



# Start a Business in Anna, TX

# 10 Steps to Starting Your Business

1. Assess the potential of your idea
2. Develop a business plan
3. Select your legal structure
4. Register the name of your business
5. Filing articles of incorporation
6. Obtain Employer Identification Number
7. Register for tax and bank accounts
8. Obtain required licenses and permits
9. Create a website
10. Start marketing your business

# #1 Validate your idea

See <https://digital.com/blog/validate-demand/>

1. Articulate what you are trying to do
2. Check existing marketplace
3. Identify and understand your audience
4. Talk to people
5. Ask for help
6. Write it out
7. Consider a prototype

*Further reading:*

- <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan/market-research-competitive-analysis>

# #2 Develop a business plan

See <https://digital.com/blog/business-plan/>

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Market fit
4. Marketing plan
5. Operations plan
6. Management plan
7. Financial plan

*Further reading:*

- <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan/calculate-startup-costs-small-business>

# #3 Choosing a Structure for Your Business

See <https://digital.com/blog/business-types/>

- Determine which legal structure is right for your business:
  - Sole proprietorship?
  - Partnership?
  - Corporation?
  - LLC?

# #4 Register Your Business Name

See <https://digital.com/blog/best-business-name-generators/>

- What makes a good business name?
- Is your business name available?

*Further reading:*

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- While not required, you may want to research and consider obtaining a trademark on your name from the [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#).

# #5

## Filing articles of incorporation

Depending on your chosen structure, you will need to choose the appropriate business registration with SOSDirect (<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/sosda/>).

See here -

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/businessstructure.shtml>

# #6 Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Do you need an EIN?

- <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/do-you-need-an-ein>

Applying for an EIN is a free service offered by the IRS, beware of scams and services who charge you to register.

Apply here -

- <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/how-to-apply-for-an-ein>



# #7 Tax & Banking

Register with the Comptroller of Public Accounts - <https://comptroller.texas.gov/>

Review guidance from Texas Workforce Commission - <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/businesses/start-expand-our-business>

Review IRS guidance on starting a business - <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/starting-a-business>

Review the SBA advice on business bank accounts - <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch/open-business-bank-account-fees-benefits>

See <https://digital.com/blog/accounting-tools/> for a comparison of the 5 leading bookkeeping/accounting tools.

# #8 Obtain Required Permits

See Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) - <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/>

Contact the City of Anna to ensure all permitting requirements are met - <http://www.annatexas.gov>

You may need air, water and waste permit authorizations -

[http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/business\\_permitting.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/business_permitting.html)

*Further reading:*

- Business Insurance Guide - <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch/get-business-insurance-assets-liability>

# #9 Create a Website

2 options for a website; DIY or hire someone.

## DIY

- Read this step-by-step guide to Building Your Own Website for \$150 or less - <https://digital.com/make-a-website/>
- Website builder reviews - <https://digital.com/website-builders/>

## Hire someone

- Local Web Designers
  - <https://tricitygraphicdesign.com/>
  - <http://www.providermktg.com/>
  - <http://www.freshideasmarketingsolutions.com/>
  - <http://www.amstylesent.com/>
  - **Inclusion is not a recommendation. You should conduct your own due diligence on the above providers.**

# #10 Start Marketing Your Business

## Internet Marketing

- <https://digital.com/blog/guide-online-marketing/>

## Sales

- <https://digital.com/blog/sell-big-companies/>
- <http://salesguide.batchbook.com/>

## Social Media

- <https://digital.com/blog/small-business-facebook/>
- <https://digital.com/blog/social-media-tools/>

## *Further reading:*

- <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow/federal-contracting-rules-size-standards>

# Additional Resources

- Join Greater Anna Chamber of Commerce - <http://greaterannatx.chambermaster.com/member/newmemberapp/>
- Finding a location - <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/244866>
- Finding and hiring employees - <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/manage/hire-manage-employees-benefits-contractors>
- Business Finance - <https://digital.com/blog/financing-small-business/>
- Small Business Statistics - <https://digital.com/blog/small-business-statistics/>
- Business owner training and events in Anna - <http://greaterannatx.chambermaster.com/events/>