

# Doing Business IN SARASOTA COUNTY



# WELCOME TO SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota County is excited about being your choice for business!

Whether it's a startup business, an existing one looking to expand to the next level, or looking to relocate, Sarasota County is an excellent location for businesses of all sizes to establish, develop and grow.

This booklet provides a single source of reference for everything your business will need to expand or start up.

Congratulations on being part of Sarasota's business community!



To access the digital version of "Doing Business in Sarasota County" with clickable links, please scan the QR Code or visit [scgov.net/doingbusiness](https://scgov.net/doingbusiness)

*\*For contact information, see pages 17-30.*

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## BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Before starting a business, you will need to determine the business structure. The most common structures are Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Limited Liability Company, and Corporation. Once determined, register your business with the [Florida Department of State \(DOS\)](#).

## BUSINESS FINANCING

There are numerous ways to finance a business. Some of the most common options include personal financing, venture capital, angel investors and surety bonds. There are also additional sources such as:

- Small Business Administration loans and microloans – For more information, contact the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#).
- Florida microfinance programs – For more information, visit the [FloridaCommerce](#).
- Federal and state grants – For more information, visit [USA.gov](#).

## BUSINESS NAME

Florida law requires business entity names to be distinguishable. As a sole proprietorship, an individual can use their real name as the business name, but, if deciding to use another name for the business, a fictitious "Doing Business As" name registration must be filed. Check with the [Division of Corporations](#) to determine if the business name is already in use.

## BUSINESS LOCATION

You must verify that the proposed location is zoned for the type of business that will be in operation.

## ZONING

Before signing a lease or purchasing a property, contact Sarasota County Zoning staff to determine if the zoning is appropriate for the intended business operations. The zoning designation will also determine parking requirements, which may vary based on the nature of the business use.

## PERMITTING

### BUSINESS USE PERMIT

The Sarasota County Unified Development Code requires a business use permit to be obtained by any business that is new, moves from one location to another, or changes ownership in a commercial location in unincorporated Sarasota County. It is also required for any business moving into an existing commercial space or when there is a change of use or occupancy to an existing business. This document certifies that a building is suitable for the intended use.

The application is reviewed by the Sarasota County Planning and Development Services and the Florida Department of Health, which verify that the type of business is allowed in the zoning district, restroom facilities comply, and occupancy requirements are met. It is also reviewed regarding utilities, land development, environmental protection, and impact fees. The business use permit should be posted in a visible location in the business. For application forms and submissions, contact [Sarasota County Planning and Development Services](#). The business use permit must be fully approved prior to opening for business.

### Fire Inspection

Anyone who applies for a business use permit in unincorporated Sarasota County must get a fire inspection. The Fire Marshal's office performs fire safety inspections for code compliance in accordance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. This final inspection may only be scheduled after the business use permit application has been approved by all other departments and all other inspections are completed by the building division. The fire inspection must be complete before anything can be moved into the building, including furniture.



### **Impact Fees**

Contact the impact fee administrator when considering a tenant space. County staff will calculate any impact fees that may be required for the proposed project. Fees for reoccupying a tenant space will be applicable if there is an increase in the intensity of use or gross floor area. Most construction resulting in a net increase in the amount of enclosed floor area will require fees for the additional area. Most new shell buildings have fully paid impact fees for all tenants, but older buildings may not.

### **BUILDING PERMIT**

A permit is required for construction or work on a building or any of its systems. This includes work to construct, enlarge, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure. It also includes work to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace impact-resistant coverings, as well as electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems. The business use permit application can be started during construction; however, nothing may be moved into the building until construction is completed and a certificate of occupancy or a temporary use permit is issued.



**Commercial Property Owners Who Act As Their Own Contractor**

Building or improvement costs cannot exceed \$75,000. Only the owner can use or occupy the space. The building or space cannot be sold or leased within a year after completion. The owner must sign a disclosure statement agreeing to the provisions for a contractor exemption. More information can be found under *Florida Statutes, Chapter 489.103(7)*.

**Flood Risk Prevention Requirements**

Any new construction or other development in designated FEMA or community flood hazard areas are subject to the design and construction requirements adopted in the County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (*Sarasota County Code Article XVI, Floodprone Areas*).

**TEMPORARY USE PERMITS**

Temporary use permits are required for events with activities that will extend beyond the confines of the business. Properties are allowed four temporary use permits per calendar year.

**Banners**

A banner may be issued as a temporary use permit, with approval of the zoning administrator, to announce special events at local businesses, in addition to grand openings. These banners may be approved for up to a two-week period. A single banner can be up to 32 square feet, or a maximum of two banners can be 16 square feet each.

**Signage**

Permits are required for all signs. A permit is not required for performing general maintenance or repair of window signs.

## HOME-BASED BUSINESS

A business that operates from a residential property is permitted in Sarasota County. A business is considered a home-based business if it operates, in whole or in part, from a planned residential neighborhood or complex. The homeowner's association (HOA) may have further regulations around the types of business activities that can be conducted from the home. This may extend to signage, including on vehicles. The business owner should reference [Sarasota County Unified Development Code Section 124-73\(c\)\(5\)](#) for more details along with contacting the HOA for additional information.

## MOBILE FOOD DISPENSING VEHICLES

Mobile food dispensing vehicles are only allowed, with property owner consent, in the following zoning districts: commercial general (CG), industrial light warehousing (ILW), planned industrial development (PID), commercial neighborhood (CN), office, professional and institutional (OPI), planned commerce development (PCD), commercial highway interchange (CHI), commercial intensive (CI), commercial marine (CM), and governmental use (GU). No temporary use permit is required. All mobile food dispensing vehicles shall comply with [Unified Development Code Section 124-157](#).

### **Mobile Vending Permit (MVP) Program**

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources (PRNR) offer opportunities for mobile vending and guided tour/rental opportunities within parks. The current permit types are food and drink, sell and go (non-food), guided tours or rental (with equipment) and guided tours (without equipment). Permit price varies depending on type, day of the week, and park location. More information about the [MVP Program](#) is available through Sarasota County PRNR webpage.





## LICENSING

### LICENSE TO SELL FOOD

Three state departments regulate different aspects of the retail and service industry.

#### *Department of Business and Professional Regulations*

oversees restaurants, mobile food vehicles, caterers and public food service events.

#### *Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

oversees wholesalers and food retailers, including grocery and gas station convenience stores, food manufacturing or processing

plants, food warehouses, bakeries, and fish and meat markets.

*Department of Health (DOH)* oversees food service operations located in institutional settings that do not prepare foods such as schools, assisted living facilities, detention facilities, childcare facilities, bars, lounges, and civic and fraternal organizations.

This list is not all-inclusive. Please contact each state department directly to review the regulations pertinent to the business. These items are offered only as examples of services for which a public food service license is needed.

*\*Florida DOH does not have regulatory authority over restaurants.*

### LIQUOR LICENSE

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, *Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Licenses*, regulates the sale of alcoholic beverages. There are several licenses to choose from to best fit the type and need of the specific business including packaged sales and consumption for beer, wine and spirits.

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

### **Doggie Dining**

DOH inspects and issues permits to food establishments allowing dogs to accompany owners while dining in the outdoor area of food establishments. Very specific rules apply to the outdoor areas of these establishments to protect health and safety.

### **Group Care Facilities**

A license is required to operate group care facilities such as adult family care homes, assisted living facilities and childcare facilities. This includes group care offered in a private home. Inspections are completed regularly by DOH-Sarasota.

### **Body Piercing and Tattooing License**

DOH regulates body piercing and tattooing in Sarasota County. Body piercing establishments must comply with minimum requirements outlined in Florida Statutes and obtain establishment licensure. Body piercers must successfully complete a State of Florida-approved certification course before applying for an annual license.

### **Public Swimming Pools**

All public swimming pools must be maintained by a certified operator, who is required to complete a training course through DOH.

### **Indoor Tanning Beds and Booths**

A license verifying safe and sanitary operation must be obtained through DOH to operate tanning facilities.

### **Biomedical Waste Operating Permit**

Facilities that generate, transport, store or treat biomedical waste must partake in the DOH biomedical waste program to ensure waste is properly managed. Service providers and facilities include hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, laboratories, funeral homes, dentists, veterinarians, physicians, tattooists, body piercers and acupuncturists.

## TAXES

Businesses located in Florida are responsible for federal, state and local taxes. The amounts and types depend on the location and nature of the business.

### FEDERAL TAXES

The federal government levies several different types of business taxes: income tax, self-employment tax, employment tax and excise taxes. To learn more about these taxes, visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) *Tax Guide for Small Business (Publication 334)*.



### Federal Employer Identification Number

If a business has employees or files certain types of tax returns, it may be required to register for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The IRS determines if the business requires an EIN.

### STATE TAXES

The business structure and type of business determine the applicable tax obligations. All businesses must register with DOR for collecting, reporting or paying state taxes.

A new registration must be submitted using the online registration system or a Florida Business Tax Application form if:

- A business moves from one Florida county to another;
- An additional location is added;
- There is a change in the legal entity; or
- A change in the ownership of the business.

### **Florida Sales and Use Tax**

Florida Sales and Use Tax must be paid if the business will:

- Sell, rent, lease or repair goods;
- Provide certain services;
- Rent or lease short-term lodging or housekeeping accommodations or commercial real property; or
- Purchase and use in the business taxable products that are not taxed when purchased.

### **Florida Annual Resale Certificate for Sales Tax**

Businesses that register with DOR to collect sales tax are issued a Florida Annual Resale Certificate for Sales Tax. The certificate allows business owners, or their representatives, to buy or rent property or services tax-free when the property or service is resold or re-rented. A business that sells or rents property or services tax-free must document each tax-exempt sale by obtaining a copy of the customer certificate or an authorization number issued by the department. More information can be found on the [Annual Resale Certificate for Sales Tax webpage](#).

## **LOCAL TAXES**

The Sarasota County business tax is required annually if engaging in a business, profession or occupation located within Sarasota County. The business will need to be registered for the business tax through the Sarasota Tax Collector. The [Sarasota Tax Collector Business Tax Fees](#) must be paid within 45 days of beginning operation. Under Florida law, some businesses and individuals may be exempt from paying the business tax following the completion of an exemption affidavit.

If the business is located within, or regularly engages in business within an incorporated municipality, an annual license from the appropriate municipality(s) may also be required.

**Local Sales Surtax**

Sarasota County applies a 1% surtax to most transactions subject to sales or use tax. Surtax must be collected in addition to state sales tax from the purchaser at the time of sale.

**Local Tourist Development Taxes (TDT)**

The tourist development tax is a tax paid on room nights. Sarasota County applies a 6% TDT on lodging stays under six months.

**Tangible Personal Business Property**

A tangible personal property tax return must be filed annually for each business location by April 1 with the Sarasota County Property Appraiser. Filed returns qualify taxpayers for exemptions up to \$25,000 for the tangible property of the business. After the initial filing, businesses that have filed and have a just value of \$25,000 or less are waived from future filing unless their just value increases to more than \$25,000.



## SOLID WASTE

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

Businesses are required to establish garbage service through the county's contracted hauler under the franchise agreement. The contracted hauler will be able to assist businesses in determining the appropriate garbage service levels, including the number and size of containers and pickup frequency, and will bill directly for associated costs.

### ENCLOSURES

Sarasota County requires all new commercial construction to have an enclosure for garbage and recycling containers, including trash compactors, unless there is a permanent storage area for the containers inside a walled and roofed building. Business owners should reference *Ordinance No. 93-102* for more details.

### RECYCLING COLLECTION

Recycling is mandatory in Sarasota County. Unlike garbage collection, which requires businesses to use the county's contracted hauler, businesses may select their own recycling hauler. Check with your recycling service provider to find out what other items can be recycled or reused. Businesses located in North Port or Venice may also contract with their city's solid waste department for recycling services.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE

Sarasota County Solid Waste Department provides businesses with environmental regulatory and compliance assistance. These services include evaluations of hazardous or special waste that require specific regulatory attention. Solid Waste also provides options for disposal and/or recycling of this waste to meet proper disposal requirements. Qualifying businesses and other organizations that generate hazardous waste may qualify for *Project Green Sweep*.

Businesses may also seek alternative disposal and recycling options. A list of vendors can be found in the *Hazardous Waste Disposal Business Directory*.

## UTILITIES

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

#### Septic Systems

The DOH Environmental Health Division issues permits for new systems, replacement systems and additions to septic systems. The division also evaluates existing systems for compliance with local and state laws and ordinances. An evaluation is conducted when a business plans to move into a building served by a septic system to determine if the system can handle the flow that will be generated by the establishment.

#### Water Wells

The DOH Environmental Health Division oversees the permitting, construction, operation, modification and inspection of wells in Sarasota County and evaluates for compliance.

### SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES

#### County Water and Wastewater

Proof of ownership is required to set up services to the county water connection and wastewater connection systems. Fees are collected for any new connection to the water and/or wastewater systems. These fees represent the proportionate share of the costs of providing facility capacity to serve new connections. Connections may include those in franchise utilities and services areas where wholesale water service is provided by the county to the franchise and wastewater system either through a new connection or a connection already in place. This includes changes in occupancy for existing buildings. Most fees are collected upon the issuance of a building permit.

The Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) Conversion Table Form is required to apply for a permit to connect to the utility system in unincorporated Sarasota County. The EDU Conversion Table Form is also used for estimating and assessing utility capacity and connection fees.

### **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program**

Fats, oils and grease such as meats, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, gravies, salad dressings, dairy products, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine block the wastewater sewer systems and cause them to overflow. This is a danger to environmental and public health and causes a financial burden to businesses and residents. The Sarasota County asset management team monitors code compliance for the *FOG Program*. Sarasota County requires all establishments to:

- Have a grease trap or grease interceptor per the Florida Building Code;
- Complete a facility survey;
- Pay a monthly fee that supports initiatives to prevent blockages and overflows;
- Clean and maintain grease traps every 30 days;
- Clean and maintain grease interceptors every 90 days;
- Keep records; and
- Use a licensed hauler to dispose of grease and solids.

### **NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is available in most industrial and commercially zoned areas of Sarasota County. Service is provided by *TECO Peoples Gas System, Inc.*

To learn more about rates and charges for business customers, contact TECO to assist in determining the appropriate services.

### **ELECTRICITY**

The majority of Sarasota County is served by *Florida Power & Light Company (FPL)*. FPL offers commercial/industrial customers different categories of rate schedules, depending on service requirements and will be able to assist in determining the appropriate service.



## INSURANCE

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Florida law requires business owners that have employees to maintain this kind of insurance. Workers' compensation insurance provides medical and wage replacement benefits to employees who are injured on the job. Specific state coverage requirements are based on the type of business, the number of employees, and the business's structure.

Some of the specific workers' compensation insurance industry requirements are:

- Construction industry — one or more employees, including the business owner, who are corporate officers or LLC members.
- Non-construction industry — four or more employees, including the business owners, who are corporate officers or LLC members.
- Agricultural industry — six regular employees and/or 12 seasonal workers who work more than 30 days during a season but not more than a total of 45 days in a calendar year.

### OTHER INSURANCE TO CONSIDER

- Commercial automobile — if the business owns, leases or operates motor vehicles, it must have commercial automobile coverage.
- Commercial general liability — pays for legal defense and protects the business from financial loss due to injuries, deaths, advertising injury or property damage caused by products, business operations or employees.
- Property insurance — coverage for real or personal property as well as physical assets.
- Flood insurance — covers losses for damage caused by floods.
- Business income insurance — coverage if the business suffers a loss of income due to a natural disaster.
- Cargo and transportation insurance — covers the goods or products while they are in transit.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Florida Division of Emergency Management recommends all businesses develop and maintain a disaster plan to communicate with employees, local authorities, customers and others during and after a disaster.

The following are guidelines to help prepare a business:

- Establish communication channels to get information to employees.
- Provide employees with information on when, if and how to report to work following an emergency.
- Store important documents and records in fire/waterproof containers off-site.
- Evaluate insurance coverage to ensure it will allow the business to fully recover.
- Maintain video or pictures of your office/equipment prior to a disaster.
- Locate alternate work sites and have a supply of spare parts and alternative power supplies.
- Ensure that there are written procedures in place, a list of employees, important business contacts, customers, vendors, inventory, calendars and schedules; and that this information and location is shared with other employees who will be needed to get the business back in operation.
- Unplug equipment during major storms.
- Encourage employees to have a workplace survival kit.
- Subscribe to *ALERT Sarasota County*, a mass notification system for rapid emergency updates.
- Complete a business disaster recovery plan. See a sample business plan at [ready.gov/business](http://ready.gov/business) or [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org).

## SARASOTA COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information about Doing Business in Sarasota County, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at **941-861-5000** or **311** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program**

Address: 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941-861-5000 or 311

Email: [FOGprogram@scgov.net](mailto:FOGprogram@scgov.net)

Website: [scgov.net/fog](http://scgov.net/fog)

### **Fire Marshall**

Address: 5875 Hummingbird Ave., Sarasota, FL 34241

Phone: 941-861-2290

Website: [scgov.net/fire](http://scgov.net/fire)

### **Florida Department of Health-Sarasota**

#### **North Port Health Center**

Address: 6950 Outreach Way, North Port, FL 34287

Phone: 941-861-3820

#### **Sarasota Environmental Health**

Address: 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941-861-6133

#### **Sarasota Health and Human Services**

Address: 2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34237

Phone: 941-861-2900

#### **Venice Environmental Health**

Address: 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

Phone: 941-861-3310

Email: [DOHSarasotaInfo@FLHealth.gov](mailto:DOHSarasotaInfo@FLHealth.gov)

Website: [sarasota.floridahealth.gov](http://sarasota.floridahealth.gov)

### **Mobile Vending Permit (MVP) Program**

Address: 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-861-7275

Email: [parksonline@scgov.net](mailto:parksonline@scgov.net)

Website: [scgov.net/mvp](http://scgov.net/mvp)

## **Planning and Development Services**

### **Sarasota locations**

Address: 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240

Address: 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

### **Venice location**

Address: 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34231

Phone: 941-861-5000 or 311

Website: [scgov.net/pds](http://scgov.net/pds)

## **Building**

### **Sarasota location**

Phone: 941-861-6678

### **Venice location**

Phone: 941-861-3029

Email: [building@scgov.net](mailto:building@scgov.net)

Website: [scgov.net/building](http://scgov.net/building)

## **Code Enforcement**

### **Sarasota location**

Phone: 941-861-6403

### **Venice location**

Phone: 941-861-3280

Email: [ceadmin@scgov.net](mailto:ceadmin@scgov.net)

Website: [scgov.net/ce](http://scgov.net/ce)

## **Flood Plans**

Email: [floodplansreview@scgov.net](mailto:floodplansreview@scgov.net)

## **Impact Fees**

Email: [impactfees@scgov.net](mailto:impactfees@scgov.net)

## **Land Development**

Email: [landdev@scgov.net](mailto:landdev@scgov.net)

## **Licensing**

Email: [licensing@scgov.net](mailto:licensing@scgov.net)

## **Planning**

Email: [planner@scgov.net](mailto:planner@scgov.net)

## **Zoning**

Email: [zoning@scgov.net](mailto:zoning@scgov.net)

**Property Appraiser****Sarasota location**

Address: 2001 Adams Lane, Sarasota, FL 34237

**Venice location**

Address: 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

**North Port location:**

Address: 4970 City Hall Blvd., North Port, FL 34286

Phone: 941-861-8200

Email: [PA@sc-pa.com](mailto:PA@sc-pa.com)

Website: [sc-pa.com](http://sc-pa.com)

**Public Utilities****Sarasota location**

Address: 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240

**Venice location**

Address: 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

Phone: 941-861-6767

Email: [utilitiesconnecions@scgov.net](mailto:utilitiesconnecions@scgov.net)

Website: [scgov.net/utilities](http://scgov.net/utilities)

**Solid Waste**

Address: 4000 Knights Trail Road, Nokomis, FL 34275

Phone: 941-861-5000 or 311

Website: [scgov.net/solidwaste](http://scgov.net/solidwaste)

**Tax Collector**

Address: 101 S. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-861-8300, option 3

Email: [info@sarasotataxcollector.com](mailto:info@sarasotataxcollector.com)

Website: [sarasotataxcollector.com](http://sarasotataxcollector.com)

## MUNICIPALITIES

### **City of North Port**

Address: 4970 City Hall Blvd., North Port, FL 34286

Phone: 941-429-7000

Website: [northportfl.gov/business](http://northportfl.gov/business)

### **City of Sarasota**

Address: 1565 1st St., Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-263-6000

Website: [sarasotafl.gov/business-resources](http://sarasotafl.gov/business-resources)

### **City of Venice**

Address: 401 W. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285

Phone: 941-486-2626

Website: [venicegov.com/business](http://venicegov.com/business)

### **Town of Longboat Key**

Address: 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228

Phone: 941-316-1999

Website: [longboatkey.org/business](http://longboatkey.org/business)

## SERVICE PROVIDERS

### **Florida Power & Light**

Address: 5657 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, FL 34233

Phone: 800-226-5885

Website: [fpl.com](http://fpl.com)

### **TECO Peoples Gas System, Inc.**

Address: 8261 Vico Court, Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 877-832-6747

Website: [peoplesgas.com](http://peoplesgas.com)

### **Waste Management**

Address: 3100 N. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234

Phone: 941-493-4100

Website: [wm.com](http://wm.com)

## STATE AND FEDERAL CONTACTS

### Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

#### State location

Address: 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 800-435-7352

#### Local location

Address: 4451 Aidan Lane, Suite 102, North Port, FL 34287

Phone: 941-240-3160

Website: [fdacs.gov](http://fdacs.gov)

### Department of Business and Professional Regulations

Address: 2601 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-487-1395

Website: [myfloridalicense.com/DBPR](http://myfloridalicense.com/DBPR)

### FloridaCommerce

Address: 107 E. Madison St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-245-7105

Website: [floridajobs.org](http://floridajobs.org)

### Department of Revenue

#### State location

Address: 5050 W. Tennessee St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-488-6800

#### Local location

Address: 100 Paramount Drive, Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941-343-0201

Website: [floridarevenue.com](http://floridarevenue.com)

### Department of State

Address: 2415 N. Monroe St., Suite 810, Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-245-6000

Website: [dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz](http://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz)

### Florida Division of Emergency Management

Address: 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-815-4000

Website: [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)

**Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association**

Address: 230 S. Adams St., Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 888-372-9119

Website: [frla.org](http://frla.org)

**Internal Revenue Service**

Address: 5971 Cattleridge Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 844-545-5640

Website: [irs.gov](http://irs.gov)

**National Small Business Association**

Address: 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-293-8830

Website: [nsba.biz](http://nsba.biz)

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

Address: 5807 Breckenridge Parkway, Suite A, Tampa, FL 33610

Phone: 813-626-1177

Website: [osha.gov](http://osha.gov)

**Social Security Administration**

Address: 2001 Siesta Drive, Suite 301, Sarasota, FL 34239

Phone: 800-772-1213

Website: [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov)

**U.S. Small Business Administration**

Address: 409 3rd St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20416

Phone: 800-827-5722

Website: [sba.gov](http://sba.gov)



## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The chambers of commerce promote and provide access to valuable resources, discounts, and relationships that help businesses save money and market their products to various organizations and the local business community.

### **Englewood Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 601 S. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL 34223

Phone: 941-474-5511

Email: [ceo@englewoodchamber.com](mailto:ceo@englewoodchamber.com)

Website: [englewoodchamber.com](http://englewoodchamber.com)

### **Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 1945 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-955-8187

Email: [communications@sarasotachamber.com](mailto:communications@sarasotachamber.com)

Website: [sarasotachamber.com](http://sarasotachamber.com)

### **Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 912 7th Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34222

Phone: 941-526-0775

Email: [president@thelatinchamber.org](mailto:president@thelatinchamber.org)

Website: [gulfcoastlatinchamber.com](http://gulfcoastlatinchamber.com)

### **Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance**

Address: 8430 Enterprise Circle, Suite 140, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Phone: 941-757-1664

Email: [info@lwrba.org](mailto:info@lwrba.org)

Website: [lwrba.org](http://lwrba.org)

### **Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 5390 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Suite 103, Longboat Key, FL 34228

Phone: 941-387-9000

Email: [info@lbkchamber.com](mailto:info@lbkchamber.com)

Website: [longboatkeychamber.com](http://longboatkeychamber.com)

**Manasota Black Chamber of Commerce**

Address: P.O. Box 981, Oneco, FL 34264

Phone: 941-702-2136

Email: [info@manasotabcc.org](mailto:info@manasotabcc.org)

Website: [manasotabcc.org/contact-us](http://manasotabcc.org/contact-us)

**North Port Area Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 1337 N. Sumter Blvd., North Port, FL 34286

Phone: 941-564-3040

Email: [info@northportareachamber.com](mailto:info@northportareachamber.com)

Website: [northportareachamber.com](http://northportareachamber.com)

**Osprey Nokomis Chamber of Commerce**

Address: P.O. Box 1225, Osprey, FL 34229

Email: [ospreynokomischamber@gmail.com](mailto:ospreynokomischamber@gmail.com)

Website: [ospreynokomisflorida.com](http://ospreynokomisflorida.com)

**Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 5114 Ocean Blvd., Siesta Key, FL 34242

Phone: 941-349-3800

Email: [info@siestakeychamber.com](mailto:info@siestakeychamber.com)

Website: [siestakeychamber.com](http://siestakeychamber.com)

**Venice Area Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 597 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285

Phone: 941-488-2236

Email: [vchamber@venicechamber.com](mailto:vchamber@venicechamber.com)

Website: [venicechamber.com](http://venicechamber.com)

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 1615 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20062

Phone: 202-659-6000

Email: [smallbusiness@uschamber.com](mailto:smallbusiness@uschamber.com)

Website: [uschamber.com](http://uschamber.com)

## OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

The following list presents some of the groups that can be of service to existing companies and those companies interested in establishing new operations.

### **Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County**

Address: 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 300, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-365-5118

Website: [sarasotaarts.org](http://sarasotaarts.org)

### **Gulf Coast Builders Exchange**

Address: 8433 Enterprise Circle, Suite 120, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Phone: 941-907-7745

Website: [gcbx.org](http://gcbx.org)

### **Manatee-Sarasota Building Industry Association**

Address: 6650 Professional Parkway W., Suite 102, Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941-907-4133

Website: [ms-bia.org](http://ms-bia.org)

### **Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee**

#### **RASM north location**

Address: 417 12th St. W., Suite 106, Bradenton, FL 34205

#### **RASM south location**

Address: 2320 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941-952-3400

Website: [myrasm.com](http://myrasm.com)

### **Sarasota Manatee Area Manufacturers Association**

Address: 11523 Palmbrush Trail, #110, Bradenton, FL 34202

Phone: 941-376-4272

Website: [sama-fl.com/home](http://sama-fl.com/home)

### **Visit Sarasota County**

Address: 301 N. Cattlemen Road, Suite 203, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941-955-0991

Website: [visitsarasota.com](http://visitsarasota.com)

## BUSINESS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### Foundation for Financial Education

The Foundation for Financial Education is available to assist companies of all sizes and scopes. All services are free of charge. The foundation teaches one-hour classes on various financial and economic topics to employees. This is beneficial to the employee and the employer as it helps with employee retention in this competitive market.

Address: 1800 2nd St., Suite 918, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-366-6600

Website: [f3eonline.org](http://f3eonline.org)

### Green Business Partnership

The Green Business Partnership is open to all businesses in Sarasota County. Green Business Partners are recognized as environmental leaders in our community and pledge to demonstrate their environmental stewardship by reducing waste, conserving natural resources, and by operating an environmentally responsible business. More than 250 businesses have earned certification.

Address: 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241

Phone: 941-861-5000 or 311

Website: [scgov.net/green](http://scgov.net/green)

## GROWTH ASSISTANCE

### Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County

The EDC of Sarasota County is a team of engaged public and private leaders committed to being the catalyst for a sustainable, globally competitive, vibrant economy.

Address: 301 N. Cattlemen Road, Suite 203, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941-309-1200

Website: [edcsarasotacounty.com](http://edcsarasotacounty.com)

**Enterprise Florida, Inc.**

EFI is a public-private partnership between Florida's business and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for the state of Florida.

Address: 800 N. Magnolia Ave., Suite 1100, Orlando, FL 32803

Phone: 407-956-5600

Website: [enterpriseflorida.com](http://enterpriseflorida.com)

**GrowFL**

GrowFL provides connections with company leaders, strategies, resources, and support to second-stage companies for next-level growth.

Address: 201 E. Pine St., Suite 734, Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: 831-956-0193

Website: [growfl.com](http://growfl.com)

**SCORE**

SCORE offers free and confidential mentoring for entrepreneurs and startup businesses.

**Manasota**

Address: 2801 Fruitville Road, Suite 280, Sarasota, FL 34237

Phone: 941-955-1029

Website: [manasota.score.org](http://manasota.score.org)

**Port Charlotte**

Address: 1777 Tamiami Trail, Suite 411, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Phone: 941-743-6179

Website: [portcharlotte.score.org](http://portcharlotte.score.org)

**Small Business Development Center**

SBDC provides aspiring, emerging and established businesses with the expertise and resources to succeed through low-cost training, no-cost consulting and market research and information.

Address: 3802 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 201, Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 813-396-2700

Website: [sbdctampabay.com](http://sbdctampabay.com)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### **CareerEdge Funders Collaborative**

CareerEdge is guided by a demand-driven strategy and enhances the regional workforce through fast-track training programs, on-the-job training, internship reimbursement programs and employer grant funding for up-skilling incumbent employees. CareerEdge also serves the community as a driving force for regional collaboration in workforce development, bringing together local employers, education providers, community organizations and private funders.

Address: 1945 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941-556-4038

Website: [careeredgefunders.org](http://careeredgefunders.org)

### **CareerSource Suncoast**

CareerSource Suncoast is a private, nonprofit corporation whose primary focus is to help businesses grow by providing workforce solutions for talent recruitment and development and helping job seekers and workers manage their careers.

Address: 3660 N. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234

Phone: 941-358-4200

Website: [careersourcesuncoast.com](http://careersourcesuncoast.com)

### **State College of Florida Workforce Solutions**

SCF Workforce Solutions partners with local and state agencies to obtain grant funding, which may cover some or all of the costs of training depending on the program. Training includes recruiting, technology, manufacturing and language.

Address: 7131 Professional Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941-363-7000

Website: [scf.edu](http://scf.edu)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### **Keiser University**

Offers bachelor's degrees in business administration, criminal justice and health services administration, and two-year associate degrees in accounting, business administration, computer programming and health services.

Address: 6151 Lake Osprey Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941-907-3900

Website: [keiseruniversity.edu](http://keiseruniversity.edu)

### **New College of Florida**

Offers students the opportunity to create their own program of studies in a liberal arts educational environment.

Address: 5800 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34243

Phone: 941-487-5002

Website: [ncf.edu](http://ncf.edu)

### **Ringling College of Art and Design**

A private four-year college of professional visual arts that is well-known for the quality and value of its career-oriented programs such as computer animation, graphic design and illustration.

Address: 2700 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34234

Phone: 941-951-5000

Website: [ringling.edu](http://ringling.edu)

**State College of Florida**

Offers a broad variety of credit and noncredit educational opportunities. SCF also offers online classes, more than 30 workforce certificates, and an array of signature programs.

SCF Bradenton Campus

Address: 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34207

Phone: 941-752-5000

SCF Lakewood Ranch Campus

Address: 7131 Professional Parkway, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

Phone: 941-363-7000

SCF Venice Campus

Address: 8000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293

Phone: 941-408-1300

Website: [scf.edu](http://scf.edu)

**Suncoast Technical College**

Provides quality technical education to meet workforce development and community needs. Offering over 40 technical programs, day and evening classes, state-of-the-art equipment and labs, and job placement assistance.

Sarasota Campus

Address: 4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34233

Phone: 941-924-1365

North Port Campus

Address: 4445 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289

Phone: 941-257-2252

Website: [suncoast.edu](http://suncoast.edu)

**University of Florida Innovation Academy**

Developed to equip students with the 21st-century skills needed to thrive in an innovation culture. Students develop an innovative mindset through four years of classes on creativity, ethics, entrepreneurship and leadership.

Address: 1468 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941-217-4263

Website: [eng.ufl.edu/sarasota](http://eng.ufl.edu/sarasota)



**University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee**

Offers a wide variety of degrees and programs tailored to suit individual goals and interests.

Address: 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243

Phone: 941-359-4694

Website: [usfsm.edu](http://usfsm.edu)

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For more information, visit **scgov.net**  
or call **311** or **941-861-5000**.

Follow us @SRQCountyGov



*To access the digital version of  
"Doing Business in Sarasota County"  
with clickable links, please scan  
the QR Code or visit  
[scgov.net/doingbusiness](https://scgov.net/doingbusiness)*