

Small Business Assistance Program

2025

Report

**Port St. Lucie
7/15/25**

The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce
The unified chamber of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and all of St. Lucie County
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Small Business Assistance Program

The Mission: The Small Business Assistance Program of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce helps businesses navigate the regulatory process. Our purpose is to minimize cost, risk and time delays when local business seeks to purchase, build, expand, relocate or repurpose commercial space.

Contact: The first six months of the year have been consistently busy as we often see new starts ups in the first quarter annually. This is expected. We are continuing to see fewer seekers of "schools" and day cares which is promising as we have made a concerted effort to get the word out that physical space for these two ventures is not as easy as one might hope to bring into compliance. We have seen more of an uptick in people seeking commercial space and at our last PSL "Before You Sign the Lease" event all attendees were actually seeking physical space. Our first similar event at the county was quite successful and reminded us that most people are unaware of the jurisdictions they are in, may potentially be in and it very often changes anyway. So this has made it easier to cast a wider net in accessing potential business owners. We had approximately forty-two unique visits with program users this calendar year. We are finding may contacts involve application processes, this includes state, federal and local licensing. We have now requested testimonials, but not surprisingly, few responded but we have included them here.

Types of Businesses: At the beginning of the year we saw a lot of event sector businesses. These types of businesses have struggled historically due to a lack of corporate entities in our area. Non-profits seem to be the main drivers of events in St. Lucie County. In the second quarter we have seen an uptick in businesses selling goods. Whether it foods, home-made products and even a couple of small markets.

Insights: We have seen so few missteps now that our outreach has become more aggressive. The clientele seems to have gotten smarter about knowing there will be a process to opening commercial space and fewer attempt to do it without seeking some outside advices or help whether its with the jurisdiction itself or with a group or agency such as ours.

Outreach: We are now doing the "Before You Sign The Lease" workshop in both the City of PSL and St. Lucie County. We had a good turn out of about 10 attendees at our first county workshop. Our second workshop is scheduled for August and marketing has already begun. The good news about outreach at multiple jurisdiction as noted above, most think they may be in one and find out they are in another but we are covering them both.

Additionally, we continue to outreach to realtors through our quarterly Community 101 program. Attendees at this class typically specialize in residential real estate which is the point

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as we are trying to reach those who may occasionally work in commercial real estate rather than those who specialize in it. We are also hoping to educate these realtors on the importance in referring potential commercial clients they may come in contact with to us.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Previously Included) It is important to note, as part of this program, the Chamber procures the services of the Size-Up program at the cost of \$5000.00 per year. This program provides services to prospective businesses in the form of location identification, procurement services, advertising opportunities, competitor information, expected wages and much more. The cost for this service comes directly out of the chamber's budget for these programs. Going forward, we will be looking to identify more unique ways in which we can assist small businesses. We feel the Size-up program information is duplicative in many ways and is rarely used by our clientele.

We have identified a couple of ways in which we feel the \$5000.00 may be of better use to the small businesses of St. Lucie County.

Primarily, we would like to establish a data base of certificate of occupancies or business tax receipts for all known commercial spaces in operation for the entire county. This would allow us to help small business identify optimal space or the obstacles to potential spaces without burdening staff in any jurisdiction. The knowledge of the use of record could be a potential cost savor to all parties resulting in millions of dollars a year.

Additionally, if we could secure additional funds and bring in our partners from all jurisdictions, we would like to establish some fillable forms that would be acceptable and easy to understand for some processes. Some items executed by contractors, architects or engineers may be templated for their convenience and assisted with by my staff. This would require development and most of all acceptance and a partnership/relationship with professionals that would carry a cost. However, it would be a service that would be well worth the investment for small business in St. Lucie County.

UPDATE: We have been given some tools to access the information necessary to identify what a commercial space may have been last legitimately used for and this is helping tremendously.

NEXT: We would like to be able to access the last filed Life Safety plan for each location.

Clients Served 2024-25

Date	Name	INFO - Business Name	LOCATIONS	Inquiries
1/8/2025	Sergio St. Hill	Del-Taco	PSL	Issues with Bldg Permits
1/29/2025	Sean Combs	Management Choose Scribe	PSL	Fee waivers, planning for recovery from delinquent tax status
1/29/2025	Carl Flick	Treasure Coast Naturists	PSL	questions about a company for hiring contractor labor
1/29/2025	Sophia Poleon	Sophia's Touch Enterprise LLC	PSL	Business questions
1/29/2025	Machelle Joseph & Randall Catrelle	A&P school at the Treasure Coast Airpor	FT Pierce	about an A&P school at the Treasure Coast Airport
1/30/2025	Steven Fisher & Kim Sann	Asian Market	PSL	question on how to go about purchasing, what they need to do – want direction
2/3/2025	Tiffany Trim	Tenet Hospital	PSL	
2/3/2025	Tom Gervais		PSL	– wanting to know about tax money paid in to a company
2/3/2025	Ambar Zetune	Air and Petals		Filing for a Business Tax Receipt
2/3/2025	Jeff Biegun	WSPL/WSTU	PSL	
2/4/2025	Daniel Blue	Home base instruction	PSL	Helping with business tax license
2/4/2025	Jeff Oneal		PSL	St Lucie County/ Business Plan
2/5/2025	Sean Combs	Scribe, LLC	PSL	need help writing a business plan : getting help becoming compliant
2/17/2025	Agnes Ogletree	Hampton Inn	PSL	New to the area
2/20/2025	Elaine Bankston	Painter	FT Pierce	
2/25/2025	Lucinda Lopez	Green Market	PSL	
2/26/2025	Cheryl Zuczek	Veranda Gardens Social Committee	PSL	Wanting a speaker for their meeting
3/10/2025	Dieulanie Claude	SBA	FT Pierce	
3/11/2025	Ryan Albertson	Starting a business	PSL	Starting a business independent medical courier
3/17/2025	Brenda Bertog	– software development	SLC	– Start up business – software development
3/17/2025	Earnest Sparks	Welding	PSL	How to do bids how to get contracts
3/17/2025	JT Buamgardner	Crepe Place	PSL	Consolidating businesses
3/24/2025	Misty Nordone	The Midnight Dreary Shop	PSL	Asking about permits for a small craft fair

Clients Served 2024-25

3/25/2025	Stephanie Paul	Various CNA/Events/Courier	FT Pierce	Questions about starting a business in Fort Pierce – Restaurant/Mobile Bar
4/7/2025	Jeffrey Grant	Bakery/Restaurantish/Lifesafety Plan	PSL	
4/14/2025	James Amps	AMPS International LLC	St Lucie County	
4/14/2025	April King	Coke	St. Lucie County	Drive way repair
4/15/2025	Mayte Santa	Coke	St. Lucie County	Drive way repair
4/16/2025	April King	Coke	St. Lucie County	Drive way repair
4/16/2025	Rich Kolleda	Spherion	PSL	Business Tax
4/14/2025	Donovan Amritt	Mohnark Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	St Lucie County/ Fort Pierce	relocating our Over the Counter drug company from Broward County to the city of Fort Pierce
4/16/2025	Aaron Penny/Brent Beal	Lumos Fiber	St Luice County	Fiber Optic Internest Co
5/7/2025	Lydia Rivera	Virtual small business	St Lucie County	Looking at virtual assistance for small business – St Lucie County - has website up Freedomdaisychain.com
5/7/2025	Jason Ashworth	Opening a restaurant	PSL	in Towne center west
5/12/2025	Kara Stimpson	CEO Helping People Succeed	St. Lucie County	Looking to grow our presence, services and awareness in St Lucie County
5/14/2025	Chris Goodnow	Sunbiz and Tax Receipt	N/A	Looking to set up an LLC or S Corp
5/19/2025	Beatrice Otero	Business skin care products	PSL	Business skin care products – out of home
5/30/2025	Rose Marei Galette	Assistance with LLC and Sunbiz	N/A	Looking for help setting up an LLC
6/10/2025	Nicholas Scalice	New Business	PSL	Questions about setting up an additional business
6/13/2025	Anna Kapustina	New Business	St Lucie County	opening a small business thinking an art classes after school Licensing- insurance liabilities – certified any waivers
6/10/2025	Rebecca Raymond	New Business	PSL	2163 Settle Ave automotive repair
6/23/2025	Rhonda Daniels	Licenses questions	PSL	Wanting information on CAM Lisesences
6/23/2025	Ximena Music	Permit questions	PSL	Opening Humus Republic Franchise

New Members 2024-25

A Better Solution Insurance Services	Fort Pierce
About It All Roofing And Construction	Port St. Lucie
Abov Productions	Port St. Lucie
Acme Security Team LLC	Port St. Lucie
Acton Academy Port St. Lucie	Port St. Lucie
Advocates for the Right of the Challenged of the Treasure Co	Stuart
All Florida Security Services Inc.	Port St. Lucie
American Cargo Lines, Inc.	Port St. Lucie
American Hardwood Furniture & Design	Port St. Lucie
APEX Restoration and Property Services, INC	Fort Pierce
Appliance Repair American	Stuart
Ashley Lauren Salon Inc	Port St. Lucie
Bahamian Thang	Port St. Lucie
Bayshore Smoke and Vape	Port St. Lucie
Berry Forkin' Good	Port St. Lucie
Berry Fresh Cafe	Port St. Lucie
BlueBird Bistro, LLC.	Fort Pierce
Bootlegger Event Services, LLC	Port St. Lucie
Cheney Brothers Inc	Port St. Lucie
Chickadee Services LLC	Port St. Lucie
Chick-Fil-A	Fort Pierce
Chick-Fil-A St. Lucie West	Port St. Lucie
Clean Space Pressure Washing and Window Cleaning	Port St. Lucie
CoAdvantage	Jupiter
Creative Horizons LLC	Port St. Lucie
Dale Arepa Bar & Healthy Bistro	Port St. Lucie
Direct Auto	Fort Pierce
District Planning Group	Fort Pierce
DRYmedic Restoration Services	Port St. Lucie
Dura Guard Roofing LLC	Stuart
Earnworthy, LLC	Port St. Lucie
Edens Promise LLC	Port St. Lucie
Evan Nine Entertainment	Port St. Lucie
EZETech	Port St. Lucie
Florida House of Representatives District 85	Stuart
Florida Mortgage & Loan	Port St. Lucie
Freedom Boat Club of Port St. Lucie	Fort Pierce
Gerber Collision & Glass	Hogansville
Goosehead Insurance - The Heitman Agency	Fort Pierce
Humane Society of St. Lucie County Thrift Store	Port St. Lucie
Illuminate Health Services, LLC	Port St. Lucie
Kona Ice of White City	Port St. Lucie
LF Staffing	Port St. Lucie
Light House for the Blind of the Palm Beach	West Palm Beach
Little Birthday Angels	Vero Beach

New Members 2024-25

Little Smiles	Palm Beach Gardens
Live Markets & Events LLC	Port St. Lucie
Luxurious Floors Plus	Port St. Lucie
Moving In Action LLC	Port St. Lucie
Nozzle Nolen Pest Solutions	Port St. Lucie
Pepe's Cantina	Port St. Lucie
Petsense by Tractor Supply	Fort Pierce
Renovatio Learning & Development	Stuart
Research Specialists, LLC	Port St. Lucie
Rolling Oaks Cemetery & Cremation Garden	Port St. Lucie
Royals O.K. Lunch, Inc.	Belle Glade
Safe Clean Experts	Port St. Lucie
Sam's Club #8150	Port St. Lucie
Sindy Alcime, LLC - Realtor	Port St. Lucie
SLD Retail LLC	Fort Pierce, FL
Solar Solutions Window Tinting, LLC	Vero Beach
South Florida Mobile Auto Repair LLC	Port St. Lucie
South Florida Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine	Port St. Lucie
St Lucie County Human Resources Association	Fort Pierce
St. Lucie County Tax Collector	Fort Pierce
Taco Rico of PSL LLC	Port St. Lucie
TC Events Venue	Port St. Lucie
That Crepe Place	Port St. Lucie
The Dog Stop	Stuart
The House of Orchids and More	Port St. Lucie
The Lynmoore at Lawnwood	Fort Pierce
Total Real Estate Consultants	Port St. Lucie
Town & Country Industries	Fort Pierce
Tradition Preparatory High School	Port St. Lucie
Tutu School St. Lucie West	Port St. Lucie
Twins Car Wash	Roswell
Walsh Roofing, Inc.	Palm City
Water Babies Swim Lessons LLC	Port St. Lucie

New Members 2024-25 cont'd

LF Staffing	Port St. Lucie
Light House for the Blind of the Palm Beach	West Palm Beach
Live Markets & Events LLC	Port St Lucie
Mattamy Homes	Boynton Beach
Nate Reighard Insurance Agency Inc. (State Farm)	Fort Pierce
Nozzle Nolen Pest Solutions	Port St Lucie
Patricia Garcia King, Realtor	Port St :Lucie
Pepe's Cantina	Port St Lucie
Premier Security	Port St Lucie
Pulcinella Pizza & Italian Market	Port St Lucie
Quantum Floors	Boca Raton
Remnant Construction	Fort Pierce
Ridgecap Roofing	Fort Pierce
Romina Massa - Digital Marketing	Port St. Lucie
SaludVIPcare	Tampa
Sam's Club #8150	Port St. Lucie
SE Logo Wear, Inc	Port St Lucie
SLD Retail LLC	Fort Pierce, FL
Solar Solutions Window Tinting, LLC	Vero Beach
St. Lucie Audubon Society	Port St Lucie
Stuart Lacrosse	Stuart
Sunland & Co	Port St Lucie
Sunrise Country Preschool	Port St Luce
TC Events Venue	Port St. Lucie
That Crepe Place	Port St. Lucie
The Dog Stop	Stuart
The One Blue Enterprises	Port St Lucie
The Toddler's Club Preschool	Port St Lucie
Total Real Estate Consultants	Port St. Lucie
Town & Country Industries	Fort Pierce
TreasureCoast.Com	Port St. Lucie
Tutu School St. Lucie West	Port St Lucie
Twins Car Wash	Roswell
United Water Restoration Group Of Port St. Lucie	Port St Lucie
Water Babies Swim Lessons LLC	Port St. Lucie
Yvennette Servius State Farm Agent	Fort Pierce

Testimonials

Teresa Gervais

beartodreamcrochet@hotmail.com

Submission Date

Mar 19, 2025 2:30 PM

Where is the location of your business?

City of Port St. Lucie

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

We needed assistance with paying the quarterly tax

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

Being a first time small business owner we didn't fully understand the intricacies of all the paperwork we needed to follow. Thankfully we were able to get assistance through the chamber of commerce

Business Name

Bear to dream crochet

Name

Teresa Gervais

Email

beartodreamcrochet@hotmail.com

Phone Number

(772) 204-1216

Testimonials

Ryan Albertson

rduggie88@gmail.com

Submission Date

Mar 19, 2025 4:52 PM

Where is the location of your business?

City of Fort Pierce

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

Independent, Medical delivery service

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

Went in, not knowing anything or what to expect being a first business owner and was helped and explained very politely the course actions needed to be taken

Business Name

4u medical delivery llc

Name

Ryan Albertson

Email

rduggie88@gmail.com

Phone Number

(765) 938-9015

Testimonials

Ernest Sparks

sparksweldingllc12@gmail.com

Submission Date

Mar 21, 2025 11:17 PM

Where is the location of your business?

Palm City

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

looking for help getting into bidding and contracts

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

No

Business Name

Sparks Welding LLC

Name

Ernest Sparks

Email

sparksweldingllc12@gmail.com

Phone Number

(706) 351-3199

Testimonials

April King

aprilking@cocacolaflorida.com

Submission Date

Apr 16, 2025 10:19 AM

Where is the location of your business?

St. Lucie County

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

Coca cola facility was resurfacing our facility grounds and permit was approved in September, we were 80% complete and an engineer stopped to say that we have to reduce the width of our driveway which can't be done to conduct business nor was it disclosed.

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

Terissa is extremely knowledgeable about the processes and was able to connect me immediately to be able to come to a resolution. I appreciate her knowledge and her sense of urgency by reacting right away.

Business Name

Coca Cola Beverages Florida

Name

April King

Email

aprilking@cocacolaflorida.com

Phone Number

(863) 801-3450

Testimonials

Jason Ashworth

parlor.treasurecoadt@gmail.com

Submission Date

May 7, 2025 11:49 AM

Where is the location of your business?

City of Port St. Lucie

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

Parlor Doughnuts. A gourmet doughnut and coffee shop. We contacted the Chamber to introduce ourselves, learn more about the St Lucie County Chamber and check Compliances to open a business.

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

We had a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce president CEO. She was very helpful, she was transparent, gave us advice and steered us in the direction we were hoping for in order to get permits and our certificate of occupancy. Our conversation with her was very helpful and gave us assurance that we had all of our compliances in place.

Business Name

Parlor Doughnuts

Name

Jason Ashworth

Email

parlor.treasurecoadt@gmail.com

Phone Number

(812) 598-0900

Testimonials

Lydia Rivera

Lydia@freedomdaisychain.com

Submission Date

May 7, 2025 11:51 AM

Where is the location of your business?

City of Port St. Lucie

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

Administrative Services, Virtual Assistant

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

Terissa was very helpful. Answered my questions and guided starting my business.

Business Name

Freedom Daisy Chain, LLC

Name

Lydia Rivera

Email

Lydia@freedomdaisychain.com

Phone Number

(772) 212-1608

Testimonials

Beatrice Otero

beame123@yahoo.com

Submission Date

May 19, 2025 3:33 PM

Where is the location of your business?

City of Port St. Lucie

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

I'm planning to sell handmade, all natural bath & body products and reached out to see about any applicable FDA laws on describing my products to the public.

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

No

Business Name

BeaHappy Soap Co

Name

Beatrice Otero

Email

beame123@yahoo.com

Phone Number

(516) 587-3886

Testimonials

Anna K

Submission Date

Jun 13, 2025 12:56 PM

Where is the location of your business?

St. Lucie County

Briefly describe your business and the reason for contacting us

opening a kids entertainment program

Would you say your contact was helpful?

Yes

Would you be willing to leave a short testimonial?

Yes

What do you want to say in your testimonial?

Extremely helpful and informative consultation! Thank you very much!

Name