

Food Entrepreneurship 101 Guide

Powered by Civic Progress and the St. Louis Mosaic Project



St. Louis Mosaic Project

Develop a business plan

Choose Your Specialty

As an entrepreneur you must decide what kind of food you would like to produce and how you would like to sell it. Some food-related options are catering, brick and mortar restaurants, meal delivery, food trucks.

Conduct Market Research

Due to the fact that the food industry is very competitive it is important that you do your market research. It is important to network and tap into existing resources that are available to help entrepreneurs understand their needs. Use friends and people you know to test your recipes out and to develop your products

Some local organizations that offer Business Planning and technical assistance include:

Balsa Foundation
Dk Solutions
Cortex Square One
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
International Institute of St. Louis
Justine Peterson
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Missouri Small Business Development Center
Missouri Enterprise
SBDC Services
SCORE
U.S. Small Business Administration

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Commercial Kitchens in St. Louis

Licenses and Permits

Depending on the municipality you are looking to run your food business you must look into rules around licenses and permits. You must also make sure that you are preparing and cooking your product in a facility that pass all state and local certifications. There are some state required food handling courses to help you better understand all the requirements run by organizations such as Missouri Enterprise and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. You may want to get your business license and a resale license that will enable you to buy ingredients wholesale tax free.

North City Food Hub
Salus Center Kitchen
Centenary Business Center
The Creative Cookery
STL Foodworks
St. Stephen's & The Vine in Ferguson
St. Louis Archdiocese (Email Betsy to inquire)

Funding Opportunities in St. Louis

Explore ways to access startup capital for your new business to supplement your personal contributions and the support of your friends and family.

International Institute Community Development Corporation
Nvested
Small Business Administration
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership Business Finance
Justine Peterson
Balsa Foundation