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The mission of the US SBA Office of Veterans Business Development is to maximize the availability, applicability and usability of all administration small business programs for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, Reserve Component Members, National Guard and their Dependents or Survivors.


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Dear Veteran:

If you are reading this book, you have taken a major step toward meeting your goals and enhancing your chances of becoming a successful entrepreneur. This guide will outline the steps to follow and suggest actions to consider.

Some programs described here are specifically designed to aid veterans and disabled veterans; others are available to the general public. Consider exploring the entire gamut of programs: local, state, and federal.

A new business requires a concerted and collective effort. In New York State, we have found success by exploring as many programs as possible for veterans. This is especially important if you’re trying to develop investment capital for a business venture. Sufficient capital can be a major stumbling block to opening a business. You will find described in this guide potential funding sources for veterans and disabled veterans, as well as other governmental resources.

Any potential business owner should have a comprehensive plan. The ensuing chapters will help you put together a complete plan. It requires the diligence you learned in the service as well as the high level of commitment you have already demonstrated. Entrepreneurship is not for the faint of heart and will be very demanding of you and your family.

In the end, however, starting your own business can help you achieve a high level of independence, and offer a legitimate opportunity to excel and reach achievable goals.

This guide is designed to help you on your journey.

You should take advantage of every possible source of assistance. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in your area can be the springboard you need to become a successful entrepreneur. You will find the SBDC to be wonderful advocates, and, along with your veterans’ service representative, key to achieving your goals.

Good luck on your journey.
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