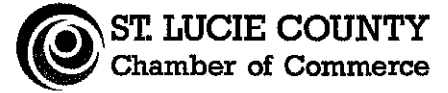


The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce  
The unified Chamber of all of St. Lucie County.



# **Small Business Assistance Program**

## **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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Fort Pierce, FL 34947  
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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 chamber has had contact with over a hundred documented, potential and current business owners since the inception of this program. Since January 2023 the chamber has had contact with 45 end users of the SBAP services. This is an average of 9 formal inquiries a month. A respectable average given the in-operation caused by the entire Chamber operations location change. It is noteworthy that since the SBAP permanent location moved to Rhode Island, we have seen an uptick in walk-in traffic and are averaging 11 contacts per month. In addition to these formal contact notations there have been many staff contacts at our events, community events and at the community speaking engagements of the President with out proper notation.

**Types of Businesses:** subject to the inquiries have included dump truck services, smoke shop, plant retailer, hair braiding, cycle boats, car dealers, welding, lawns care, café, gun shop, pressure washing, plant sales, product lines and luxury jet skis and just about everything else you can think of.

**Inquiry Subjects:** licensing, allowable uses, locations, advertising, tax receipt requirements, business plans, marketing plans, permitting, build-out recommendations, lots of funding questions and many times we get questions on current issues with their process because we weren't contacted first.

**Insights:** We have helped applicants complete their business tax receipt forms and received referrals from many different departments with the local government. This has proven to be the best point at which to eliminate common errors that can waylay a project. Getting to these contacts before any formal regulatory applications have been made is still proving to be the most effect method for streamlining the process.

We are no featured on local websites, with in-office brochures and continue with Social Media. Our best method is through local government agencies and word-of-mouth

Facebook advertisements have proven to be helpful in awareness of the program, But, the inquiries are often not applicable to the program as the extended explanation of the offerings are not viewed. This also tends to generate more requests for financial assistance.



Date	Name	Idea	Type	Contact
5/30/2023	Ann Marie	Homemaker/Companion service	leasing	aby8135@gmail.com
5/26/2023	Shelia Wise	Sheila Wise, tutoring not	Phone/In	St. James
5/25/2023	Erika Johnson	Owner of a cleaning business who wants to move the company to SLC. Also has an online boutique she'd like help with.	In office	
5/24/2023	Romanoff	Luxury Jets skis	In office	
5/24/2023	Racquel Gil	Looking for information on how to start a business.		
5/24/2023	Lisa Borga	seeking information on available resources for advertismment. Doesn't want print media. She owns a training facility.	Phone	
5/23/2023	Daryl Murphy	Food Truck	Phone	
5/23/2023	Sin Copeland	Looking for more inforamtion on expansion opportunities	Phone	
5/22/2023	Cliff Gray	Medical testing, location for office/treatment	In office	
5/22/2023	melissakyr@live.com	Client asked questions about the various business tax receipts in St. Lucie County and wanted information on the county and cities that reside in the county. I discussed them with her and sent her information on each one and explained how to obtain them.	phone	
5/22/2023	heenal84@gmail.com	Client wants to start a dump truck business and was told to call the Chamber for referral. He was referred to the SBDC for information on starting a business in STL.	Phone	
5/18/2023	Rachel Shoudt	Trucking, looking for funding	In office	kshoudt@hotmail.com
5/18/2023	Cliff Gray	Medical testing	Phone	
5/15/2023	Erin	Non-profit startup	Phone	772-208-7917
5/8/2023	Louise	Nationwide taxtrying to Purchase residential lots for business.	Phone	
5/8/2023	Bob Perry	Consultants, moving looking for space	Phone	
5/4/2023	Alise Mann	Food Truck	licensing	
4/30/2023	Linda	Kloorfains, custom products	In office	
4/26/2023	Missy	Client is starting a pressure washing business and wanted information and to talk about expansion and advert.	In office	
4/24/2023	Trece Johnson	Extensions by TreceJ, start up	In office	trecejohnson89@gmail.com
4/1/2023	Sandee Allen	Philanthropic LUWW	In office	
3/21/2023	Ravi	Client wanted information on getting a food license for food truck.	In person	
3/20/2023	Ariel Pettigrew	Starting up	Phone	aripettigi@aol.com
3/16/2023	Carline Lynch	Daycare center, some zoning assistance	Phone	lynchcarline@gmail.com
3/8/2023		Client was told to call us about sunbiz issue. Helped her find the phone numbers to speak with them directly about document issue.	Phone	
3/7/2023	mannie@waggyresort.com	would like for someone to contact me in regards to a business we are trying to start but are getting now help what so ever from Commercial Realtors.	Phone	
3/7/2023	Marlena1525@aol.com	Good Morning. We have recently relocated to beautiful Port St. Lucie and are starting up a Pressure Washing Business. We are licensed and insured and need direction in the form of marketing for our brand new business. Any information in target markets, demographics and advertising will help	Phone	



3/3/2023		Client would like to open a retail store in down town fort pierce - we will help once a spcae is identified but went over zoning in that area, wanted assistance finding location, redirected to other resources available.	Phone	
3/1/2023	Jim Dunn	Client called because he has a Used Car Dealer Liscense and needs assistance finding the proper zoning	Phone	
2/28/2023	Jennifer	Client is starting a nonprofit and needs lots of wrap around care for everything. Sent resources.		
2/25/2023		Client inquires about permitting obligations for rental business.	Phone	
2/25/2023		Client wanted information on grant and loans for small buisnesses.	Phone	
2/25/2023		Client wants to create a small buisness in Fort Pierce. Wanted help with start up funds and business plans.	Phone	
2/23/2023		Client needs help with business tax license and explination of subiz	Phone	
2/23/2023		Client looking to start a cycle boat business that is in the down town area.	Pne	
2/21/2023		Client left message asking for inforamtion on properties. Left message with him with my email to send over addresses he is interested in.	Phone	
2/17/2023		Client wanted information on demographics - talked through SizeUp Application		
2/17/2023	<a href="mailto:leafgreen34@gmail.com">leafgreen34@gmail.com</a>	Client wanted to know about avilable grants and servives. Went over partners and made suggestions to get started	In-person	
2/17/2023		Client was told that we had grants - redirected to free services in St. Lucie.	Phone	
2/16/2023	<a href="mailto:itslitsmokeshopfl@gmail.com">itslitsmokeshopfl@gmail.com</a>	Client called because someone refered him. He already has a business and is looking for more resources. We went over the avilable resources and discussed his ideas. I sent an email and he will follow up with more specific questions soon	Phone	
2/14/2023	Rebecca Proenza	Production Company, licensing	Phone	<a href="mailto:rebeccaproenza@gmail.com">rebeccaproenza@gmail.com</a>
1/20/2023	David Castro	Time for Freedom, Inc.starting	Phone	<a href="mailto:david@TFF.Biz">david@TFF.Biz</a>
1/6/2023	Crystal L.	Client has a daycare at home and wants to expand but needs help local, state etc on how to do it	Phone	
1/5/2023	Ashley Torre	Daycare center, looking for mentor, referred to ELC	Both	<a href="mailto:ashleytorre@gmail.com">ashleytorre@gmail.com</a>