

HOW TO DO BUSINESS IN

BLISS IDAHO

DETAILED STEPS FOR STARTING
OR EXPANDING YOUR BUSINESS
WITH REAL SUCCESS STORIES



**SOUTHERN IDAHO:
SUCCESS STARTS HERE**

[SOUTHERNIDAHO.ORG](https://www.southernidaho.org)

YOUR GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS IN BLISS

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WHY BLISS?

Bliss used to be a booming town with US Hwy 30 going right through town as people traveled through South Central Idaho. Over 40 years ago, I-84 was built and it diverted traffic from the community, causing Bliss to be a sleepy community where everyone knew one another.

Now, Bliss is booming once again and is in a great position for business recruitment. The community has upgraded water and sewer, new broadband towers for fast internet, and Love's Truck Stop built one of the largest truck stops in the Pacific NW in Bliss. Local businesses are thriving with the increased traffic.

The town is only 12 miles from the city of Gooding and 8 miles from the Gooding Municipal Airport which serves private airplanes. The rail goes right through town and the city boasts easy access to I-84 and the HWY 30 Scenic Byway. Bliss is in the middle of a recreation mecca, has a low tax base, and is ideal for business startups or owners looking to relocate.

WHERE DO YOU START?

Starting a business can be frustrating and can often leave you wondering where to even begin. In the following pages, we'll outline everything you need to know to get started. And, of course, if you have questions along the way, our team is here to connect you to the answers you need.



PERMITS, LICENSES, ORDINANCES AND MORE

PERMITS

Receiving permits to start your business is a key step in the process. You'll need to reach out to the local city office to find out what local, state, or federal guidelines you will need to follow, what forms to fill out, and where and how your business can set up shop.

When it's time to get permits ready, contact the city of Bliss: [208-352-1117](tel:208-352-1117)

ORDINANCES

Understanding local ordinances is highly recommended, since they regulate a large portion of business activity (i.e. noise, snow removal, pet restrictions, and building and zoning regulations, etc.).

Call the city to understand its ordinances and how they affect your business: [208-352-1117](tel:208-352-1117)

PLANNING & ZONING

Knowing where your business can operate and what rules that property must follow is another essential part of getting your business off the ground. You will often need to meet with the city's P&Z committee to receive approval for using a specific property or area.

For a Bliss P&Z map or to coordinate a meeting, call: [208-352-1117](tel:208-352-1117)

FORMS, FORMS & MORE FORMS

There are many forms to fill out, but luckily, the Idaho Secretary of State's website makes it easy. At the link below, you'll find forms to incorporate a business, register your business name or trademark, notary information, and more specifically in the state of Idaho:

sos.idaho.gov/business-services-resources

PRO TIP:

"GET IMMERSED IN THE COMMUNITY. LEARN YOUR AUDIENCE AND THEIR LIKES AND DISLIKES QUICKLY. THEY ARE A VERY COMMUNITY-ORIENTED GROUP AND ARE GREAT SUPPORTERS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES."

LESLIE JONES, owner
THE OXBOW CAFE in Bliss, Idaho

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FINANCING AND INCENTIVES

Idaho and the Magic Valley are business friendly. The state of Idaho and Gooding County offer many incentives to help get your business started on the right foot and give you financial stability. Some of these incentives include:

Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive

The Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) is a performance-based incentive featuring a tax credit of up to 30% for up to 15 years on new state tax revenues generated by companies seeking to expand in or relocate to Idaho by adding new, qualifying jobs.

Property Tax Exemption

In Gooding County, businesses investing at least \$500,000 in new or existing non-retail, commercial or industrial facilities, may qualify for a full or partial property tax exemption for up to five years.

Workforce Development Reimbursements

Receive up to \$3,000 in cash reimbursements for the training of new full-time employees or for helping retain employees facing permanent layoff through workforce development training reimbursements.

Visit the link below for more information on qualifying incentives:

commerce.idaho.gov/incentives-and-financing/incentives

Questions or need assistance?

Contact the Southern Idaho Economic Development REDS team:

[208-732-6459](tel:208-732-6459) or southernidaho.org/contact



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Southern Idaho Economic Development

Southern Idaho Economic Development is the Magic Valley's single-point contact for business relocation, expansion and talent growth. Our Rural Economic Development Services (REDS) program serves Bliss and other surrounding rural communities. REDS can help connect you to appropriate state agencies, grants and funding, as well as free marketing trainings on social media, website development, and more. southernidaho.org

Region IV Development Association

RIVDA can help small businesses from startups to expansions and can partner with banks or work individually to provide financing for real estate, equipment, inventory, tenant improvements, and working capital. rivda.org

Small Business Administration

The SBA connects entrepreneurs with lenders and funding to help them plan, start, and grow their business. sba.gov

Small Business Development Center

SBDC provides guidance on business planning, market research, cost analysis and more. The one-on-one business consulting can be invaluable to any potential business owner. idahosbdc.org

Idaho Department of Commerce

Idaho Commerce leverages federal and state resources to help with financing for facility expansions, identifying Idaho tax incentives, finding workforce development and grant opportunities, and more. commerce.idaho.gov

College of Southern Idaho Workforce Development & Training

CSI Workforce Development & Training offers exceptional business and technical training for regional and national/international companies located in the Magic Valley. workforce.csi.edu

Idaho Department of Labor

IDOL can help find qualified candidates in your talent search. labor.idaho.gov

Business Plus

Business Plus is a partnership of influential business leaders joining forces to create regional economic stability and business growth opportunities. businessplusinc.org



EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS IN BLISS

When it's time to expand your business, you can take similar steps and utilize the same community partners and incentives outlined in the previous sections. If it's time to expand your reach outside the United States, here are a few resources to begin international trading and exports.

State Trade Expansion Program

STEP is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and is administered by Idaho Commerce. The goals of STEP are to increase the number of small businesses that export, increase the value of exports and increase the number of small businesses exploring significant new trade opportunities. bit.ly/IDstepgrant

Top Export Locations

Idaho exports grew from \$2 billion in 2003 to \$4.2 billion in 2018. Idaho companies are selling goods and services to 162 countries, including Taiwan, Canada, China, Mexico, and more. bit.ly/IDexports

Trade Missions

Trade missions are an opportunity to pursue potential business partnerships, make contacts, and open doors in foreign markets. They are extremely targeted events that often result in increased sales or company representation in new foreign markets. bit.ly/IDtrademission

Trade officers in East Asia, China, Mexico

Idaho's international trade office managers are here to guide you through all the steps of expanding into foreign markets. bit.ly/IDtradeofficers



SUCCESS STORY: THE OXBOW CAFE

Best family dining in Southern Idaho

Since its beginnings in 1962, the Oxbow Cafe began in 1962 has always been known throughout the Magic Valley as "the place to be." Even before I-84 was built, it was located along the main route traveling from the East to the Northwest. It had a 24-hour truck stop that had hot coffee and famous pies!

Today, the cafe continues to be a staple in the community. Leslie Jones and her husband took over in May 2016 and haven't looked back! It was a rocky start, but success came soon after gaining the trust of the locals. The Oxbow Cafe has won numerous awards for its food: most recently "Best Family Dining in Southern Idaho" and one of the top 3 in all of Idaho. USA Today named Oxbow Cafe #2 in Idaho for their finger steaks.

The owners credit the local community and their amazing crew for the diner's continued success.

More information:

199 US-30, Bliss, ID 83314

oxbowdiner.com



**SOUTHERN
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DEVELOPMENT

For more information and/or to contact
Southern Idaho Economic Development, visit:

SOUTHERNIDAHO.ORG