



## LOOKING TO START OR RELOCATE A BUSINESS?

Did you know that 89.4% of businesses in Minnesota have less than five employees? Of all business start-ups in Minnesota, 65-80% fail within the first five years. Because of these facts, there have been many organizations created at state, regional and local levels to provide services to help small businesses succeed. Businesses that take advantage of these services are much more likely to be successful than those that do not. All of the organizations listed are here to *help you* succeed and are looking for clients!

### ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCES

#### RUSH CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**MISSION:** The Rush City Area Chamber of Commerce, through cooperative efforts of business, professional, farmers, community organizations, and all interested persons, strives to promote civic, commercial, and industrial programs and to enhance the quality of life in the Rush City Area.

- The Chamber has excellent networking and marketing opportunities for business owners in Rush City.

(320) 358-4639 PO Box 713, Rush City, MN 55069 [director@rushcitychamber.com](mailto:director@rushcitychamber.com) [www.rushcitychamber.com](http://www.rushcitychamber.com)

#### RUSH CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**MISSION:** To broaden Rush City's economic tax base by creating an environment that will promote sustainable growth and economic diversification that will result in business retention, expansion, and community revitalization. To create and maintain jobs and provide businesses and nonprofits with the necessary financial and technical support to grow and succeed.

- Ask us about tax abatement assistance or tax increment financing. We will help direct you to the best resources available.
- Amy Mell (320) 358-4743 PO Box 556, 325 S Eliot Ave, Rush City, MN 55069 [www.rushcitymn.us](http://www.rushcitymn.us)

#### CHISAGO COUNTY HRA/EDA

#### HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**MISSION:** To improve the commercial and industrial tax base within the County with an emphasis on assisting existing business development. To promote and maintain a high quality of life in the County by advancing private development and private investment through collaborative efforts with local units of government and other interested organizations in Chisago County.

- Provide financial and technical assistance to businesses locating or expanding in Chisago County.

Nancy Hoffman (651) 674-5664 PO Box 815, 38871 7th Ave, North Branch, MN 55056 [www.chisagocounty.org](http://www.chisagocounty.org)

#### MINNESOTA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (MNSBDC)

- Pre-Venture Business Services
  - Start-Up Business Services
  - Established Business Services
  - Professional Consulting
- WHO THEY SERVE:** Any enthusiastic and committed business owner passionate about his or her business, its growth and its success.
- FEES:** *No cost to Clients*, thanks to funding partners.
- Fact:** **80%** of SBDC client businesses are still in business five years later.

**REGIONAL CONTACT:** Central Lakes College Business & Industry Center

(218) 855-8140 501 West College Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401 [jlplatta@clcmn.edu](mailto:jlplatta@clcmn.edu) [www.mnsbdc.com](http://www.mnsbdc.com)





## WE WILL HELP YOU GET ON THE RIGHT PATH...

### **GPS 45:93**

GPS 45:93 is a non-profit organization dedicated to growing and attracting businesses with high paying jobs to the 4-county region of East Central Minnesota.

Virtual Business Incubator– Business planning *and* services for existing companies

- Partnered with banks, chambers
- Target: One-person business
- Goal: Provide incubator style services to help you grow and add jobs
- Offer pro bono services from accountants, attorneys, marketing folks, web designers, business planners

Contact: (763) 691-8585 [www.gps4593.com](http://www.gps4593.com) [info@gps4593.com](mailto:info@gps4593.com)

### **CENTRAL MN JOBS & TRAINING**

**MISSION:** To strengthen Central Minnesota communities through leadership and workforce excellence.

- Connects businesses with qualified workers
- Connects businesses with additional resources

**REGIONAL CONTACT:** (800) 284-7425  
Monticello, MN [www.cmjts.org](http://www.cmjts.org)

## **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**GOALS:** To create/retain jobs, strengthen the regional tax base, and create wealth within our region.

### **REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

- Provides gap financing to help make projects happen.
- Provide credit only when credit is unavailable from traditional sources.
- Lending range- \$10,000-60,000
- All loans are secured and terms are comparable to lead lenders.

### **MICRO LOAN FUND**

- Provide credit only when credit is unavailable from traditional sources.
- Lending range \$1,000-50,000
- Flexible repayments for as long as ten years.
- Requires 25% owner equity on project.

**REGIONAL CONTACT:** Jordan Zeller (320) 679-4065 ext.29 100 S Park St, Mora, MN 55051

### **INITIATIVE FOUNDATION**

The Initiative Foundation's business loans work to strengthen communities and diversify local economies.

**CERTIFIED COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LENDER**

- Loan average- \$150,000
- Loan is offered to entrepreneurs who:
- Wish to start or expand a locally owned business
- Have a sound business plan and acceptable credit
- Create quality jobs with living wages and benefits
- Advance local and regional goals for target industries

**CONTACT:** Dan Bullert, *Business Financing Officer*  
(877) 632-9255 [dbullert@ifound.org](mailto:dbullert@ifound.org) [www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org)

### **MN DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DEED)**

- Small Business Assistance Office
- Minnesota Business First Stop (for complex business startups, expansions or relocations)
- State, federal and other business financing programs
- Export counseling and assistance
- Export education and training
- [www.mnprospector.com](http://www.mnprospector.com) - DEED's interactive website that lists land, sites, and buildings in Minnesota. It is a useful tool for local real estate agents.

**CONTACT:** Heather Rand (218) 302-8408  
[www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com)

## LOCAL BANKS & CREDIT UNIONS

### NORTHWOODS BANK OF MINNESOTA

1275 W 4th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-0800  
www.northwoodsbank.com

### UNITY BANK

1180 W 4th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-3600  
www.unitybanking.com

### GREATER MINNESOTA CREDIT UNION

900 Main Street S  
Pine City, MN 55063  
(320) 629-1178  
www.gmcu.com

### LAKE STATE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

6241 Main Street  
North Branch, MN 55056  
(651) 674-0898  
www.lakestatefcu.org

## LOCAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES

### ACCENT REAL ESTATE, INC.

260 W 4th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-4000  
www.accentrealestateinc.com

### COLDWELL BANKER PRO IV REALTY

1220 W 4th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-0822  
www.realhomepro.com

### KNUTSON REAL ESTATE, INC.

285 W 5th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-6500  
www.knutsonrealestate.com

### TUBBS REALTY, INC.

270 S Dana Avenue  
Rush City, MN 55069  
(320) 358-9988  
www.tubbsrealtyinc.com



## ...FINANCIAL RESOURCES CONTINUED

### USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Business and Cooperative Loan Assistance
- Business and Cooperative Grant Assistance
- Offers programs to provide educational opportunities, training, technical support and tools for rural residents to start small businesses and to access jobs in agricultural markets, the green economy, and other existing markets, as well as acquire training in vocational and entrepreneurship skills they can use in the marketplace and business sector.

CONTACT: Paul Dornfeld (763) 689-3354

[www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn)

### US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Since its founding in 1953 the U.S. Small Business Administration has delivered millions of loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses. SBA provides assistance primarily through its four programmatic functions:

- Business Financing
- Entrepreneurial Development (Education, Information, Technical Assistance & Training)
- Government Contracting (Federal Procurement)
- Advocacy (Voice for Small Business)

CONTACT: MINNESOTA DISTRICT OFFICE

100 N 6th St, Suite 210-C, Minneapolis, MN 55403

(612) 370-2324 [www.sba.gov/mn](http://www.sba.gov/mn)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Stop by City Hall in Rush City or The Chisago County HRA/EDA in North Branch to get a hard copy of the Business Service Directory put out by Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board. To read the Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota and other helpful publications, go to [www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com) and click on publications, then on business guidebooks.