

# Starting a Business in Estes Park: TOP 10 STEPS TO SUCCESS



## 1. Where do I go to start a business in Estes Park?

The Estes Park EDC, Town of Estes Park, Estes Valley Library, Estes Valley Partners for Commerce, Visit Estes Park, and more are here to assist you. Small business is big business in the Estes Valley.

## 2. What advice do you have for someone considering a new business?

First, research competition or industry clusters in the area you want to do business, then write a business plan. If you are new to business, seek advice from one of our many local small business resources. You can go to [www.estesparkedc.com](http://www.estesparkedc.com) and [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) for more information on starting and managing a new business.

## 3. What resources are available for entrepreneur training?

Check with the Larimer Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at [www.larimersbdc.org](http://www.larimersbdc.org). The Larimer SBDC provides free one-on-one consulting to assist business owners with their own business plans and local appointments can be made.

## 4. Where do I apply for financing?

PRIVATE: The Financing chapter of the *Colorado Business Resource Guide* outlines many of several forms of private financing available to business owners and can be found at [www.coloradosbdc.org/resources/resource-guide/financing-options](http://www.coloradosbdc.org/resources/resource-guide/financing-options).

GOVERNMENT: The vast majority of government loan programs are called guaranteed loans. To apply for these loans, a business owner contacts a bank or other financial institution and the bank will apply to the government for a guarantee on the loan.



## **5. How do I find the local Chamber of Commerce and my local trade association?**

Estes Valley Partners for Commerce (EVPC) is a local organization that performs many of the same functions as a chamber. The Estes Valley currently has no local chapter of the Chamber of Commerce. You can also be involved through a number of other local business associations, including:

- Estes Valley Partners for Commerce (EVPC): [www.estesvalleypartners.com](http://www.estesvalleypartners.com)
- Estes Area Lodging Association: [www.estesarealodgingassoc.com](http://www.estesarealodgingassoc.com)
- Estes Park Board of Realtors: <http://www.estesparkrealtors.com>
- Estes Park Wedding Association: [www.estesparkweddings.com](http://www.estesparkweddings.com)

## **6. Where do I get basic information about quality of life and the cost of living in Estes Park?**

The Estes Park EDC provides extensive information on quality of life and cost of living information at [www.estesparkedc.com](http://www.estesparkedc.com)

## **7. Where can I go to submit my business incorporation and other state business filings?**

The Colorado Secretary of State registers corporations as well as LLCs, trademarks and trade names. Go to [www.sos.state.co.us/](http://www.sos.state.co.us/) for more information.

## **8. What do I need to do to comply with sales tax laws?**

You can apply for a Colorado Sales Tax License at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/tax/sales-tax-account-license>. The license and all sales tax returns are submitted to the Colorado State Department of Revenue. The Town of Estes Park is a statutory town and cannot collect its own sales tax.

## **9. How do I get a business license?**

Business license applications are available at the Town Clerk's office in the Municipal Building. Town staff can also answer your questions about building permits, sign permits and liquor licenses. Go to [www.estes.org/](http://www.estes.org/) for more information. Some businesses or professions require State Licensing. This Colorado online tool can help. [www.colorado.gov/apps/jboss/cbe/start-business.xhtml](http://www.colorado.gov/apps/jboss/cbe/start-business.xhtml)

## **10. I have more questions. Who can I ask?**

You can start with the Estes Park EDC at [www.estesparkedc.com](http://www.estesparkedc.com) or call 970-577-1031.