

1. Conceive your business

- A. [Focus your idea](#)
- B. [Research your idea](#)
- C. [Choose a name](#)
- D. [Write a business plan](#)

2. Structure your business

- A. [Choose an organization type](#)
- B. [Consult professionals](#)
- C. [Set up your financial systems](#)

3. Prepare all necessary forms, permits, and licenses

- A. [Overview of federal, state, and local requirements](#)
- B. [File company papers with the Secretary of State's office](#)
- C. [Obtain a federal tax identification number](#)
- D. [Register your business name](#)
- E. [Obtain all necessary licenses and permits](#)
- F. [Fulfill all employer requirements](#)
- G. [Secure intellectual property](#)
- H. [Take care of local requirements](#)

4. Fund your business

- A. [Use your own assets](#)
- B. [Borrow from friends and family](#)
- C. [Borrow from a bank](#)
- D. [Check with minority or women's organizations](#)
- E. [Apply for a grant](#)
- F. [Other sources of equity funding](#)

5. Taxes and insurance

- A. [Fulfill all tax requirements](#)
- B. [Keep detailed records of all deductible expenditures](#)
- C. [Obtain insurance](#)