

State & Federal Contacts

Secretary of State....sos.state.ga.us/firststop.....404-656-2817

Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Internal Revenue Service.....irs.gov.....404-522-0050

Georgia Department of Revenue

Certificate of Registration.....dor.ga.gov.....404-417-2400

Withholding Tax Number.....dor.ga.gov.....404-417-4477

Employment Questions

Georgia Dept. of Labor.....dol.state.ga.us.....404-232-7300

Incorporation, Trademark/Service Mark Registration

Georgia Secretary of State, Corporations Division

Trademark.....404-656-2861 Incorporation.....404-656-2817

U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Trademark Office...1-800-786-9199

Industry-Specific Licensing

Georgia Department of Revenue,

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Unit.....404-656-4262

Sales & Use Tax Division,

Registration Unit.....404-656-5687

Department of Agriculture

Consumer Protection Division.....404-656-3627

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture.....404-656-3645

Miscellaneous

Better Business Bureau.....404-688-4910

Other Government Agencies

Georgia Dept. of Economic Development

Small Business and Innovation.....770-538-2757

Georgia.org/business/smallbusiness

U.S. Bureau of the Census, SE Office.....404-730-3833

U.S. Department of Commerce.....404-730-3007

Small Business Administration

Information, all departments.....404-331-0100

Service Corp. of Retired Executives (SCORE)....404-331-0121

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to supporting an aggressive business environment and making a positive contribution to the community by serving as a resource for information, a voice for business and a valuable link to government.

Gainesville-Hall County, Georgia, USA, is an ideal location to do business and strives to help you maximize your success in every arena.

Founded in 1908, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce serves the entire Hall County area, including the cities of Gainesville, Flowery Branch, Oakwood, Clermont, Gillsville, Lula, Braselton and Buford.

With more than 1,500 business members and 2,900 individual representatives, we strive to fill our members' needs through a full range of business services, including:

Economic Development	Community Programs
Networking & Referrals	Government Relations
Small Business Programs	Visitor's Center
Membership Services	Leadership Programs
Education Programs	Healthcare Programs

Greetings from our President

Helping your business succeed and fostering a thriving and vigorous business environment are the primary goals of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. We're proud of our community and what it offers. We hope you'll join us in supporting one of the most exciting and inviting communities in the United States. We're here to help you grow your business!



Kit Dunlap, President/CEO
Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

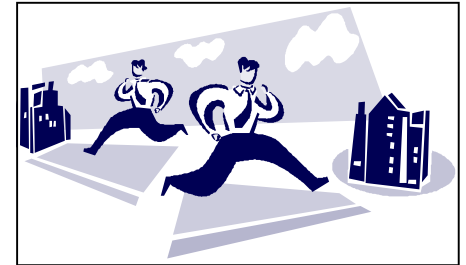


230 E.E. Butler Parkway
P.O. Box 374
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
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Fax: 770-535-8419
E-mail: info@ghcc.com
www.greaterhallchamber.com

Business

Preparation

Guide



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.greaterhallchamber.com

Gainesville-Hall County, Georgia

A resource provided by:
The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
&
The University System of Georgia
Small Business Development Center

GAINESVILLE-HALL COUNTY GEORGIA

Entrepreneur Friendly

Hall County is one of the fastest growing communities in the country. Our economy is made up of both large and small companies representing a cross-section of businesses. All forms of entrepreneurial spirit call Hall County home.

Surrounded by Lake Sidney Lanier, situated between Metropolitan Atlanta and the beautiful Northeast Georgia Mountains makes our community an ideal location to grow your professional and personal life.

This guide will help you get started as a business owner in our area. You will find start-up tips for new businesses along with a list of local, state and federal resources.

The Greater Hall Chamber area embodies an environment that encourages and empowers entrepreneurs to start innovative new companies as well as strengthens and nurtures existing companies.

Hall County is progressive and has the support of the political and business leadership to retain and promote positive planned economic growth as well as enhance the excellent quality of life.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, through its monthly Small Business Success Seminars, provides a forum linking entrepreneurs and small business to resources like:

- capital,
- technology,
- mentoring and,
- potential customers.

We are committed to helping entrepreneurs realize their business dreams.

Start-up Tips

Create a business plan: A business plan helps outline your company's direction and is usually a requirement for seeking funding.

Market Research: Know your market, customers and competition.

Your industry: An important step in succeeding in your industry is knowledge. If you're planning to sell products or services to business customers you need to know more about them. Research your competitors or B2B customers.

Funding: Funding sources will analyze your financial projections in your business plan as part of their due diligence to determine whether to invest or loan funds.

Legalities: Seek assistance for the best legal structure and help with regulatory guidelines.

Stay organized: It is vital to keep your paperwork organized.

Insurance: Your business is an investment. Insurance may be needed to protect your investment..

Entrepreneurs First Stop

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

770-531-5681 gainesvillesbdc.org

- Free Consultations
- Assistance in creating your business plan
- Advice on securing funding
- A wealth of other information to prepare you for entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurs Second Stop

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce (GHCC)

770-532-6206 greaterhallchamber.com

- Monthly Small Business Success Seminars
- Multiple Networking events
- Advertising opportunities
- Professional Development Seminars
- Community events
- A Chamber Membership can help establish you in our business community.

Contacts for Hall County

Governments

Hall County.....	hallcounty.org.....	770-535-8288
Gainesville.....	gainesville.org.....	770-535-6862
Flowery Branch.....	flowerybranchga.org.....	770-967-6371
Oakwood.....	cityof oakwood.net.....	770-534-2365
Lula.....	lula.ga.gov.....	770-869-3801
Clermont.....	clermontga.com.....	770-983-7568
Buford.....	cityofbuford.com.....	770-945-6761
Braselton.....	braselton.net.....	706-654-3915
Gillsville.....		770-869-9000

Business Licenses

Hall County.....		770-531-6815
Gainesville.....		770-535-6861
Flowery Branch.....		770-967-6371
Oakwood.....		770-534-2365
Lula.....		770-869-3801
Clermont.....		770-983-7568
Buford.....		770-945-6761
Braselton.....		770-654-3915
Gillsville.....		770-869-9000

Building Permit Information

Hall County, Lula and Clermont.....		770-531-6809
City of Gainesville.....		770-531-6809
City of Flowery Branch.....		770-967-6378

Clerks of Superior Court

Trade Name Registration.....		770-531-7025
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Planning and Developing

Hall County.....		770-531-6815
Gainesville.....		770-531-6570
Flowery Branch.....		770-967-6378
Oakwood.....		770-534-2365
Lula.....		770-869-3801

Department of Revenue

Athens Regional Office.....		706-389-6977
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Department of Labor..... 770-535-5484

UGA Small Business Development Center

georgiasbdc.org.....		770-531-5681
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Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

greaterhallchamber.com.....		770-532-6206
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Internal Revenue Service..... 770-536-2235

Environmental Health Department

Hall County.....		770-531-3975
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Center of Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence

Manufacturing.georgiainnovation.org.....		770-531-6340
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Center of Manufacturing Development

laniertech.edu.....		770-531-6328
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