

Watauga County Business Resources Directory

Watauga County

[Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce](#)

The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce is a local, voluntary membership organization of businesses whose goal is to further the interests of businesses within the town by advocating on behalf of the business community.

[Boone Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce is a local, voluntary membership organization of businesses whose goal is to further the interests of businesses within the town and county area by advocating on behalf of the business community.

[Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute](#)

The Small Business Center Network comprised of 58 Small Business Centers throughout North Carolina, supports the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by being a community-based provider of training, counseling, and resource information. A Small Business Center is located within 30 minutes of nearly everyone in the state at the local Community College.

[Watauga County Economic Development](#)

The Office of Economic Development exists to offer no-cost information and referrals, specializing in the following:

- Entrepreneur and business startup assistance.
- Customized demographic & economic information
- Assistance with siting
- Permitting troubleshooting
- Financing information
- Workforce training referrals
- Details on local taxes and incentives

[Watauga Green Business Plan](#)

This voluntary, market-driven program encourages businesses to "green" their operations to help protect the environment while growing the local economy.

Regional Business Resources

[AdvantageWest](#)

AdvantageWest Economic Development Group is western North Carolina's regional economic development organization, a nonprofit public-private partnership with the primary focus of marketing the North Carolina mountains to corporations seeking to relocate or open a new facility or expand an existing business within the region.

[Appalachian Enterprise Center](#)

The Appalachian Enterprise Center, located at 130 Poplar Grove Connector in Boone, provides a network of support services for early-stage businesses in the High Country including office space, high-speed Internet access, office equipment, conference rooms, mentoring, and business counseling services.

[ASU Center for Entrepreneurship](#)

While primarily focusing on ASU students, the Center for Entrepreneurship also supports community entrepreneurs through free workshops and special events. In addition, the Center for Entrepreneurship provides a forum for successful entrepreneurs to share their experience and knowledge with students and other entrepreneurs.

[ASU Energy Center](#)

The ASU Energy Center has a wealth of information about renewable energy technology and opportunities and offers short courses in a variety of practical skills including photovoltaic installation, biodiesel production, and microhydro power generation.

[Blue Ridge Entrepreneurial Council](#)

An initiative of the AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, the Blue Ridge Entrepreneurial Council is a nurturing organization for entrepreneurs in Western North Carolina, creating homegrown jobs and growing the region's economy.

[Community College Small Business Centers](#)

All three community colleges serving the High Country—Wilkes, Mayland, and Caldwell—have small business centers that offer free courses on how to start a business, as well as a number of other courses and seminars that target specific business-related issues. Services to Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties are provided through Mayland Community College; services to Alleghany, Ashe, and Wilkes counties are provided through Wilkes Community College; and services to Watauga County are provided through Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute.

[HighCountryBiz.com](#)

This web-based resource links entrepreneurs to regional, state, and national small business service providers appropriate for each business stage: idea, startup, and growth.

[JobLink Career Centers](#)

JobLink Career Centers in each of the seven High Country counties offer employers a single place to access a variety of employment and training services to meet their workforce needs. Employers can take advantage of local area programs and services at no cost to recruit qualified employees who are job ready, to help provide on-the-job training, and to obtain customized training.

[MAY Coalition](#)

Serving Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey counties, the MAY Coalition provides low-interest loans to business owners for the purpose of creating employment opportunities for residents and capital for low- to moderate-income business owners to be used as an investment to enhance the owner's income.

[Mountain Bizworks](#)

As a nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI), Mountain BizWorks supports entrepreneurship that increases the assets of individuals, families and communities in Western North Carolina. Through small-business loans, training and coaching, Mountain BizWorks deploys capital to higher-risk small businesses with the goal of helping entrepreneurs build and strengthen their businesses, stabilize their incomes, create additional employment, and contribute to the economic revitalization of our local communities.

[Region D Development Corporation](#)

The Region D Development Corporation, Inc. is a non-profit economic development group for Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties. Activities of the Corporation focus on assisting eligible small business in developing Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan packages and more recently in serving as the fiduciary in delivering cash incentives to expanding industries locating within the region.

[SCORE](#)

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a national nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth, and success of the nation's small businesses. SCORE provides free professional guidance, information, and support tailored to meet the needs of your business and your personal entrepreneur objectives. SCORE counselors operate locally through the Appalachian Enterprise Center in Boone.

[Small Business and Technology Development Center \(SBTDC\)](#)

The University of North Carolina's business and technology extension service provides management counseling, knowledge, education, and other supportive resources to existing small- and mid-sized businesses, emerging entrepreneurs, and local/state leaders. Most SBTDC services are free of charge, and all SBTDC services are confidential. The local SBTDC office is located at the Appalachian Enterprise Center in Boone.

In addition, the SBTDC has a [three-module webinar series](#) designed for individuals who are thinking about or have begun the process of starting a business. Module 1 will help you assess yourself as a potential business owner and determine the feasibility of your business idea. It also looks at three approaches to going into business—starting a business, buying a franchise, and buying a business. Module 2 will help you with your business plan. Module 3 describes potential funding options. Each session is approximately 30 minutes.

[United States Commercial Service Satellite Office](#)

The U.S. Commercial Service (USCS), a unit within the U.S. Department of Commerce, has partnered with Appalachian State University to establish a satellite office in Boone. USCS representatives are available to meet with companies that are interested in or involved in exporting on the first Friday of every month. Appointments are available all day beginning at 9:30 a.m., and meetings take place in the Boyles Lobby Executive Conference Room on the second floor of ASU's Raley Hall. You can [request an appointment online](#) or call Greg Sizemore at 704-333-4886, ext. 229.

[WAMY Community Action Microloan Program](#)

Serving Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties, WAMY Community Action administers a microenterprise loan program to assist women, minority, low-income

entrepreneurs, and small business owners with the funding and technical assistance they need to start new businesses or help existing small businesses.

State Resources

1B4NC

The Industrial Extension Service of NC State University partners with business and industry to transfer knowledge and technology to help lower costs, improve quality, and shorten lead times. 1B4NC is the name of the IES's mission to help create \$1 billion in economic impact for North Carolina by 2010. Read about business success stories and find out how to obtain the IES's expertise for your firm.

Business Link North Carolina

"Blink"—blnc.gov—provides a network of experts who can help your business succeed. Along with nuts and bolts guides to envisioning and planning a business, collected here are links to resources you may not know about including help with government contracting, information on manufacturing quality initiatives, and industry-specific associations and reports.

Council for Entrepreneurial Development

Headquartered in Research Triangle Park, the Council for Entrepreneurial Development is the oldest and largest entrepreneurial support organization in the nation with more than 5,500 active members. The organization provides know-how, networking, mentoring, and capital formation resources to new and existing high-growth entrepreneurs through annual conferences, programs, and web-based resources. The Council for Entrepreneurial Development has helped entrepreneurs, investors, service partners, researchers, and public policy makers in diverse emerging industries and at all stages of development—from high-tech, production-based organizations to service companies and from one-person startups to 1,000-person businesses.

Green Jobs in North Carolina—2008 Assessment

A good idea sourcebook for entrepreneurs, this report looks at the existing green industry in the state and identifies areas with growth potential.

Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship

The mission of the Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship is to stimulate and support the development of micro-, small-, and medium-size enterprises in North Carolina's 85 rural counties. One of its current programs, launched in partnership with numerous state and federal agencies in response to the recession, is [Project GATE](#), a scholarship program that provides training and coaching to help laid-off workers in rural counties who are interested in starting a business.

MatchForce.org

MatchForce matches North Carolina businesses to government contracts, government purchasers to NC suppliers, and job seekers to NC jobs. Businesses, contracting officers, and job seekers can register, post, search, and receive opportunities.

[Natural Capital Investment Fund](#)

The Western Office of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and its regional partners focus on natural biotechnology—the use of the latest biotechnology tools for the study of natural products.

[NC REAL](#)

North Carolina Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (NC REAL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping bring entrepreneurship and small business creation to North Carolina. Through training programs and curriculum, NC REAL has helped thousands of people create new jobs throughout the state.

[North Carolina Business ServiCenter](#)

The NC Department of Commerce guides entrepreneurs step by step through a startup checklist, identifying necessary business licenses and permits, deciding on a legal structure, and going after capital. Other useful tools include a handy forms library and an FAQ on doing business in North Carolina.

[North Carolina Department of Revenue Business Information](#)

Entrepreneurs and business owners can register online for a tax account ID number, find information on all applicable state taxes, access a number of electronic filing and paying options, and sign up to receive tax updates via email.

[North Carolina Economic Development Intelligence System \(EDIS\)](#)

This powerful statistical, analytical, and mapping tool is designed to aid economic and community development decision making. Use it to compile statistics from state and national data sources and then map the data to specific North Carolina communities and locations.

[North Carolina Green Economy Resource Directory](#)

This directory highlights local, regional, state, and national organizations that provide support, guidance, funding, incentives, and education for North Carolina's green economy. The directory also provides specific examples of green jobs, a green jobs overview, and projections about the future of the green economy.

[North Carolina JobsNOW Portal](#)

This website, developed as part of the state's recovery efforts, is a collection of links to information and resources for starting or growing a business, financing a business, landing government contracts, and relocating to North Carolina.

[North Carolina Military Business Center](#)

The goals of this business development organization are to increase military and federal business for existing North Carolina companies, to integrate transitioning military personnel and family members into the workforce, and to support recruitment and development of defense-related businesses in North Carolina.

[N.C. Rural Development Center](#)

The NC Rural Development Center develops, promotes, and implements sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The Center serves the state's

85 rural counties with a special focus on individuals with low to moderate incomes and communities with limited resources.

[North Carolina Small Business Center Network](#)

The Small Business Center Network, comprised of 58 Small Business Centers located at community colleges throughout North Carolina, supports the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by providing training, counseling, and resource information. This site provides an overview of services, as well as an online form for requesting services from the Small Business Center that serves your community. In the High Country, services to Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties are provided through Mayland Community College; services to Alleghany, Ashe, and Wilkes counties are provided through Wilkes Community College; and services to Watauga County are provided through Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute.

[Qualified Business Tax Credit Program](#)

Administered by the NC Secretary of State, the Qualified Business Tax Credit Program offers investors in certain types of businesses a credit against state tax liability that can be as much as 25 percent of the amount invested. To qualify businesses must be registered with the Securities Division as a Qualified Business Venture, Qualified Grantee Business, or a Qualified Licensee Business. Each type is defined at the site, and contact info is provided for obtaining more information.

[Recycling Business Assistance Center](#)

Whether working with a startup, existing, or relocating recycling business, North Carolina's Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) can help businesses grow by assessing needs and providing direct and indirect assistance through partner agencies. The RBAC offers small grants to North Carolina recycling businesses and provides information on loan programs and tax credits specifically for recycling businesses.

[Self-Help](#)

This economic development lender serves home-buyers, small businesses, and nonprofits, focusing on minorities, women, rural residents, and low-wealth families.

[United States Small Business Office – Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)

Established in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to, the SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

Small Business Resources

Many of the business tools needed by small business have already been developed, and a lot of them are available at no cost. Use these templates and web applications for essential business functions like creating a business plan, managing finances, and projecting profit and loss.

[Business Owners Toolkit](#)

An all-inclusive know-how for small business that includes a small business guide, business tools, podcasts, news, and more.

[Employment Law Information Network](#)

The Employment Law Information Network ("ELIN") is a no charge legal resource web site that is designed for employment lawyers, in-house employment counsel and human resource professionals.

[FastDue.com](#)

This free, secure, online suite of business productivity tools includes invoicing and collections, an easy-to-use tracking and management system, and live, interactive contract negotiation and execution via the web.

[Human Resources Village](#)

Provides a range of work tools, [hr software](#) and other resources to assist multi-national corporations, human resources generalists at mid-sized companies, or owners or managers of small businesses or startup ventures.

[SCORE Small Business Success Podcast Series](#)

Listen instantly to CEOs, business owners, and professionals discuss topics from increasing search engine visibility to estimating expenses for your startup business, to planning in an economic downturn.

[SCORE Template Gallery](#)

SCORE offers templates for a business plan, balance sheet, bank loan request, breakeven analysis, cash flow statement, financial forecast, startup expenses, and profit and loss projections.

[The Freelancer's Toolset: 100 Web Apps](#)

Some are free, some are not, but this collection of online tools for entrepreneurs includes everything from calendars and organizational applications to online storage solutions and legal paperwork.

[United States Department of Labor - Employers](#)

A shortcut to information and services the Department of Labor (DOL) offers employers information on disability resources; federal contracts compliance; grants and contract opportunities; layoff resources; looking for job applicants; mine safety and health; retirement and health benefits; statistical information; training; veterans' employment and training; wages and work hours; workers' compensation; and workplace safety and health.

Angel Funds and Networks in North Carolina

Angels for Moore [Network]

POB 5885

Pinehurst, NC 28374

910.246.0311

<http://www.angelsformoore.org>

The Atlantis Group, LLC [Fund]

2530 Meridian Parkway, 3rd Floor

Durham, NC 27713

919.806.4340

info@TheAtlanticGroup.net

<http://www.TheAtlanticGroup.net>

Blue Ridge Angel Investors Network
(BRAIN)

c/o Advantage West

3 General Aviation Dr.

Fletcher, NC 28732

828.687.7234

<http://www.brainnc.com>

Eastern NC Investor Network (ENCIN)

ECU's Entrepreneurial Initiative

300 East First St.

Willis Building

Greenville, NC 27858

252.737.1345

<http://www.ecu.edu/csacad/>

[rds/ei/index.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/csacad/rds/ei/index.cfm)

Inception Micro Angel Fund (IMAF)

Family of Funds

<http://www.inceptionmicroangelfund.com>

IMAF Triad

1959 N. Peacehaven Rd., Suite 111

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

336.403.1088

<http://www.imaftriad.com>

IMAF West
PO Box 168
Fletcher, NC
828.651.9815
<http://www.imafwestern.com>

IMAF Kannapolis
<http://imafkannapolis.com>

IMAF East
<http://imafeast.com>

Piedmont Angel Network (PAN)
2007 Yanceyville St., Box 69
Greensboro, NC 27405
336.235.0941
<http://www.piedmontangelnetwork.com>

Tri-State Investment Group (TIG)
[Fund]
405 Tramore Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919.968.3760
contact@tignc.com
<http://www.tignc.com>

Triangle Accredited Capital Forum
(TACF) [Network]
Inquiries should be directed to:
chairman@capital-forum.com
<http://www.capital-forum.com>

WED3, Inc. [Network]
1523 Elizabeth Ave, Suite 210
Charlotte, NC 28204
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paul@wed3.org
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