



How Do I Start a Business in Oklahoma?

Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions and completing a series of legal activities. These 10 easy steps can help you plan, prepare and manage your business.

1) Determine the Name of Your Business

Make sure you are not using someone else's name.

- Federal Trademark Search- <http://www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm> or call Trademark Depository Library (405) 744-7086.
- State Trademark search- Oklahoma Secretary of State (405) 521-3912 or <https://www.sos.ok.gov/trademarks/default.aspx>

Make sure your business' name readily describes to potential customers what you do.

2) Determine the Legal Structure

The legal structure of your business can dictate the business' liability and taxation.

- Sole Proprietorship
- Regular "C" Corporations
- Subchapter S Corporations
- Limited Liability Corporation

3) Establish the Name and Legal Structure of Your Business

The Oklahoma Secretary of State's Office is where you file for your legal structure.

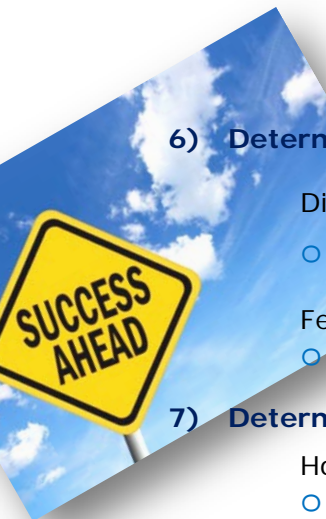
- Oklahoma Secretary of State
<https://www.sos.ok.gov/business/forms.aspx>
State Capitol Building
2300 Lincoln Blvd., Room 101
Oklahoma City OK 73105
405-521-3911
- Filing a Trade Name Report- <https://www.sos.ok.gov/corp/tradeName.aspx> .

4) Obtain Federal Employer Identification number

- File for FEIN <https://sa1.www4.irs.gov/modiein/individual/index.jsp> or 800-829-4933

5) Register Your Business

- Register with Oklahoma Tax Commission <http://www.oktax.state.ok.us/bustax.html> or call 800-522-8165 X1-3279, Oklahoma City Metro (405) 521-3160.
- If the conditions of your business require a resale permit or sales tax permit, you may register at Oklahoma Tax Commission.



6) Determine if the Business Needs Additional Licenses, Permits and Insurance

Different license, permits, and insurance are assigned for specific businesses.

- Visit http://www.ok.gov/redirect.php?link_id=432 1-800-TRY-OKLA to help you get the proper forms.

Federal permits may be necessary for some businesses.

- Visit <http://www.sba.gov/content/business-licenses-and-permits>

7) Determine Financing for Business

How much Start-up Fund is needed? Does the Business need to apply for a loan?

- <http://www.sba.gov/content/search-business-loans-grants-and-financing>

8) Create Business Plan

A Business Plan is required for internal and external use. Contact your local Small Business Development Center or Great Plains Technology Center for assistance:

www.osbdc.org or <http://www.greatplains.edu/>

9) Join the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce

Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce provides:

- Networking opportunities/ business leads
- Business referrals from Lawton Fort Sill Chamber membership directory
- Oklahoma Chamber Blue Health Care Plan (if your business has fewer than 100 employees, you may be eligible for affordable health care coverage)
- Exclusive marketing and sponsorship opportunities
- Community Leadership Opportunities
- Visit <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/index.php?src=> or call 580.355.3541 to inquire on becoming a member of the Chamber.

10) Inform yourself! Speak with experienced consultants and receive valuable assistance with all your business matters. Be advised that not all businesses are alike and may be subject to additional requirements.

- **Oklahoma Small Business Development Center:**

711 SW 'D' Ave Lawton Ok 73501
Mary Eichinger- mary.eichinger@swbell.net
Morgan Gould- mgould@osbdc.org
580-248-4946



- **Great Plains Technology Center:**

4500 W. Lee Blvd. Lawton, OK 73505
Charles Middleton- cmiddleton@greatplains.edu
Beck- pbeck@greatplains.edu
Cody Holt- cholt@greatplains.edu
580- 250-5553



- **Cameron CETES:**

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