

Business Assistance

Thinking about starting a business or relocating your business to Marinette County, Wisconsin? The following resources are available to assist you.

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

If you are thinking of starting a business in Wisconsin, please visit the [State of Wisconsin Business Wizard](#). Using a series of five question-and-answer pages will help you to:

- Determine licensing, permitting and regulatory requirements ...
- Obtain necessary application forms ...
- Identify available state resources ...
- Access other valuable business-related information ...

The [Wisconsin Department of Wisconsin Department of Commerce Business Development Assistance Center](#) is also available assist small businesses, particularly first-time entrepreneurs. The office furnishes information on government regulations, financing alternatives and refers businesses to appropriate resources. You can also contact the center for additional information by calling 1-800-HELP BUSINESS.

Build Your Business

When starting or expanding your business, it is critical to have the facts. The [Build Your Business](#) site was designed to make it easy for you to obtain the information you need to seriously plan and prepare for the start or expansion of your business. This site offers step-by-step help in registering your business with the state

University of Wisconsin - Extension: Small Business Development Center

Located in Green Bay, the [UW-Extension Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC) offers free one-on-one counseling to business clients that are thinking about starting a business, those that are well along in their plans and those who are up and running and need a refresher course. The SBDC draws upon a large group of business professionals who specialize in marketing and sales, business planning, buying and selling a business, financial management, product development, accounting and bookkeeping, customer service and inventory control. Individual counseling is available by appointment only at the Marinette Chamber of Commerce. Classes in entrepreneurial training and business basics are available for a fee. For more information contact Ernie Johnson

Manager of Counseling
Small Business Development Center
(920) 496-2117
Fax: (920) 496-6009
E-mail: <mailto:johnsone@uwgb.edu>

The U.S. Small Business Administration

Thinking about starting a business? The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) has information available on-line to assist you. This includes information on the first steps in starting

a business, developing a business plan, business financing and government regulations. The SBA's Green Bay office is located at 835 Potts Ave. Green Bay, 54304. Phone (920) 496-2117

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)

The [Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation](#) (WWBIC) is an economic development corporation providing quality business education and access to capital for entrepreneurs. Established in 1989, WWBIC consults, educates and mentors owners of small and micro businesses throughout Wisconsin. They concentrate their efforts with women, people of color and those of lower incomes. WWBIC offers several ways to discover lending options for existing and start-up businesses. To meet representatives from a number of lending institutions, you might consider attending a Business Financing Seminar. Those who are ready to begin the loan application process can choose to meet with a WWBIC loan officer through one of their "Can We Talk?" sessions. The WWBIC office is located at 2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: 414-263- 5450

Sites Wisconsin

Are you looking for a building or site in Wisconsin? You can search an on-line database at [Sites Wisconsin](#), sponsored by [Forward Wisconsin](#). You can search for a building or site by selecting a category, county or keyword.

Business Financing:

A number of financing programs are available for Marinette County businesses.

If you are expanding your current business or are relocating your business to Marinette County, your business may qualify for one or more of the following programs.

Where is the "free money"?

This is the number one question asked by new business start-ups and small businesses. People hear that there are millions of dollars in grants available for small businesses and everybody wants their share of the "free money." According to the [U.S. Department of Commerce](#), they do not offer grants to begin or expand a small business. However, they do offer a wide variety of valuable information that can be found at the [Business Gateway to Federal Resources](#). So, are these rumors of "free money" a lie? The Federal Government does offer millions of dollars in grant money for very specific business ventures, which can be accessed through a [Grants Portal](#).

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

The [Wisconsin Department of Commerce](#) has a broad range of financial assistance programs to help businesses undertake economic development. This quick reference guide identifies these

programs and selected programs from other agencies. Please contact **Dennis Russell**, Area Development Manager serving Marinette County, at **920/498-6302** or e-mail at dlrussell@commerce.state.wi.us for more information on the Department of Commerce's services.