



# BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

## WV Forward | 100+ Ways to Get Startup Capital

[wvforward.wvu.edu](http://wvforward.wvu.edu)

This guide provides 100 ways for a WV entrepreneur to secure the necessary capital.

## WV BusinessLink

[wvbusinesslink.com](http://wvbusinesslink.com)

Connects entrepreneurs and small business owners to statewide resource partners to foster innovation and growth.

## WV Culture Center | Historic Rehab Tax Credits

[wvculture.org](http://wvculture.org)

Offers state and federal tax credits of up to 45% for the certified rehabilitation of historic commercial and residential properties, with recent legislative changes removing credit caps.

## WV Department of Tourism | Funding & Resource Guide

[wvtourism.com](http://wvtourism.com)

A comprehensive directory of grants, loans, tax credits, and technical assistance programs supporting tourism, community development, outdoor recreation, arts, education, and historic preservation.

## WV Economic Development Office | Business Incentives

[westvirginia.gov](http://westvirginia.gov)

Provides a wide array of business incentives, workforce training programs, expedited permitting, and development support.

## WV State Tax Department | Tax Credits List

[tax.wv.gov](http://tax.wv.gov)

Offers an overview of available state tax credits for businesses and individuals.



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## WV Grants

[grants.wv.gov](https://grants.wv.gov)

Centralized hub where individuals, businesses, and organizations can find and apply for grant opportunities and funding programs.

## WV Jobs Investment Trust

[wvjit.wv.gov](https://wvjit.wv.gov)

A public venture capital fund that provides strategic investment, guidance, and support to businesses.

## WV Economic Development Authority | Loan Programs

[eda.wv.gov](https://eda.wv.gov)

Offers loans, credit enhancements, and bond financing to support economic growth.

## WorkForce WV – Region 2 Business Services

[workforcewv.org](https://workforcewv.org)

Betty Watson serves as the Business Services Representative for Region 2, offering free HR-style support to help employers connect with job seekers and navigate available services.

☎ 304-352-3862 | ✉ [Betty.F.Watson@wv.gov](mailto:Betty.F.Watson@wv.gov)

## WV Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

[wventrepreneur.com](https://wventrepreneur.com)

A collaborative network of organizations across West Virginia focused on entrepreneurial development, resource sharing, and partnership-building.

## West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WVSBDC)

[wvsbdc.com](https://wvsbdc.com)

Offers personalized coaching, training, and resources to help small businesses start, grow, and succeed.

Contact: Doug Harper at ☎ 304-881-2320 or ✉ [Doug.D.Harper@wv.gov](mailto:Doug.D.Harper@wv.gov).



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## Partner Community Capital | Women's Business Center Program

[partnercap.org](https://partnercap.org)

Provides business coaching, financing guidance, and support services for entrepreneurs.

Contact [dhylbert@wvwomen.org](mailto:dhylbert@wvwomen.org).

## Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO)

[hadco.org](https://hadco.org)

Supports business retention, expansion, and economic development in the Huntington region.

Contact [dlieving@hadco.org](mailto:dlieving@hadco.org).

## SCORE

[score.org/wv](https://score.org/wv)

Connects entrepreneurs with experienced volunteer mentors and offers free business workshops and resources.

[1-800-634-0245](tel:1-800-634-0245).

## Unlimited Future, Inc.

[unlimitedfuture.org](https://unlimitedfuture.org)

Delivers a 6-week startup course and one-on-one coaching to help launch and grow small businesses in Huntington.

Contact [ufi@unlimitedfuture.org](mailto:ufi@unlimitedfuture.org)

## Advantage Valley

[advantagevalley.com](https://advantagevalley.com)

Provides sector-specific business coaching and support as part of regional economic development efforts.

[\(304\) 352-1165](tel:304-352-1165)

## Ascent by SBA

[ascent.sba.gov](https://ascent.sba.gov)

A free, self-paced online learning platform designed to help entrepreneurs build and scale their businesses.



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## West Virginia Economic Development Council (WVEDC)

[wvedc.org](http://wvedc.org)

A professional organization that supports economic development professionals and promotes business growth across the state.

**Phone: 304-720-5661**

## Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce

[huntingtonchamber.org](http://huntingtonchamber.org)

Promotes a thriving business community in Cabell and Wayne counties through networking, advocacy, and business support.

**Phone: 304-525-5131**

## Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER)

[marshall.edu/cber/](http://marshall.edu/cber/)

Provides data analysis, economic forecasting, and policy research to help businesses make informed decisions and support regional economic growth.

**Phone: (304) 696-5747**

## iCenter at Marshall University

[marshall.edu/icenter/](http://marshall.edu/icenter/)

Empowers businesses and entrepreneurs through hands-on innovation training, startup incubation, and design thinking workshops that help turn ideas into scalable ventures and solve real-world challenges.

**[icenter@marshall.edu](mailto:icenter@marshall.edu)**

## Downtown Huntington Partners

[itsdowntownhuntington.com](http://itsdowntownhuntington.com)

Helps local businesses thrive by promoting economic growth, organizing community events, and fostering a vibrant, collaborative downtown environment.



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## Opportunity Zones

The City of Huntington contains three census tracts that have been designated by the Federal Government as “Opportunity Zones.” Individuals utilizing Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs) to invest in new business ventures in these areas are eligible for deferments of some capital gains taxes from the Federal Government. Purpose: Investors will benefit by deferring capital gains on investments within the Opportunity Zones. **Also, any new business created within an Opportunity Zone is exempt from corporate and personal income tax for 10 years.**

Separately, the **West Virginia Opportunity Zone** is separate from the federal Opportunity Zone and does not require creating an opportunity fund. To qualify for the corporate net income state tax exemption, the business must have been registered between January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2024.

- Explore Huntington's Opportunity Zones: [map](#).
- Learn More About Federal Opportunity Zones: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones>.

## B&O Tax Reductions for Businesses

**Back Office Operations**– New administrative office locations employing 50 or more full-time employees are eligible for partial exemptions of B&O taxes. Within the first three years of operation, the business is eligible for a tax credit of 50% of its B&O taxes due.

- [See Article 787.54 for conditions](#)

**Kinetic Park Development** – Within the Kinetic Park Development, new technology-based businesses, companies providing administrative support, or retail and service-based business who meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for reduced B&O tax rates.

- [See Article 788 for terms and conditions](#)

**Construction/Renovation and Job Creation** – When a project is exceeding \$5,000,000 (including land-acquisition costs) and creates at least 20 new jobs as a result of said construction; a city B&O tax credit of 50 percent for all construction expenses is available, provided the business, general constructor and any subcontractors of said business are current on all other city fees, taxes, and permits.

- [See Article 787.54 for terms and conditions](#)



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**Contractor and Subcontractor B&O Tax Reduction**—seeks to remove financial barriers to the construction of new homes or the renovation of existing homes. A limited exemption in the business and occupation tax will be of assistance in achieving the goal of inducing investment in residential housing within the city.

- [Information and Application](#)
- [See Article 787.61 for terms and conditions.](#)

## State-Sponsored Initiative

**BUILD WV ACT** - to assist growing communities in WV by incentivizing the creation of new housing in select WV areas. Huntington is one of these communities. Eligible WV BUILD projects will qualify for the following state-wide benefits:

- An exemption from consumer sales and purchase tax for purchases of building materials, tangible personal property, and construction services.
- A Property Value Adjustment Credit (PVAC) can be taken against personal or corporate income tax for eligible taxpayers and is refundable up to \$100,000.00 per project annually for 10 years following the project's completion.
- For more information on BUILD WV and to see if your project may qualify, please visit [cityofhuntington.com/business](http://cityofhuntington.com/business).

**Grants** - The State provides grant opportunities and programs for personal and business-based opportunities.

- **Learn more information, visit:** [grants.wv.gov](http://grants.wv.gov)