



Image via [Pexels](#)

Starting a Local Business and Serving Your Local Community

When you're invested in your community, you often want to make yourself a big part of it. One way you can do that is by starting a small, local business! Local businesses are a great way to become an integral part of your community and help you serve the community in ways that you haven't before. Check out how starting a local business can benefit you and your community in this article.

Why Start a Small Business?

Starting a small business is rewarding for both you and your community. Of course, when you start a small business, you'll feel far more rewarded by the work that you're doing. While you may think that only you will benefit from starting a small business, you'd be wrong. [Local communities benefit](#) from local small businesses, too.

How Small Businesses Benefit the Local Community

American Express points out that when you do business in [your community](#), you're providing service and goods to them on a local basis. Most people would prefer to support a local business because that means they're supporting a part of their community. In return, the entire community is supported, as well.

When a local business makes money, it means that there is more [local tax money](#). When this tax money stays within the community, it contributes to making it a better place to live.

Local schools receive more funding, and local services are improved. As such, the entire community thrives.

Engaging With Your Community

It's important that you engage with your community as a small business, too. This doesn't mean just advertising, though. It includes joining our local [chamber of commerce](#) and engaging with your community means interacting with them in meaningful ways. Things like [clothes drives](#), fundraisers, and [sponsoring](#) local teams and organizations are great ways to engage the community.

Starting Your Small Business

Starting a small business is going to take some time. There are planning stages and legal needs that must be met to start a business. Also, you'll need to decide on your business's structure. When you're starting a small business, it's recommended that you form a limited liability company, also known as an LLC.

The Benefits of an LLC

When you form an LLC, the biggest [advantage](#) is that you are given limited liability, as the name implies. Limited liability means that should your business encounter legal or financial issues, you are protected from liability. It's also got distinct tax advantages, as you can be taxed in many different ways, making your business more flexible. It also requires *far* less paperwork to get started and to keep things running.

Starting an LLC for Little Money

When you're forming an LLC or corporation, you can avoid hefty lawyer fees by filing yourself, or pursuing a formation service. However, it should be noted that states have different regulations regarding LLC formation. Check with regulations and laws in the state of [Washington](#) before moving forward in the process, or get in touch with a formation service to help you throughout the registration and filing process.

Local Businesses Help Local Communities

When you're a small business owner within your own community, you have the power to do a lot of good. Strong Town explains how small businesses are the center of any [local economy](#), and they contribute directly to the success of their towns. Starting a local business is a great way to become a larger part of your community, as well as give back to it.

*The **Shoreline Chamber of Commerce** supports new and growing businesses in the rapidly changing City of Shoreline. Contact us for more information today!
info@shorelinechamber.org*