

Step 1 – Develop a Business Plan

The first step to starting a business is a business plan. A plan will help evaluate your idea, estimate cost and determine the strengths and weaknesses of your proposal.

WHO TO CONTACT:

Lake County Economic Development Corporation
P.O. Box 1257, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-6217 | www.lakecountycaedc.org

North Coast SCORE – Chapter 450

Business Consulting and Training
P.O. Box 6083, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-571-8342 | www.northcoast.score.org

Step 2 – Check and Clear Zoning Regulations

Contact the City of Lakeport Community Development Department to determine the zoning designation of your proposed site. Staff will help you determine if your business is an eligible use for a specific location and whether any special approvals are necessary.

WHO TO CONTACT:

City of Lakeport Community Development Dept.
225 Park Street, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5613 ext. 204
businesslicensing@cityoflakeport.com

Step 3 – Structure Your Business

It is important to determine the structure of your business for operating and reporting purposes. Will you operate your business as a sole proprietor, partnership (two or more owners), or corporation (one or more stockholders or officers)? If you are a sole proprietor, no formation documents are required to be filed with the Secretary of State. It is optional for partnerships to file with the State. If you are starting a corporation, a Limited Liability Company (LLC), or a Limited Partnership (LP), you must contact the Secretary of State. They can supply you with the information and forms you will need. Even if you believe your business is exempt, you must register with the City. If you are a nonprofit organization interested in applying for 501(c)(3) status, you must contact the California Secretary of State and the IRS.

WHO TO CONTACT:

California Secretary of State – Sacramento Office
1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-653-6814 | www.sos.ca.gov/business/be

Internal Revenue Service – Santa Rosa Office

Employee (EIN) or Identification Number
777 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-535-3859 | www.irs.gov

Step 4 – Register a Fictitious Name

If you will be registering your business using a name that is different from your own legal name, such as Doing Business As (DBA), you will need to register the business name with Lake County. This step needs to be completed before obtaining a Business License from the City of Lakeport. Also, public notices announcing your new business name must be posted once per week for four weeks in the local newspaper.

WHO TO CONTACT:

Lake County Courthouse – County Clerk’s Office
255 N. Forbes Street, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-2311
www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/Directory/CountyClerk/FBN.htm

Newspaper of Record

Lake County Record Bee
2150 S. Main St., Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5636 | www.record-bee.com

Step 5 – Apply for a City of Lakeport Business License

The Business License fee varies depending on the type of business. Home-based businesses are also required to apply for a Home Occupation Permit. The Home Occupation Permit fee is a one-time fee. In addition, businesses located outside the City limits of Lakeport but doing business in the City of Lakeport (such as vendors, consultants and contractors) are required to apply and pay for a business license.

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businesslicensing@cityoflakeport.com

If your business closes, or changes name, ownership, business address, or mailing address you must notify the City in writing (dated and signed) or call our office at 707-263-5613 ext. 204.

Further information regarding the City of Lakeport Business License Taxes, License and Regulations can be found in the City of Lakeport Municipal Code, Title 5 online at www.codepublishing.com/CA/Lakeport

Step 6 – Other Permits and Licenses

Your business may require site inspections by the Fire and/or Health Department as part of your application process, depending on your business type and/or if you are making improvements to a building. Also, depending on the type of business, you may be required to obtain permits or license from the following: City, County, State, or federal agencies.

Alarm Permits

City of Lakeport Police Department
2025 S. Main Street, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5491 | www.lakeportpolice.org

Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) License

ABC Lake County – District Office
50 D Street, Room 130, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-576-2165 | www.abc.ca.gov

Building Permits/Sign Permits

City of Lakeport - Community Development Dept.
225 Park Street, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-3056 ext. 204 | www.cityoflakeport.com

CalGold – Permit Assistance

Assistance in finding appropriate permit and contact information for various agencies for specific businesses types. | www.calgold.ca.gov/

Child Care Center / Family Child Care Home License California Department of Social Services

Rohnert Park Local Unit
101 Golf Course Drive, Suite A-230, MS 29-11
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
707-588-5026 | Fax: 707-588-5099
Counties: Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma
www.cdss.ca.gov

Other Permits and Licenses Continued

Agriculture Based Business – Farmers Resources

California Department of Food & Agriculture
916-654-0466 | www.cdffa.ca.gov

Contractor's License

Contractors State License Board (CSLB)
800-321-2752 | www.cslb.ca.gov

Restaurants, Mobile Food Vendors, and Tattoo Artists

Lake County Environmental Health
922 Bevins Court, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-1164
http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/Directory/Environmental_Health.htm

Retail and Wholesale License

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
P.O. Box 942879, Sacramento, CA 94279
800-400-7115 | www.cdtfa.ca.gov/

Additional Contacts

Employment Development Department (EDD)

CareerPoint Lake
55 First Street, Suite 114
Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-0630 | www.careerpointnorthbay.org

State Compensation Insurance Fund

P.O. Box 429, Pleasanton, CA 94566
888-782-8338 | www.statefundca.com

State of California

Franchise Tax Board
800-852-5711 | www.ftb.ca.gov

Small Business Loans

State Loan Guarantee Program
916-442-1729

Better Business Bureau

1000 Broadway, Suite 625
Oakland, CA 94607 | www.goldengatebbb.org

Department of Consumer Affairs Board of Barbering & Cosmetology

800-952-5210
<http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/>

For Businesses Outside the City Limits

Lake County Building & Planning Departments

255 N. Forbes Street, Lakeport, CA 95453
Building: 707-263-2382 | Planning: 707-263-2221
www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/

Join a Local Business Association

Get involved with the business community!

Lakeport Main Street Association

P.O. Box 1032, Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-8843 | info@lakeportmainstreet.com
www.lakeportmainstreet.com

Lake County Chamber of Commerce

875 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5092 | Fax 707-263-5104
www.lakecochamber.com



Guide to Doing Business in Lakeport



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