

Nebraska Small Business Assistance Act

The goal of the Nebraska Small Business Assistance Act (LB450) is to stimulate and support underserved individuals wanting to start a new or nascent existing business. The act provides two benefits to qualified individuals:

- **Funding to access professional services:** Professional services can include things from business development and planning, website development, or assistance setting up an LLC.
- **Grants for both new businesses and existing businesses**
 - Applicants for a **new business grant** could receive up to a \$25,000 grant.
 - Applicants for an **existing business grant** could receive up to a \$12,500 grant.

Businesses can follow one of three Program benefit tracks:

1. Provision of professional business development services only.
2. Provision of new business startups and existing business expansion grants.
3. Both professional services and grants.

Qualifying for Benefits

To qualify for benefits, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a for profit business.
- The business must be in Nebraska.
- Be 19 years of age.
- The individual applicant must a United States resident.
- Applicant cannot have ownership of another business, which the department has defined as 51% or more ownership.

Applicants will also need to meet specific requirements for each benefit stated as followed.

Professional Services

- Be a Small Business with five or fewer full-time employees excluding the applicant.
- For nascent existing businesses:
- Must be a Small Business with five or fewer full-time equivalent employees excluding the owner.
- In operation for five or fewer years
- For start-up businesses or businesses less than two-years old.
- Compliant with all other relevant government laws.

New Business Grant: The new business grant is for new businesses or businesses that are less than two years old as of March 2023.

You may qualify for a new business grant if you meet the following:

- Be a for-profit business with a full-time equivalent of five or fewer employees.
- Have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the previous tax year of \$55,000 or less.
- Have a Current Net Worth (CNW), excluding your primary residence of \$200,000 or less.
- Working with a recognized service provider.

Existing Business Grant: The existing business grant is for businesses that are older than two years as of March 2023 but do not exceed five years.

You may qualify for an existing business grant if you meet the following:

- Business is not five years old (as of March 2023)
- For the most recent calendar year the business's gross revenue has grown by no more than 25% in recent calendar year.
- Have a Current Net Worth (CNW), excluding your primary residence of \$200,000 or less,

Resources

If you are a new business, we encourage you to ensure you are ready to grow your Nebraska business. View a comprehensive list compiled by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/business/start-your-business/>