

HORIZON COUNCIL

The Lee County Horizon Council is a 62-member, public-private board that advises Lee County Commissioners on economic issues. It works to improve Lee County's business environment, retain and encourage expansion of existing businesses and attract new and diversified employment.

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Many owners of small businesses have specific legal, financial and insurance questions that go unanswered, and not just at start-up or time of expansion. Day-to-day operations of a small to medium-sized business encounter many challenges. This is why the Small Business Development Centers at Universities around the state have joined together to sponsor the Small Business Resource Network.

Designed especially for the small business person, the Network answers basic questions and is easy to use. This Directory is your guide to frequently accessed regulatory agencies and relevant not-for-profit organizations as well as professionals who have expertise with small businesses. These groups have been brought together to streamline the process of finding and utilizing professional resources. These participating, qualified professionals are experts in banking, law, accounting, insurance, commercial real estate, consulting engineering, general contracting, interior design/space planning, and management issues relevant to small businesses.

Successful business owners plan and prepare for growth and expansion. Growth can affect all aspects of your business: accounting and finance, banking and funding, business development, communications and computer systems, customer relations, human resources, insurance, legal, machinery and equipment, marketing, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and facility requirements, and more.

The qualified professionals affiliated with the Small Business Resource located on university campuses around the state are experts qualified by their peers in technology, banking and finance, law, accounting, insurance, commercial real estate, engineering, general contracting, interior design/space planning, and management issues relevant to small businesses. They want to help you, the small business owner, manage growth and expansion.

The Small Business Resource Network (SBRN) is a public-private partnership of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network and member firms that serve small businesses. SBRN is a free information clearing-house to connect small business owners with government and non-profit agencies, and the fee-for-service professional expertise they need to achieve their business goals.

The SBRN has also created the Business Continuity and Risk Management Program to help business owners prepare for hurricanes and other disasters. The program assists in recovery efforts by providing information regarding business continuity planning, mitigation and recovery options; and links to those professionals and organizations that assist with all levels of disaster preparation and/or recovery.

In Florida, most people equate a disaster with a hurricane. While hurricanes can and do create huge disasters for business owners, there are a number of other events that can be disastrous to a business as well—theft, fire, water damage, just to name a few. With pre-planning, small business owners can lessen the hardship of re-establishing their businesses after a disaster strikes. SBRN members can inform business owners on how to protect business assets and processes and how to establish a plan to assist employees in re-connecting with their companies.

For more information on the Small Business Resource Network visit www.sbrn.org.

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