startup in a Day Initiative.



Vancouver Business Resource

An online clearinghouse for business resources, including: technical, financial and export assistance; information on business development, applicable regulations, market analysis and workforce training; available local, state and federal incentives; and opportunities to connect via events, networking, and co-working space.

www.vancouverbusinessresource.com



Vancouver's Downtown Association

The City of Vancouver partners with Vancouver's Downtown Association (VDA) to make off-street parking more affordable for hourly wage employees working in downtown. This pilot program provides qualified employees with a monthly parking permit in the Vancouver Center Garage at a reduced cost of \$30 per month. Contact the VDA at (360)258-1129 to apply.



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Vancouver Farmers Market

The Vancouver Farmers Market has been a vital and vibrant part of downtown Vancouver for more than 25 years, through its weekly market and the support it provides to local farmers and food entrepreneurs. The City has and continues to invest in the market by providing infrastructure required for market operations, entering into long-term agreements for right-of-way use, and assigning a staff liaison to work with market leadership.

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

For more information or with questions, contact Rebecca Kennedy at (360) 487-7896,
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