



Small Business Technical Assistance

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), both directly and through its partner network, offers a broad range of programs and services to help businesses maintain their competitive edge. These programs and services include:

- new business opportunities in government bid work;
- financial resources for land, buildings, machinery and equipment and working capital;
- utility rate incentives for energy conservation/loan management;
- workforce development and training assistance;
- engineering assistance with issues such as ISO certification, lean manufacturing, plant layout and supply chain management;
- site selection assistance for new business facilities;
- fast-tracking of permits through state and local regulatory agencies;
- export assistance; and,
- energy cost reductions through the use of sustainable energy products such as solar, wind and fuel cells.

Organizations providing technical assistance include:

Connecticut State Technology Extension Program (CONNSTEP) – Engineering and technical support for small and mid-sized manufacturing firms.

www.connstep.org

University of Connecticut Tech-Knowledge Portal - Assists existing companies seeking assistance with technology related issues and/or entrepreneurs developing new tech-related products and forming new tech-based firms.

<http://otc.uconn.edu/tkp>

Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) – Technical training, skill development, industrial modernization, marketing, financial and networking opportunities.

<http://web.ccsu.edu/itbd>

Procurement Technology Extension Program (PTAP) – Marketing assistance for Connecticut businesses that sell or wish to sell products and services to federal, state and local government.

www.ctptap.org

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Management information for small business owners.

www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ct/index.html

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) – Professional confidential, one-on-one business counseling services to small business owners throughout the state.

www.ctsbdc.org

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) - Helps private and public entities to apply innovative tools and practices to increase efficiencies, improve workforce development and boost competitiveness.

www.ccat.us

Connecticut Economic Resource Center – CERC manages and supports programs for business attraction, formation and expansion including Connecticut's Business Response Center - offering a wealth of information on federal, state, regional and local business assistance programs through a database called CERC ProgramFinder and Smart Start - a state program created to assist business owners with business registration, licensing and permitting.

www.cerc.org/Content/Business_Assistance.asp

Connecticut Licensing Information Center (CLIC)/Smart Start – Streamlined registration, permitting and licensing processes.

www.ct-clic.com

Services Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) – Overview and insight on the process of establishing and operating a business.

www.score.org/index.html

Department of Labor (DOL) – Full range of employment and training services.

www.ctdol.state.ct.us

Turnaround Management Assistance – Connecticut Corporate Revitalization Program.

www.turnaround.org/Default.aspx?ViewingChapterId=7&ViewMode=Chapter

New England Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (NETAAC) – Cost-shared assistance for import-injured manufacturers.

www.netaac.org

Institute for Sustainable Energy – Relating to energy education, energy policy, energy efficiency, energy conservation and load management, renewable energy, distributed generation, protection of environmental resources, and the dissemination of information on energy alternatives and sustainability.

www.easternct.edu/sustainenergy

Energy Conservation – Conservation and load management assistance through the utility companies.

www.cl-p.com Northeast Utilities
www.uinet.com United Illuminating

Middletown Export Assistance Center – The U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce is a federal government agency dedicated to helping small-to-medium sized companies develop and achieve their exporting strategies. Domestically, the Commercial Service team is located throughout the country in offices known as the U.S. Export Assistance Centers. The U.S. Export Assistance Center in Middletown assists Connecticut companies leveraging the resources of their vast network.

www.buyusa.gov/connecticut

DECD International – Serves as the lead facilitator and strategic catalyst of international activity within the state. DECD achieves its mission of increasing the global competitiveness of Connecticut businesses by developing two-way trade and investment opportunities; by helping these businesses enter new markets and expand their global business base; by aggressively pursuing foreign direct investment opportunities; and by building public/private strategic partnerships.

<http://www.ct.gov/ecdc/cwp/view.asp?a=1102&Q=249862&ecdNav=|>