



# Business Assistance Resource List

## Business Basics

**Employers' Resource Council (ERC):** ERC ([www.ercnet.org](http://www.ercnet.org)) is Northeast Ohio's largest organization dedicated to HR and workplace programs, practices, training and consulting associated with outsourced services, health insurance, corporate retirement solutions, temporary staffing and corporate legal services. With an 85-year history of serving Northeast Ohio, ERC is the most trusted name when it comes to accurate, credible, timely and cost effective workplace information, policies, benefits and services to help your business be more competitive.

Phone: 440.684.9700  
Fax: 440.684.9760

**Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC):** The mission of the SBDC at the Summit Medina Business Alliance ([www.akronsbdc.org](http://www.akronsbdc.org)) is to provide high quality, customer-driven business consulting, education, training, technology transfer and resources between business, higher education and government.

*OSBDC at the Summit  
Medina Business Alliance*  
Phone: 330.375.2111  
[www.akronsbdc.org](http://www.akronsbdc.org)

*OSBDC at the Kent State University  
Stark Campus*  
Phone: 330.244.3290  
[www.cantonsbdc.org](http://www.cantonsbdc.org)

*Kent Regional Business Alliance*  
Phone: 330.474.3595  
[www.krba.biz](http://www.krba.biz)

526 S. Main St. Suite 813  
Akron, OH 44311

6000 Frank Ave. NW  
North Canton, OH 44720

211 E. Summit St.  
Kent, OH 44240

**SCORE:** SCORE ([www.akronscore.org](http://www.akronscore.org)) offers several services to help start a small business or to make a small business more profitable including individual counseling, mentoring, workshops and seminars. Our Counselors are all experienced and successful executives, managers and business owners who at this time in their life want to give back to the community and people like you, the benefit of their years of experience and represent a wealth of information available to you at no cost.

Phone: 330.379.3163  
Email: [akronscore81@aol.com](mailto:akronscore81@aol.com)

**Small Business Administration (SBA):** The SBA's many programs and services are available through the Cleveland District Office (<https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/oh/cleveland>), which serves 28 counties in northern Ohio, provides assistance to more than 22,000 people through training, counseling, loan and business development programs.

Phone: 216.522.4180

**Ohio Business Gateway:** Ohio Business Gateway is about making government accessible to you and your business by helping you find the information and services you need to keep your business thriving in Ohio. Our goal is to help you complete your transaction or find the information you need as efficiently as possible, so you can focus on what matters most: running and growing your business. From starting a business to stepping away from a business, the Ohio Business Gateway (<http://business.ohio.gov>) provides access to the resources businesses need to be successful.

## Chambers of Commerce

**Green Chamber of Commerce:** The Green Chamber ([www.greencoc.org](http://www.greencoc.org)) strives to preserve and attract quality businesses, to develop the local marketplace, and to help businesses build their business networks. The Green Chamber also sponsors a variety of events such as Business-to-Business Luncheons, Morning Connections Breakfasts, Networking Nights, as well as annual events like the Golf Outing and Awards Dinner.

Phone: 330.896.3023

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**Greater Akron Chamber:** *The Greater Akron Chamber ([www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org)) is a regional chamber of commerce and economic development organization serving the Northeast Ohio counties of Medina, Portage, and Summit. The Greater Akron Chamber represent a membership of diverse businesses (more than 1,500 member companies) ranging from global manufacturers to small machine shops and professionals to non-profit organizations and educational institutions and is committed to continual improvement of our community, our economy, and our quality of life. The Chamber offers the best bottom-line, result-producing benefits; networking and marketing opportunities; small business support; public representation; and information services.*

**Phone:** 330.376.5550  
**www.greaterakronchamber.org**

## Financing and Venture Capital Assistance

**JumpStart Inc.:** *JumpStart ([www.jumpstartinc.org](http://www.jumpstartinc.org)) accelerates the growth of early-stage businesses and ideas into venture-ready companies by delivering vital, focused resources to entrepreneurs in Northeast Ohio. JumpStart identifies and invests in early-stage companies that have strong potential in the marketplace, solid prospects for high growth and are likely to qualify for later-stage funding. Beyond investing, the JumpStart team of experienced Entrepreneurs-in-Residence provides a continuum of business development services to its client and portfolio companies to help ensure their success.*

**Phone:** 216.363.3400  
**Email:** [Ask@JumpStartInc.org](mailto:Ask@JumpStartInc.org)

**Cascade Capital Corporation:** *Cascade Capital Corporation ([www.cascadecapital.org](http://www.cascadecapital.org)) is an economic development finance company providing dependable financing options to growing small companies in Greater Akron and Northeastern Ohio. Cascade Capital provides direct financing assistance through its SBA 504 or Ohio 166 Loan Programs to small companies poised to grow through investment in new equipment, facilities and human resources.*

**Phone:** 330.379.3160  
**Fax:** 330.761.0307

**Development Finance Authority of Summit County (DFA):** *DFA ([www.developmentfinanceauthority.org](http://www.developmentfinanceauthority.org)) finances projects that create jobs and economic growth and brings value to projects through lease financing, sales tax savings, fixed-rate bond fund financing, off-balance-sheet transactions and more.*

**Phone:** 330.762.4776

**Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund:** *The Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund (OEBF) ([http://www.tos.ohio.gov/investor/ohio\\_enterprise\\_bond\\_fund](http://www.tos.ohio.gov/investor/ohio_enterprise_bond_fund)) makes funds available to eligible borrowers for the purpose of purchasing land, buildings and equipment that will create and retain jobs and further promote economic development throughout the State of Ohio. The OEBF was developed in 1988 to promote economic development, create and retain quality jobs and assist governmental operations. The program enables non-profit and for-profit borrowers to access the national capital markets through bonds issued through OEBF. The program is administer by the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) and financing provided b the Ohio Treasurer of State.*

**Phone:** 614.466.7752  
**Toll-Free:** 1.800.848.1300 ext. 6542

**Ohio Treasurer of State GrowNOW Program:** *The GrowNOW interest rate reduction program ([www.grownnow.ohio.gov](http://www.grownnow.ohio.gov)) is designed to help small businesses grow by providing them with critical cash flow. When a business is approved for a loan from one of the hundreds of eligible banks in the state, GrowNOW provides an additional three percent discount on the loan's already-negotiated interest rate, when the loan is linked to creating or saving jobs in Ohio.*

**Phone:** 800.228.1102  
**E-mail:** [grownnow@tos.ohio.gov](mailto:grownnow@tos.ohio.gov)

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## Government Procurement

*Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC): PTAC ([www.krba.biz/ptac](http://www.krba.biz/ptac)) offers a wide range of services designed to assist small and mid-sized businesses to effectively enter or stay competitive in the government market arenas. Services also include assistance with local states, and international bids. All services are free of charge and available to businesses in Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties.*

*Phone: 330.672.9448*

## Industry Specific Organizations

*MAGNET: Our organization ([www.magnetnetwork.org](http://www.magnetnetwork.org)) was established to assist smaller manufacturers in becoming more competitive. Our mission is to help manufacturing and technology-based companies and entrepreneurs excel and grow through understanding, adopting, and implementing innovative methods and technologies. Our business incubator for manufacturing and technology-based companies is the only one of its kind in the region.*

*Phone: 216.391.7002  
Toll-Free: 877.GROW.MFG*

*PolymerOhio: PolymerOhio ([www.polymerohio.org](http://www.polymerohio.org)) is an industry connecting and networking group that is focused on enhancing the global competitiveness and growth of Ohio's polymer, plastic, rubber, paint, sealant, adhesive, ink and advanced materials industry. We do this by providing a broad range of value-added programs and services to our members and Ohio's polymer industry.*

*Phone: 614.776.5720  
Email: [info@polymerohio.org](mailto:info@polymerohio.org)*

## International Trade

*NEOTEC: The Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) (<http://www.neotec.org/>) is a multi-county regional economic development partnership that works collaboratively in the region with the goal of attracting capital investment and jobs to Northeast Ohio through the administration of Foreign-Trade Zone 181, by providing international trade assistance to promote international commerce and through development of a world-class logistics system.*

*Phone: 330.672.4080*

*Small Business Administration, US Export Assistance Center: The mission of the US Export Assistance Center (<http://www.export.gov/index.asp>) is to enhance the ability of small businesses to compete in the global marketplace; facilitate access to capital to support international trade; ensure that the interests of small business are considered and reflected in trade negotiations; and support and contribute to the US Government's international agenda.*

*Phone: 216.522.4731*

## Local Government Organizations

*City of Green Planning Department: The City of Green Planning Department ([www.cityofgreen.org](http://www.cityofgreen.org)) is responsible for the review and development of private and public improvements in the City in addition to all commercial, industrial, and residential development and subdivision plans. The Planning Department is also the local point of contact for Economic Development assistance for existing businesses in the community and new businesses looking to locate in the community.*

*Phone: 330.896.6614  
Email: [planning@cityofgreen.org](mailto:planning@cityofgreen.org)*

*Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development: Through Summit County's Economic Development Division (<http://co.summitoh.net/index.php/departments/community-a-economic-development>) hundreds of businesses have been assisted with tax incentives, which resulted in retaining and creating thousands of jobs. In an effort to assist companies in new technology, Summit County has also developed a technology-training grant so that companies may obtain skills for their employees to better compete in today's economy.*

*Phone: 330.643.2893*

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## Women Owned Business & Entrepreneurship

*National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO): NAWBO's vision is to propel women entrepreneurs into economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.*

Phone: 440.914.9262  
E-Mail: [admin@nawbocleveland.org](mailto:admin@nawbocleveland.org)

## Workforce Development and Continuing Education

*Ohio Means Jobs—Summit County: Ohio Means Jobs—Summit County (OMJSC) brings together more than 15 workforce service providers under one roof to serve the needs of both businesses and job seekers. Partner agencies include the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Summit Workforce Solutions, The University of Akron, Job Corps and Mature Services' Senior Employment Center, among others. OMJSC is a one-stop resource for both job seekers and employers. For employers, OMJSC, offers job posting, applicant matching, recruitment, skill and aptitude testing, access to pre-screened applicant pool, labor market information, on-the-job training, workshops and much more.*

Phone: 330.663.1050

*Ohio Means Jobs: is a window for employers to look for Ohio-based talent, post job opportunities, and integrate employment events into a single, cost free point of contact. OhioMeansJobs.com provides Ohio-based companies access to the talents and skills within millions of resumes belonging to Ohioans and those looking to locate to Ohio. The state of Ohio has partnered with Monster.com and Indeed.com to offer these free services to businesses within the state.*

Phone: Help Desk at 1-888-296-7541, option #2

*UA Solutions: UA Solutions is a liaison between the University of Akron (<http://www.uakron.edu/uabs/index.dot>) and the surrounding business community and training solutions including non-credit and certifications programs, host an array of online courses for career development, provide customized training solutions to serve a variety of industries, conduct onsite training and so much more. For more information about services and offerings, please visit the UA Solutions' Website.*

Phone: 330.972.7577  
E-Mail: [conted@uakron.edu](mailto:conted@uakron.edu)

## Regional Economic Development Groups

*NorTech: NorTech, the Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition, is the only organization that focuses solely on the high tech economy, across all sectors. NorTech has one unwavering purpose: To invigorate growth in Northeast Ohio's high tech economy and broadcast our successes. We do this by building industries from technology areas where we have the best opportunities to be successful and by marshaling the resources and forging collaborations to put our high tech economy on the fast-track.*

Phone: 216.363.6883

*Team NEO: Team NEO advances Northeast Ohio's economy by attracting businesses worldwide to the 16-county Cleveland Plus region. Team Northeast Ohio unites the region to accelerate economic growth by serving as the central point for business attraction. We are a nonprofit joint venture of the region's largest metro chambers, privately funded to market the 16-county Cleveland Plus® region. We are a central resource, informing and serving those considering their initial investment with expansion or relocation into Northeast Ohio.*

Phone: 216.363.5400

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