

BUSINESS STARTUP



A starting point for finding resources that can help you launch your own business.

Service changes may have been affected due to COVID 19. Please call 2-1-1, or contact organizations by phone for service updates.

Last updated: 1-11-2021

GENERAL STARTUP RESOURCES

City of GR Planning Commission

300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids || 616-456-3000
bit.ly/2OWmuEY

Provides information on doing business in Grand Rapids as well as information on tax abatements, business expansion, downtown development, and small business assistance.

MiSpringboard

333 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids || 616-336-6000
bit.ly/2JWP03p

Varnum law's statewide initiative design to provide \$1 million in free legal services to Michigan-based startups and growing businesses. To be considered, clients are referred by business incubators, Smart Zones, angel investors, state agencies, universities, and entrepreneurial programs.

The Right Place

125 Ottawa Ave NW Suite 450, Grand Rapids || 616-771-0325
rightplace.org

Offers assistance and counseling for existing and prospective Kent County entrepreneurs. Helps in navigating tax abatements, available industrial sites, technology and training resources, business planning, and general financing.

TRAINING & MENTORING

ELEVATE Minority Business

250 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids || 616-771-0303
bit.ly/2TAFcJV

ELEVATE is a Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce-hosted program designed to accelerate the growth and development of minority-owned businesses in West Michigan.

Spring GR

818 Butterworth St SW Suite 6 Grand Rapids || 616-826-8665
springgr.com

Spring GR is a training, mentoring, and networking program designed to help budding entrepreneurs in Grand Rapids turn their ideas into thriving businesses.

Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW)

25 Sheldon Blvd SE Suite 210, Grand Rapids || 616-458-3404
growbusiness.org

Nonprofit organization that provides support networks, training, confidence-building, mentoring, and financial access (including a \$1,000-\$5,000 microloan program) to women in the business field.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

111 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids || 616-771-0305
grandrapids.score.org

Retired business people provide "starting your business" workshops and free business counseling.

Grand Angels

111 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids || 616-771-0305
grandrapids.score.org

Retired business people provide "starting your business" workshops and free business counseling.

INCUBATION & CO-WORKING SPACES

Downtown Market - Incubator Kitchen

435 Ionia Ave SW, Grand Rapids || 616-805-5308 ext. 206
bit.ly/2MkdMOS

Helps food entrepreneurs and startups by teaching new owners about the business of food. Aids with their development, growth, and collaboration. Sponsors a commercially-licensed kitchen space with equipment for food production, packaging, prepping, and catering.

The Factory

38 W Fulton St, Grand Rapids || 616-379-9377
workthefactory.org

A co-working hub, popular among local entrepreneurs for co-learning courses, startup weekends, and collaboration.

Start Garden

40 Pearl St NW Suit 200, Grand Rapids
startgarden.com

Focuses on assisting entrepreneurs going from "zero to positive cash flow." Oversees the Grand Rapids SmartZone co-working space and sponsors various platforms such as 5x5 Night, Seamless Accelerator, Collective Metrics, TechShop, and Collective Impact.