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[Online Business Resources for Entrepreneurs with a Disability](#)

## Government Agencies

### Local Agencies

- Solano County - [solanocounty.com](http://solanocounty.com)
- Association of Bay Area Governments - [abag.ca.gov](http://abag.ca.gov)

### State of California

- CalGold California Home Page - [calgold.ca.gov](http://calgold.ca.gov)
- [Controller's Office Guide for Financial Opportunities for Businesses](#)
- State of California Depart. of Consumer Affairs - [dca.ca.gov](http://dca.ca.gov)

### Federal Government

- Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - [eastbayscore.org](http://eastbayscore.org)
- Young Entrepreneur Guide - [sba.gov/tools/learning-center-view-course/364041](http://sba.gov/tools/learning-center-view-course/364041)
- U.S. Census Bureau - [census.gov](http://census.gov)
- U.S. Small Business Administration - [sba.gov](http://sba.gov)
- U.S. Small Business Advisor - [business.gov](http://business.gov)

### PRIVATE COMPANIES

- Bplans.com - [bplans.com](http://bplans.com)
- Entrepreneur.com - [entrepreneur.com](http://entrepreneur.com)
- FindLaw for Business - [smallbusiness.findlaw.com](http://smallbusiness.findlaw.com)
- Nolo for All - [nolo.com](http://nolo.com)
- Quicken.com - [quicken.com](http://quicken.com)
- Small Business Help Center - [helpbizowners.com](http://helpbizowners.com)
- Exit Strategies - [exitstrategiesgroup.com](http://exitstrategiesgroup.com)
- An MBA Student's Guide to Entrepreneurship - [onlinemba.com/entrepreneurship-guide/](http://onlinemba.com/entrepreneurship-guide/)
- Immigrant Business - [immigrantbiz.org](http://immigrantbiz.org)
- Health Coverage Information for California Small Business Owners
  - (English) - [HealthCoverageGuide.org](http://HealthCoverageGuide.org)
  - (Spanish) - [GuiadeCoberturaSalud.org](http://GuiadeCoberturaSalud.org)
- Business Insurance - [businessinsurance.org](http://businessinsurance.org)
- Working Solutions - [workingsolutions.com](http://workingsolutions.com)
- Business Credit Cards - [businesscreditcards.com/bootstrapper/business-credit-card-resources/](http://businesscreditcards.com/bootstrapper/business-credit-card-resources/)
- Info about MBA Programs - [mbaonline.com](http://mbaonline.com)

## Chambers of Commerce

**Local Chambers of Commerce** function as a TRADE ASSOCIATION for member businesses and professionals. Included in their services, to members, are business education, promotion, legislative advocacy, referrals, networking opportunities and community events. In addition, Chambers serve as the primary source for community information. *This information is subject to change.*

### **BENICIA Chamber of Commerce**

601 1st Street, Suite 100  
Benicia, CA 94510  
PHONE: (707) 745-2120  
[beniciachamber.com](http://beniciachamber.com)

### **BLACK Chamber of Commerce of Solano County**

836B Southhampton Road, Suite 351  
Benicia, CA 94510  
PHONE: (707) 421-5721  
[scbcc.org](http://scbcc.org)

### **DIXON Chamber of Commerce**

220 N. Jefferson Street  
Dixon, CA 95620  
PHONE: (707) 678-2650  
[dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org)

### **FAIRFIELD-SUISUN Chamber of Commerce**

1111 Webster Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
PHONE: (707) 425-4625  
[ffsc-chamber.com](http://ffsc-chamber.com)

### **FILIPINO-AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of Solano County**

PHONE: (707) 745-8473  
[solanofilamchamber.com](http://solanofilamchamber.com)

### **RIO VISTA Chamber of Commerce**

6 N. Front St.  
Rio Vista, CA 94571  
PHONE: (707) 374-2700  
[riovista.org](http://riovista.org)

### **SOLANO HISPANIC Chamber of Commerce**

PHONE: (707) 643-5037  
[solanohispanicchamber.com](http://solanohispanicchamber.com)

### **VACAVILLE Chamber of Commerce**

300 Main Street  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
PHONE: (707) 448-6424  
[vacavillechamber.com](http://vacavillechamber.com)

### **VALLEJO Chamber of Commerce**

427 York Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
PHONE: (707) 644-5551  
[vallejochamber.com](http://vallejochamber.com)



## Licenses & Permits

### LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

In order to OPERATE A BUSINESS within any city located in Solano County, whether it is from a store, factory, office or your home, you must have a VALID BUSINESS LICENSE. The type of license depends on the NATURE OF YOUR BUSINESS and is renewed every six months or annually. Contact the City Clerk's office if your business is located within city limits and the County Clerk for unincorporated areas.

#### City of Benicia

PHONE: (707) 746-4225 - <https://benicia.hdlgov.com/>

#### City of Dixon

PHONE: (707) 678-7000 - <http://www.ci.dixon.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=158>

#### City of Fairfield

PHONE: (707) 428-7509 - [http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/gov/depts/cd/business\\_licenses.asp](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/gov/depts/cd/business_licenses.asp)

#### City of Rio Vista

PHONE: (707) 374-6451 - <http://riovistacity.com/new-business-information/>

#### City of Suisun City

PHONE: (707) 421-7328 - <https://www.suisun.com/departments/administrative-services/business-licenses/>

#### City of Vacaville

PHONE: (707) 449-5129 - <http://www.ci.vacaville.ca.us/business/business-licenses>

#### City of Vallejo

PHONE: (707) 648-4310 - <http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/cms/one.aspx?pageId=22460>

#### For unincorporated areas:

##### Solano County Tax Collectors Office

PHONE: (707) 784-7485 - [https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/business\\_licenses.asp](https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/business_licenses.asp)

### STATE BUSINESS LICENSE

Some occupations such as ACCOUNTANTS, COSMETICIANS, CONSTRUCTION or SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS, ELDERLY CARE facilities, OPTOMETRISTS, REAL ESTATE AGENTS, or PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION companies, etc. may require state licensing through a State of California governmental agency. Find out what licensing board governs your profession by calling the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 952-5210 or visiting [dca.ca.gov](http://dca.ca.gov).



## Fictitious Business Name

File a FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME only if the business name you have chosen is different from your own LEGAL NAME. For example, if your legal name is John Jones and you have chosen a name that includes your last name ("John Jones House Repair" or "Jones House Repair"), then you do not need to file.

In general, if a business name does not have the LAST NAME of all OWNERS, differs from the incorporation documents or implies greater ownership, a fictitious name is involved. Adding words such as "and company," "son/daughter," or "associates" implies IMPLIES MORE THAN ONE OWNER and is treated like an assumed name. (You should first look up your proposed business name--in as many places as possible--to be sure that NO OTHER BUSINESS is using that name. Use of a business name legally owned by another company may be an infringement of the other business owner's rights. Some examples of places to research would be your local phone directory, chamber of commerce, county clerk, the Internet, State of California Secretary of State Trademark Division and/or the federal Patent and Trade Mark Office.)

Your fictitious business name statement must be PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER of general circulation in the county where the principal place of business is located. The statement must be published once a week for four successive weeks and an affidavit of publication filed with the County Clerk within 30 days of publication. The forms are available from the COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.

### County Clerk - Solano County

675 Texas Street, Suite 1900

Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 784-7510

[solanocounty.com/depts/ttcc/county\\_clerk/fbn/searchficname.asp](http://solanocounty.com/depts/ttcc/county_clerk/fbn/searchficname.asp)

## Market Research

### MARKET RESEARCH & PLANNING

MARKETING plays a crucial role in the SUCCESS of any business. To develop an effective marketing plan, it may be helpful to research and gather various facts on your target customers, competition and industry.

- **Consult US Census Data**

Federal Census Bureau statistics are extremely useful for viewing regional demographic information. In addition, State of California and your local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Department has details on population trends, payroll statistics, etc. Use this information in determining the size of your market.

[census.gov](http://census.gov) and [labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

- **Connect With Other Business Owners**

The internet contains numerous industry-specific newsgroups, chat rooms, and forums comprised of business owners who share their experiences and are ready to answer your questions. Discussion groups often center on specific business topics such as start-up costs, pricing strategies, sales figures, and marketing methods. Use the below search engines to conduct a key word search for your industry, service and/or product.

[google.com](http://google.com) / [dotdash.com](http://dotdash.com) / [dogpile.com](http://dogpile.com)

- **Contact Trade & Professional Organizations**

Trade and Professional Associations exist for every type of business. Trade groups conduct research on trends, customer profiles, marketing methods, pricing strategies and the economy. They also publish member directories useful for tracking down your competition. Trade publications often run articles on recent research reports and publish their own proprietary market data. Many are now featuring e-zines (online magazines) that contain informational articles for your use.

Business & Professional Associations - [local.com](http://local.com)

Business Topics - [businesstown.com](http://businesstown.com)

- **Read Newspaper, Magazines, Trade Publications**

Periodicals are an excellent source for industry statistics and competitor information. Business publications such as the Wall Street Journal can give you information on business trends and economic issues that may impact your business. Local newspapers and business journals can provide you with information on your local scene.

- [findarticles.com](http://findarticles.com)



## Non-Profit Resources

### RESOURCE AGENCIES FOR NON-PROFITS

#### **Solano Community Foundation**

744 Empire Street, Suite 240  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
PHONE: (707) 339-3846  
[solanocf.org](http://solanocf.org)

#### **The Impact Foundry**

2031 K Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
PHONE: (916) 569-8555  
[impactfoundry.org](http://impactfoundry.org)

#### **CompassPoint Nonprofit Services**

500 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 320  
Oakland, CA 94607  
PHONE: (510) 318-3755  
[compasspoint.org](http://compasspoint.org)

#### **The Foundation Center - Resource for Searching Grants**

312 Sutter Street, Suite 606  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
PHONE: (415) 397-0902  
[foundationcenter.org/ask-us/sanfrancisco](http://foundationcenter.org/ask-us/sanfrancisco)

## Patents, Trademarks & Copyrights

### PATENT, TRADEMARK & COPYRIGHT DEFINITIONS

- **A PATENT** is a PROPERTY RIGHT granted to the inventor of an invention.
- **A TRADEMARK** is a WORD, NAME, SYMBOL or DEVICE, or any combination thereof, adopted and used by a person to identify goods made or sold by him/her to distinguish them from goods made or sold by others. A **SERVICEMARK** is the SAME AS A TRADEMARK except that it identifies and distinguishes the source of a service rather than a product.
- **A COPYRIGHT** is a form of PROTECTION provided to the authors of "original works of authorship" including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic and certain other intellectual works, both published and unpublished. The copyright protects the form of expression rather than the subject matter of the writing. Copyrights are registered by the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress.

#### The Brooks Walker Patent and Trademark Center

The BROOKS WALKER PATENT and TRADEMARK CENTER operates as a self-service program. Resources for conducting a patent or trademark search include: Patents from 1790 to the present, computer searching of patents and trademarks, indexes to historical patents and trademarks, official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark Office from 1872 to present, annual report of the Commissioner of Patents from 1790 to 1872 and all current PTO forms, publications and regulations. - [sanfranciscoptdl.wikidot.com/the-brooks-walker-patent-and-trademark-center](http://sanfranciscoptdl.wikidot.com/the-brooks-walker-patent-and-trademark-center)

#### Patent and Trademark Center

##### San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
PHONE: (415) 557-4400 - [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org)

#### The State of California Secretary of State's Office

The SECRETARY of STATE'S OFFICE maintains registration and updates of CALIFORNIA TRADEMARKS and SERVICE MARKS. The Trademark Unit also registers other filings such as container brands, laundry marks and the names of farms, ranches, estates or villas.

#### Trademarks/Service Marks

1500 11th Street, Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814  
PHONE: (916) 653-4984 - [sos.ca.gov/business/ts/](http://sos.ca.gov/business/ts/)

#### The US Patent & Trademark Office

The U.S. PATENT and TRADEMARK OFFICE is an excellent resource for official patent and trademark information.

#### General Information Services Division

##### U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Crystal Plaza 3, Room 2C02, Washington, DC 20231  
PHONE: (800) 786-9199 - [uspto.gov](http://uspto.gov)

#### Library of Congress Copyright Office

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#### Copyright Office

101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington DC, 20559  
PHONE: (202) 707-3000 - [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov)





## **Selling to Government Agencies**

### **LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

SELLING GOODS and SERVICES to local, state and federal government agencies can be interesting, lucrative and challenging. However, to get started in government contracting, you do have to learn the basics. In addition to the workshop training and one-on-one consulting provided by the Solano College SBDC, there are a variety of on-line resources. The following are procurement resources for local, state and federal assistance:

**US Small Business Administration** - <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/what-government-contracting>

**Northern California Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)** - <http://norcalptac.org/>

Norcal PTAC assists with research of government agencies who are buying your products and/or service and helps develop marketing strategies and everything else you need to sell to federal state and local government agencies.