



CITY OF ITHACA LOCAL ECONOMIC RESOURCE GUIDE

Ithaca offers seven unique commercial districts that all cater to an array of markets. Downtown, West State Street, West End, Inlet Island, Collegetown, Route 13, and the Southwest Area all present unique business opportunities and can be viewed on the Planning Division web page. The following programs can help individuals achieve their goals of opening and maintaining a business in Ithaca's dynamic setting.

Starting a Business in Ithaca

City of Ithaca Planning & Development Division
cityofithaca.org/departments/planning/index.cfm
pdesarno@cityofithaca.org
(607) 274-6550

Deputy Director for Economic Development Phyllisa DeSarno is the principal contact for assistance when starting or expanding a business and will always be able to point you in the right direction.

The Building Division of the PBD also provides information, along with requisite forms for those intending to start a new business or expand old ones.

Programs Providing Assistance with Starting or Expanding Businesses

Alternatives Federal Credit Union Business CENTS
alternatives.org/cents.html
CENTS@alternatives.org
(607) 216-3423

The Business CENTS (Community Enterprise Networking & Training Services) program offers several entrepreneurial training classes, workshops, seminars, and consultations. Ideal for individuals who are interested in taking the next step, or learning how to finally go about starting their own small business.

Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA)
downtownithaca.com
idp@downtownithaca.com
(607) 277-8679

The main purpose of the Alliance is to create a more attractive and economically viable downtown center. The Alliance's functions include business

retention and recruitment, promotions and marketing, as well as government relations.

Cornell Center for Technology Enterprise & Commercialization (CCTEC)
cctec.cornell.edu
cctecconnect@cornell.edu
(607) 254-4698

CCTEC connects Cornell technology to industry and business development efforts by marketing, patenting, and licensing high-tech innovations from Cornell research.

CornellBEST (Big Red Entrepreneurial Services & Training) offers resources, services, and training to help entrepreneurs start new businesses based on Cornell technology. CCTEC can also provide direction to many other valuable resources and programs.

Cayuga Venture Fund
cvf.biz
info@cvf.biz
(607) 266-9266

The Cayuga Venture Fund provides capital and other resources to start-up tech businesses in Ithaca, New York, many of which have a connection to Cornell.

Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD)
tcad.org
inaa@tcad.org
(607) 273-0005

TCAD provides a host of services that includes revolving loan funds, capital grants for tourist attractions, and programs that provide property tax abatements.

TCIDA (Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency) provides economic incentives for businesses to create and retain quality employment opportunities.



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Tompkins County Workforce Investment Board

tompkinsworkforceny.org

jmattick@tomkins-co.org

(607) 274-7526

Assists employers by providing labor market information, access to qualified seekers, and training programs, etc.

BR MicroCapital (BRM)

johnson.cornell.edu/Center-for-Sustainable-Global-Enterprise/Students/Student-Organizations/BR-MicroCapital.aspx

(607) 255-5551

BR MicroCapital is a Cornell student-run organization that assists self-employed individuals achieve their business goals. Offers targeted business assistance to entrepreneurs of microbusinesses in order to contribute to the economic development of the local community.

Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA)

cityofithaca.org/departments/iura/index.cfm

(607) 274-6559

The Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) is a public benefit corporation, affiliated with the City of Ithaca, which works to revitalize urban neighborhoods and strengthen the local economy. It provides loans and grants for projects that principally benefit people with low-to-moderate incomes. The IURA also administers loan programs to assist businesses and manages the Cherry Street industrial park.

Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce

tompkinschamber.org

info@tomkinschamber.org

(607) 273-7080

The Chamber of Commerce provides education and information services, as well as networking and other promotional opportunities, to its members. The organization advocates for issues that affect Tompkins County employers and the viability of the regional economy. The Chamber also provides tourist information and relocation information about the area.

Worker Ownership Resource Center (WORC)

(607) 737-5212

WORC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals, especially minorities, women and individuals with disabilities, start or expand a small business. The program is designed to help participants with little or no business experience by providing classroom business training. The Ithaca office has closed, but the program still functions in Tompkins County. Contact the Elmira office.

Programs Providing Assistance to Employees & Jobseekers

Tompkins Workforce NY

tompkinsworkforceny.org

(607) 272-7570, ext. 129

Tompkins Workforce NY assists jobseekers by providing training, workshops, and access to opportunities.

TST Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

tstboces.org

(607) 257-1551

Business and Industry Training provides customized training programs to increase employee productivity and job efficiency at either the BOCES campus or business locations. Programs include topics such as computer technology, workplace literacy, and technical training skills.

Women's Opportunity Center (WOC)

womensopportunity.org

info@womensopportunity.org

(607) 272-1520

The Women's Opportunity Center (WOC) provides information and assistance for women and men to overcome obstacles and gain employment. Topics include career counseling, computer classes, career workshops, job training, resumé preparation, and scholarships to assist with employment-related fees.