

WOMEN'S BUSINESS MONTH

Celebrating & Advancing Illinois Women-Owned Businesses

Guide to Business Resources for Illinois Women-Owned Businesses – Future Women Entrepreneurs – Aspiring Female Founders as of Oct. 2023

Powered by the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois-Based Business Resources & Entrepreneurial Directories/Guides/Hubs

Below are a few Illinois-based guides/directories/hubs featuring a wide range of business resources for Illinois women-owned businesses at all stages, future women entrepreneurs, and aspiring female founders. The below listed organizations and resources are not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products, or services of any the below entities.

- Powered by the [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#)
 - **State of Illinois Government's Business Resources Guide**
(includes DCEO & different state agencies & offices) : [link](#)
 - **Federal & Local Governments' Business Resources Guide**
(includes the largest cities and counties in Illinois along with contractor/vendor opportunities): [link](#)
 - **Financial Capital Resources Guide:** [link](#)
 - **Social Capital Resources Guide**
(mentees, mentors, and networking opportunities): [link](#)
 - **Cross-Sector Upcoming Events & Programs for Illinois Women-Owned Businesses – Future Women Entrepreneurs – Aspiring Female Founders** | [link](#)
 - **OMEE Business Library** | [link](#)

- **Women’s Entrepreneurship Hub** | [link](#)
(statewide with a focus on Black & Latinx women entrepreneurs & women in low-wage roles who are interested in starting a business, which is powered by [Women Employed](#))
 - [upcoming events](#)
- **Founders Resource Hub** | [link](#)
(Chicago regional hub with a focus on underrepresented tech founders, which is powered by [P33-Techrise](#))
 - [upcoming events](#)
- **The ISTC Services & Resources Directory** | [link](#)
(statewide & powered by the [Illinois Science & Technology Coalition “ISTC”](#))
- **Regional business resources throughout Illinois** | [link](#)
(the above link features the largest cities and counties in Illinois which also includes contractor and vendor opportunities)
 - ChiBizHub is a centralize business resource hub for Chicago area businesses which is powered by [Allies for Community Business \(A4CB\)](#). | [link](#)

Additional Resources for Women-Owned Businesses

Human Capital Resources *(staffing needs & job opportunities)*

- **Virtual event: Finding a Co-Founder and Understanding Equity Splits** | [link](#)
 - the **10/31/23** virtual presentation from 12:00-1:00 p.m. is hosted by the [Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the University of Chicago](#)
- **Illinois Biz Hub** | [link](#)
- **1871 (Chicago area)** | [link](#)
- **Built In** *(national, which includes [Built In Chicago](#))* | [link](#)
 - As an online community for national startups and tech companies which includes job opportunities, tech news, and upcoming events, Built In was founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Maria Christopoulos Katris.
- **Founder Institute Chicago** | [link](#)
 - features information regarding co-founders

- **MuniTask (Chicago area) | [link](#)**
 - As MuniTask is building the nation's #1 seasonal job marketplace recruitment and retention platform, the platform also features community resources. MuniTask was founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Sara Agate.
- **NextGroup (Evanston & surrounding areas) | [link](#)**
 - NextGroup empowers Evanston area women shifting careers or re-entering the workplace to reimagine their professional lives while they provide employers with access to hard-to-reach and valuable talent for their business needs. NextGroup was co-founded by four Illinois women entrepreneurs for women.
- **The Mom Project (national) | [link](#)**
 - As a digital talent marketplace and community that connects professionally accomplished women with world-class companies, The Mom Project is powering the future of work, one mom at a time. The Mom Project was founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Allison Robinson for moms.
- **The Research Park at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | [link](#)**
 - The Research Park at the University of Illinois is a leading innovation hub for technology commercialization with a unique environment that cultivates startups and increases capabilities for established companies. In addition to job opportunities including internships, Research Park offers a full range of programs and services.
- **Y Combinator (national) | [link](#)**
 - [includes co-founder matching & job postings](#)

Legal Clinics & Resources

- **Community Enterprise & Solidarity Economy Clinic (Chicago, UIC Law School) | [link](#)**
 - represents worker-owned cooperative business, non-profit, or small business that operate for the benefit of an underserved community
- **Innovation Clinic (Chicago, University of Chicago Law School) | [link](#)**
- **IP Patent Clinic (Chicago, UIC Law School) | [link](#)**
- **IP Trademark Clinic (Chicago, UIC Law School) | [link](#)**
- **Legal Resources | [link](#)**
 - presented by the [Innovation and New Ventures Office at Northwestern University](#)
- **Legal Aid Chicago | [link](#)**
 - [small business management & copyrights, patents or other intellectual property resources](#)

Tax Assistance Program (TAP) for Lower Income City of Chicago Residents

- TAP presented by the City of Chicago and its non-profit partner, Ladder Up | [link](#)
 - For residents who own their own business, please read the full list complete ineligibility list by [clicking here](#).

Child Care Assistance and Education Support

- Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) | [link](#)
- Abundance Setting (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
 - With serving mothers in the culinary & hospitality industry, Abundance Setting was co-founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Chef Beverly Kim & her husband Chef Johnny Clark. Site includes resources for working mothers
- Sittercity (*national*) | [link](#)
 - As one of the largest online sources for child care, pet care, senior care, housesitting, housekeeping and tutoring, Sittercity was founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Genevieve Thiers.
- TeacherCare (*national*) | [link](#)
 - As a nationwide agency providing world-class education and childcare that helps families and organizations find highly qualified teachers and nannies, TeacherCare was founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Terri Brax who also co-founded [Women Tech Founders](#).
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Child Care Assistance Program (*DuPage, Kane, and Lake counties*) | [link](#)
 - helps income-eligible parents in the counties of DuPage, Kane, & Lake pay for child care while they work or go to school
- YWCA Northwestern Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (*Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties*) | [link](#)
 - helps income-eligible parents in the counties of Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson and Jo Daviess pay for child care while they work or go to school

Senior Care Assistance and Support

- **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Home Services Agency Directory** | [link](#)
 - [information about home health agencies](#)
- **BrightStar Care (national)** | [link](#)
 - Providing a wide range of care and services to families and businesses across the country, BrightStar Care was co-founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Shelly Sun.
- **Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers** | [link](#)
- **Illinois Homecare & Hospice Council's Directory** | [link](#)

Fundraising for Individuals and Organizations / Philanthropy

- **GoFundMe** | [link](#)
 - As a community-powered fundraising platform to fundraise for what individuals care about, the GiveForward fundraising platform is also part of the GoFundMe platform. GiveForward which was co-founded by Illinois woman entrepreneur Desiree Vargas Wrigley, was the world's first crowdfunding website dedicated to fundraising for medical expenses.

Please contact us anytime if you're looking for a different business resource. We're here to support and advance Illinois women-owned businesses, future women entrepreneurs, and aspiring female founders throughout the state!

Women's Business Month 2023 Committee:

- **[Michelle Lura White](#)**: Women's Business Development Manager (Illinois' liaison to women-owned businesses and future women entrepreneurs), Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at DCEO |
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- **Team OMEE** from the [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - [Click here](#) to connect with Team OMEE.



Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

Serving marginalized communities including minority, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran owned businesses.

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- **Team RED** from the [Regional Economic Development \(RED\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - Team RED is located throughout Illinois. [Click here](#) to connect with Team RED.
 - To view upcoming events hosted by Team RED, [click here](#).
- **The Illinois Small Business Development Center (IL SBDC) Network**
 - As Illinois Small Business Development Centers (IL SBDCs) are located throughout Illinois in which they offer at no-cost, confidential 1:1 business advising, [click here](#) to get connected with an IL SBDC near you.
 - To attend upcoming Illinois Small Business Development Centers, Illinois APEX Accelerators (formerly PTAC), and the Illinois SBDC International Trade Centers' (ITC) events, [click here](#).

- **Team OTI** from the [Office of Trade & Investment \(OTI\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - Team OTI is located both in Illinois and abroad. [Click here](#) to connect with Team OTI.
 - To attend upcoming OTI events, [click here](#).
- **Community Navigators**
 - Community Navigators are located throughout Illinois. [Click here](#) to find a Community Navigator near you.

Scan below to access this Guide to IL Business Resources for IL Women-Owned Businesses – IL Future Women Entrepreneurs – IL Aspiring Female Founders on the Illinois’ Women’s Business Month 2023 webpage on your phone or tablet:

