

Colorado

Office of Economic Development
and International Trade

MINORITY BUSINESS OFFICE

The Minority Business Office (MBO) acts as an advocate for Colorado's minority business community. Services include the provision of training seminars, conferences & workshops, and the identification of procurement opportunities within both the public and private sector. The MBO collaborates with other state agencies, the private sector, and various organizations to expand economic opportunities for minority-owned businesses. The MBO also works with regional business councils throughout the state to ensure that all programs address the needs of minority business owners.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/mbo

WOMEN'S BUSINESS OFFICE

The Women's Business Office (WBO) promotes opportunities for women-owned businesses in Colorado. Services include referrals to financial resources, and information on state procurement, purchasing and contracting opportunities. The WBO collaborates with other state agencies, the private sector, and various organizations to expand economic opportunities for women-owned businesses. The WBO also works with regional business councils throughout the state to ensure that all programs address the needs of women business owners.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/wbo

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Colorado Business Assistance Center (BAC) is the first point of contact to new and existing business owners. The center provides walk-in or call-in services for information regarding federal, state and local licensing requirements, taxes, and other regulations.

Information is provided through the *Colorado Business Resource Guide* – a comprehensive booklet that answers questions concerning starting or operating a business in Colorado. This guide, and its accompanying forms, may be obtained at the BAC or downloaded from the Internet. If computer access is unavailable, an individualized small business packet will be prepared and distributed upon request.

Telephone Hotline: (303) 592-5920
Toll Free: 1-800-333-7798

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/bac

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

The Office of Economic Development & International Trade is the lead organization for Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) - a statewide network of federally affiliated offices funded in part by the Small Business Administration. Seventeen SBDCs and four satellite centers provide business development services. The SBDCs are dedicated to helping small businesses throughout Colorado achieve their goals of growth, expansion, innovation, increased productivity, management improvement and success through free one-on-one confidential counseling. The centers offer business plan counseling, referrals to financial resources, and technical or marketing assistance. Business training seminars are also available throughout the year and listed on the website.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/sbdc

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE

The Business Development team supports Colorado's local communities in pursuing the attraction, expansion and retention of quality jobs. Serving as the primary point of contact for the state's economic development programs, the business development team works closely with economic development professionals and business clients, offering services such as technical assistance, site selection, trade show representation, and proposal review.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/bus_fin

ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

Designed to improve economic conditions in the state's lagging areas, sixteen enterprise zones exist throughout Colorado. Criteria for the establishment of zones includes higher than average unemployment rates, low per capita incomes, and a population base of less than 80,000. Businesses making qualifying investments and creating jobs in these zones are entitled to various Colorado income tax credits and reduced sales or use tax liability.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/ez

JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

Enhancing the competitiveness of Colorado companies through training assistance, the Colorado FIRST Customized Job Training Program provides financial assistance to companies training new employees for recently created jobs. The Existing Industries Job Training Program provides similar financial assistance for companies wanting to retrain employees in new technologies, or increase employee retention.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/bus_fin/job.html

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

GRANT PROGRAMS

Using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the state has developed two business assistance programs that support local economic development efforts in rural communities. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program and the Direct Infrastructure Assistance Program provide assistance to businesses that commit to create or retain full-time jobs, primarily for low and moderate income persons. The locally operated RLF provides loans to businesses within their service area for a variety of business purposes. The Direct Infrastructure Assistance Program provides funding to construct public infrastructure needed by one or several businesses. Infrastructure assistance may include roadways, utilities, rail spurs, and water or wastewater treatment facilities.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/bus_fin

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OFFICE

The International Trade Office (ITO) has two primary functions: helping companies export their products and services to international markets, and attracting foreign investment that provides jobs for Colorado residents. Geographic specialists offer export counseling in areas of sales and marketing, foreign contacts, and shipping and documentation. Staff members are also available to speak at seminars. Through participation in international trade shows and missions, Colorado companies are given opportunities to expand their businesses overseas, while foreign companies are encouraged to invest in Colorado. Foreign offices are located in Japan, Germany, and Mexico.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/ito



CERTIFIED CAPITAL COMPANIES PROGRAM

Certified Capital Companies (CAPCOs) are for-profit companies that are authorized to provide equity, debt or various other forms of financing for start-up or expanding businesses in Colorado. The CAPCOs have a large amount of flexibility in determining which businesses will receive funding. For investment in qualifying Colorado businesses, CAPCOs will have access to \$100 million dollars in 2002 and again in 2004. Contact the CAPCO Program Manager at the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade for a list of Certified Capital Companies.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/bus_fin

COLORADO TOURISM OFFICE

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) was created by the state legislature to promote Colorado as a travel and tourism destination. The office is governed by a board of directors consisting of thirteen members, including two legislators and eleven members, appointed by the Governor representing various travel and tourism industry segments. The CTO oversees the operations of eight Welcome Centers that provide helpful travel information. It also oversees the activities of the state's tourism advertising and marketing agency as well as other promotional services including the Official State Vacation Guide and the state's tourism website.

Toll Free: 1-800-COLORADO

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/cto

Website: www.colorado.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The nine-member Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC) was created by the state legislature in 1987 to promote economic development in Colorado. The EDC approves grants and loans from the economic development fund to public and private entities throughout the state, helping existing businesses expand and new companies relocate to Colorado. The EDC operates collaboratively with other state business development programs and is housed in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

Website: www.state.co.us/oed/edc

COLORADO FILM COMMISSION

The Motion Picture & Television Commission (MPTV) promotes movie and television production in Colorado, and creates marketing mechanisms to ensure the state's success in the entertainment industry. With 72 trained "camera ready" contacts, MPTV offers a statewide response to production inquiries in less than 24 hours. As a member of the Association of Film Commissioners International, MPTV provides Colorado's local producers access to 270 film commissions around the world.

Website: www.coloradofilm.org



Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

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All services are provided for the hearing impaired by
telephone /TDD: 1-800-659-2656

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