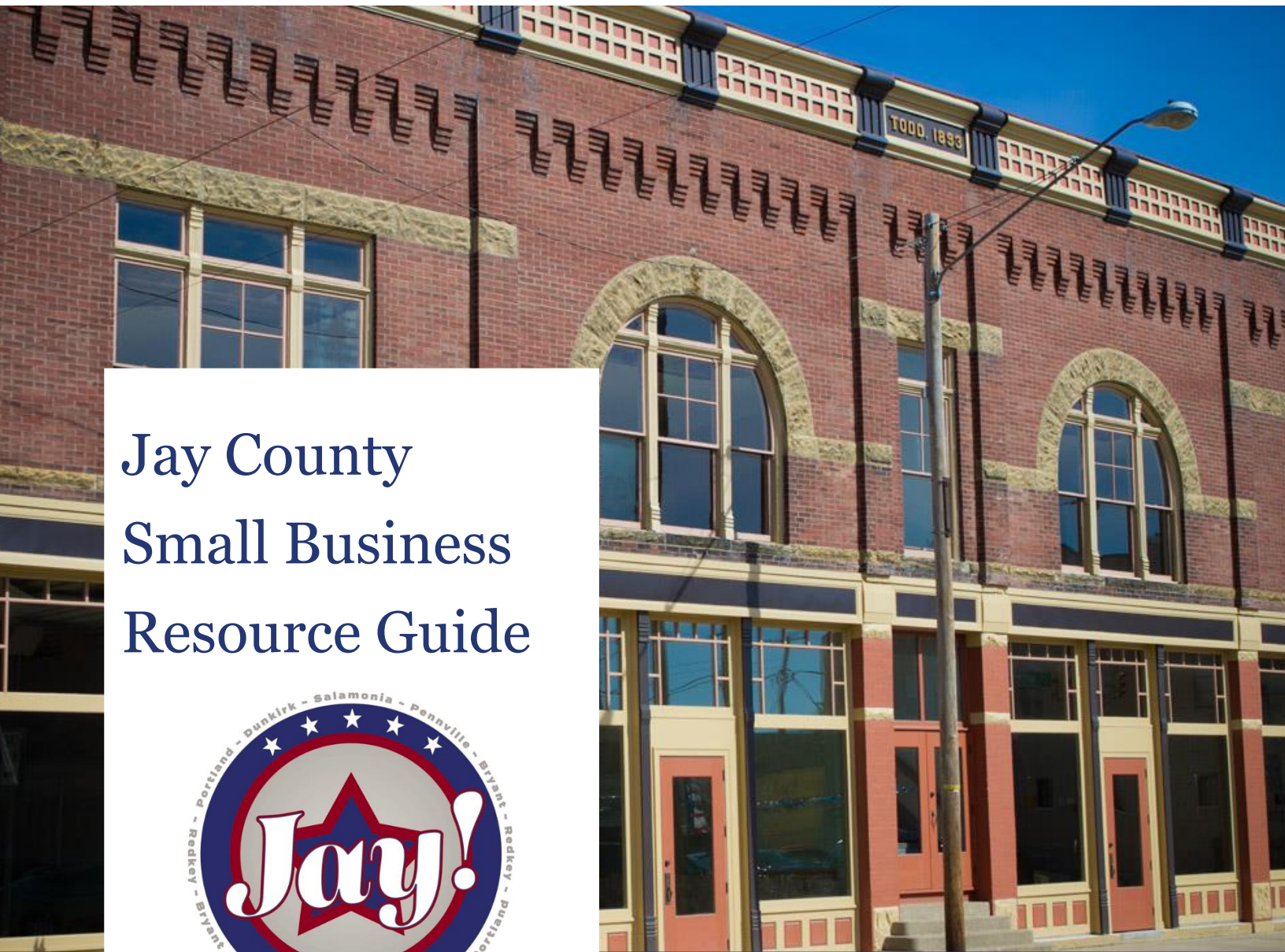


# Jay County Small Business Resource Guide



2023



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## WHO CAN HELP ME?

### Jay County Development Corporation



Jay County Development Corporation's goal is to enhance the quality of life in Jay County through investment and job creation. This is accomplished in a variety of ways – industrial retention and recruitment, advising local government, facilitating community development, and connecting with financial resources.

In addition, we assist with startup and growth by connecting entrepreneurs to resources for capital, incentives, physical location, knowledge, and advice. Jay County Development Corporation should be your first contact when getting ready to start or grow your business in Jay County.

260-726-9311

<http://www.jaycountydevelopment.org/>

### Jay County Chamber of Commerce



Formed in January 2008, the Jay County Chamber of Commerce proudly serves the Jay County region and the communities of Portland, Dunkirk, Pennville, Redkey, Bryant and Salamonia. As a member of the Chamber, we share your vision of success for the future and your Chamber membership offers you the opportunity to strive towards reaching your goals. Investment in the Chamber helps to grow your business by offering valuable member benefits, displays leadership in our region and improves the business climate of Jay County.

260-726-4481

<http://www.jaycountychamber.com/>

### INBiz



INBiz is the state of Indiana's one-stop resource for registering and managing your business and ensuring it complies with state laws and regulations. We utilize state-of-the-art security features so you can feel safe about inputting your personal and business information into our system.

In partnering with the Secretary of State, Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Revenue, INBiz has created a best-in-class portal that provides a streamlined and expedited process for your business needs.

From registering your business's name to filing required paperwork, you need go no further than INBiz.

317-234-9768

<https://inbiz.in.gov/start-business>

## East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center



The Indiana Small Business Development Center (Indiana SBDC) was created to have a positive and measurable impact on the formation, growth, and sustainability of small businesses in Indiana, and to help Hoosier Entrepreneurs start stronger, grow faster, and work smarter.

765-282-9950

<https://isbdc.org/locations/east-central-isbdc/>

## Indiana US Small Business Association



Since 1953, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has provided access to capital, small business support, economic development, and job creation for small businesses. The Indiana District Office delivers a variety of programs and services to the Hoosier State's 92 counties, including startup and operational assistance through training and counseling, financial assistance, and business opportunities such as government contracting, subcontracting, and procurement.

317-226-7272

<https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/in/indianapolis>

## WHAT TYPES OF LOCAL PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are a variety of programs that may be available to you as a small business. To help ensure we get you connected to the best option, please contact us at 260-726-9311. To help jumpstart the conversation, below is basic information about many of them:

### Local and Municipal Funds

#### ***Economic Development Income Tax Funds***

Economic development activities assisted with funds made available through the Program are intended to improve the quality of life for citizens by meeting the following objectives:

- To maintain and promote a diverse mix of employment opportunities.
- To encourage the creation and retention of permanent jobs which represent a range of wage scales appropriate to the skills and experiences of the regional labor force.
- To encourage the leveraging of private investment in the community by utilizing this tool as a “gap” financing mechanism
- To maintain a positive business climate which will encourage the retention and expansion of existing business and industry and helps to attract new business and industry.

Available in Jay County, Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Pennville, and Bryant.

#### ***City of Portland Revolving Loan Fund***

The Portland Revolving Loan Fund was created with money from the USDA to assist Portland businesses with operating capital, inventory, equipment, or facility enhancements directly related to doing business. Loans can range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 with a term of up to 48 months.

### ***City of Portland Downtown Façade Funding Program***

The City of Portland’s Downtown Façade Funding Program is aimed at “strengthening the heart” of the Portland community by providing façade funding to businesses and property owners within the Downtown Historic District. The program has been funded and will be administered by the City of Portland. All funds awarded require a matching dollar for dollar expenditure by the owner or tenant. The funding award cap per project is \$50,000 as a reimbursement.

The Downtown Façade Funding Committee will review each application. All projects must adhere to the Portland Downtown Historic District Guidelines. The Downtown Façade Funding Committee reserves the right to grant funds above the project cap to targeted projects that they believe will have a significant impact on the area.

### ***City of Portland Downtown Historic District***

The City of Portland features a relatively intact traditional commercial storefront streetscape. This historic quality sets the city apart from other communities and is the major characteristic that residents and visitors alike experience. The design qualities of the properties should be retained, as this is part of Portland’s identity. A well-kept historic downtown enhances quality of life for residents and is an attraction for the thousands who travel through the city every year.

### ***Tax Increment Financing***

The City of Portland features a tax increment finance (TIF) district. This district generates tax revenue that is under the purview of the city’s Redevelopment Commission. Funding can be available for projects within the district.

### ***Launch Jay Pitch Competition***

Launch Jay is a pitch competition for Jay County to highlight entrepreneurs and small business expansions. The program and event is created through a partnership between the Jay County Development Corporation, Jay County Chamber of Commerce and the East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center.

Contestants will provide business information including business plan, financial projections, etc. to be reviewed by a panel of judges. Applicants then pitch their idea or potential expansion to the judges at an open forum, similar to “Shark Tank”. Winners will be granted cash prizes to carry out their plans.

### ***Portland Riverfront District***

Portland’s Riverfront District was established to help remove barriers to development in the riverfront district. It allows the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to issue liquor licenses (one, two and three-way) within the District, above the normal number granted to Portland. Granting additional three-way liquor licenses within the District helps enable the creation of new food and beverage businesses which will create economic opportunities in the area and will lengthen the useful life of the riverfront district into the evening hours.

## Lenders in Jay County

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Citizens State Bank	765-768-6826
Crossroads Financial FCU	260-726-2142
Farmers & Merchants State Bank	260-726-8810
First Bank of Berne	260-726-2133
First Financial Bank	260-726-9301
First Merchants Bank	800-205-3464
The Farmers State Bank	260-766-4530

## Outside Funding Sources

### ***Indiana US Small Business Association***

- Provides access to capital, small business support, financial assistance
- Assists with training and counseling
- Offers economic development and job creation for small businesses

<https://www.sba.gov/local-resources/indiana>



### ***The Community Development Corporation of NE Indiana***

The Community Development Corporation of Northeast Indiana (CDC) is a City of Fort Wayne sponsored 501 c (6) not for profit business development organization. Our mission is to stimulate economic growth and prosperity throughout the communities we serve in the state of Indiana by providing alternative financing options to new and existing small business owners.

Since our inception in 1978, we have lent over \$111 million dollars to small businesses with an additional \$176 million of private funds contributed to those projects and we have helped create or retain over 5300 jobs.

<https://cdcnein.org/>

### ***Bankable***

In 2010, the Flagship Enterprise Center launched Bankable to create a place that could provide access to affordable capital and coaching for Indiana small businesses that weren't quite ready for the bank. Bankable is a certified SBA lender that can provide flexible microloans to Hoosier small businesses.

The Bankable team works with entrepreneurs at any stage of business to build their credit, secure capital, increase financial literacy, and grow sound business foundations to make them Bankable in the future.

<https://www.bankable.org/>

### ***gener8tor***

We are a nationally-ranked venture capital firm and accelerator that brings together startup founders, investors, corporations, job seekers, universities, musicians and artists. The gener8tor platform includes more than 75 programs spanning startup accelerators, corporate programming, speaker series, conferences, skills accelerators and fellowships. gener8tor believes that everyone deserves opportunities, regardless of race, place or gender. And that is what we consider our mission.

<https://www.gener8tor.com/>

### ***The NIIC***

We help entrepreneurs launch and businesses grow. We've helped to launch 499 new products and facilitated over \$100.4 million in research grants and capital investments for our innovators. The businesses we've helped start

and grow have a 92% survivability rate – and 5.0 points higher than our peers and 42.0 points better than the national average.

This doesn't just mean we're really good at what we do – it means we select our applicants carefully. Innovation takes courage and we honor yours by taking your submission seriously and assessing it professionally. We do that because we want you to know one thing: If you land at the NIIC, it means you've already done something right.

<https://theniic.org/>

### ***Indiana Angel Network***

Angel investors are individuals who invest in businesses looking for a higher return than they would see from more traditional investments. Many are successful entrepreneurs who want to help other entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground. Usually they are the bridge from the self-funded stage of the business to the point that the business needs the level of funding that a venture capitalist would offer.

<http://www.indianaangelnetwork.com/>

## WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

### Building and Planning

You must check with the local Building and Planning Department before opening a business or starting a remodel or construction project. They can help you ensure you have the correct zoning, permits, and permissions.

260-726-6904

<http://www.jaycounty.net/plugins/content/content.php?content.22>

### Mentorship

WHY CHOOSE SCORE?

- SCORE provides confidential business advice through our network of 10,000 volunteer business experts.
- Since SCORE is a nonprofit resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), our mentoring services are free, regardless of the number of times you visit a mentor.

- 
- You can meet with one or several mentors via email, video, phone or online chat.
  - Our mentors are experienced in all aspects and stages of business development, whether you're thinking of starting a business or growing your existing company.

<https://www.score.org/find-mentor>

## Local Fire Department

Some businesses or renovations require a fire inspection. Contact information for local fire departments are below:

- Portland: 260-726-4500
- Dunkirk: 765-768-6122
- Redkey: 765-369-8186