



Self-Employment

TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR EXPLORING MY EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

"Whether you think you can or think you can't - you are right." - Henry Ford

What is Self Employment?

- Self-employment is working for yourself to earn an income instead of working for an employer.
- You are the boss, the person in charge, the decision maker.
- You decide what type of work you will do, what hours and how many hours you will work and who you hire and fire.
- You may employ only yourself, or you may need to hire several people to operate your business.

The point is... You are in charge and you design the job to fit your needs and the needs of your customer.

Who can own a business?

- Anyone can own a small business if proper support, adequate financing, and paying customers can be secured.
- A small business is typically formed around the person's interests, talents and skills.
- Effort is required to assure that the activity is a business not just a hobby.
- Most business owners will hire skilled individuals to assist them in areas of the business that they lack skill in. Why should it be any different for an individual with a disability?
- Through careful planning, business supports/business management skills can be purchased or developed for people with disabilities just as they are for anyone.

Should I start my own business?

Ask yourself:

- Why do I want to start a business?
- Have I explored other employment options?
- What idea, product or ability do I want to market?
- Will people want what I have to sell?
- Am I willing to put in the work required?
- Can I produce enough product or service to maintain sales?
- What physical or emotional supports do I need to start and maintain my business, (accommodations/adaptive equipment)?
- Do I need a support team to help with business decisions or to provide a skill that the business needs?
- How will my personal benefits be affected by my business income? What SSA work incentives are available to help start my business?

If my answer is still yes?

Create a business plan. A business plan helps to:

- Define the specific details of your business product,
- Identify how you will market your business,
- Project income verses expenses,
- Identify how you will maintain business records,
- Set goals for business growth, and
- Prove to yourself, to your lenders and investors that your business can work.

"Get a good idea and stay with it. Dog it, and work at it until it's done and done right". - Walt Disney

Contact Your Local Regional Office Youth Transition/
Employment Resource Coordinator For More
Information





Resources:

www.missouribusiness.net

Missouri Business Development Program offers business counseling services to established businesses and to start-up businesses.

This website identifies: (includes free and small fee services)

- MO SBTDC State/Administrative Offices by region,
- Individualized business consultations are available to discuss financial planning, marketing, production, organization,
- Training and Education (On Line courses as well training at facility sites),
- Resource Library (Downloadable information) and additional resources.

www.extension.missouri.edu

See Business and Career section

This Website provides a directory listing of various websites for:

- Business Start Up
- Finance
- Regulation and Taxes
- Marketing and sales

www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed

Provides important tax information related to the various stages of owning a business.

www.chooseworkttw.net

Information on how Social Security will allow you to set aside money to pay for items or services needed to achieve a specific work goal such as starting a business. This site will also address issues such as Ticket to Work, Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS) and Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE).

www.score.org

Service Core of Retired Executives - a valuable network of volunteers who offer small business entrepreneurs confidential business counseling at no charge.

www.vr.dese.mo.gov

Vocational Rehabilitation may assist individuals with disabilities who are eligible for their services in exploring self-employment, assistance with start-up costs and purchasing of equipment based upon financial need.

