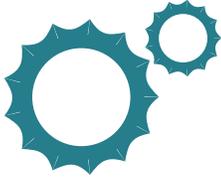


# BUSINESS STARTUP STEPS

## STEP 1: GET YOUR IDEAS FLOWING



Do you have a hobby, passion, or interest that you want to make into something more? The first part of any business is the initial idea; whether you want to make a new gadget, or a store you've been dreaming of for decades, getting an idea is the best way to start the process.

## STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN



Once you have your ideas, then it's time to put them down! A business plan is a critical next step to developing your business. Take a gander at some tips for writing a plan composed by the Small Business Administration, <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan-your-business/write-your-business-plan>

## STEP 3: MAKE CONNECTIONS



Sometimes it's more about who you know than what you know; that being said, networking is your best friend when starting out! By connecting with business resources through the Rural Ideas Network and more, meeting new people or connecting with people you already know, is a great way to find advice, insight, and resources that can help you excel.

## STEP 4: MAKE FINANCIAL DECISIONS



Now that you've got your plan laid out, and some connections made, you may need some capital to start out. Now is the time to consider; how much money do I need to start up? How much of my own money can I put into this? Do I need a Loan? Finding assistance through a banker or financial advisor is highly recommended.

## STEP 5: DEVELOP WITH DOUGLAS



Once you have the funds and connections you need, there's nothing holding you back from setting up your business, getting your equipment, and making sales! Although this process is different for every business, the Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission is here for every step of the way.



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