



HAMILTON
BUSINESS
CENTRE.

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES GUIDE 2022

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Located on the first floor of City Hall, the Hamilton Business Centre (HBC) is your **one-stop source for business information**, guidance and professional advice on starting and running a successful business.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Starter Company Plus

A training and mentoring program for businesses less than 1 year in age offering opportunities for free training in business planning, marketing, bookkeeping, financial planning, and funding opportunities of up to \$5,000.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Access to Professionals

A series providing an opportunity for you to meet with a marketing, accounting, or legal professional for a 30-minute, one-on-one meeting and gives you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your business.

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Summer Company

A young entrepreneurs program, which aims to encourage more young people to turn their talents into creative and innovative businesses while providing hands-on business training, mentoring, and awards of up to \$3,000.

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Digital Main Street

Best described as a free digital "how to" guide to help you grow your business, Digital Main Street (DMS) is a program offering a suite of services that help small, main street businesses achieve digital transformation.

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PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

10 Steps to Starting a Business

A free, online session exploring the fundamental starting points for anyone thinking of opening a business. Topics include: registering a business, financing, licensing, zoning, and more are covered.

[LEARN MORE](#)

My Main Street

A data-driven community economic development program focused on revitalizing main streets with a healthy retail mix while providing residents, new entrepreneurs, and existing businesses with economic opportunities.

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E.R. Monaco Business Plan Competition

This youth program gives high-school students the opportunity to enhance their skills through the development of a professional business plan and challenges their entrepreneurial talents.

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Business Advisory Group

A not-for-profit organization of business persons, senior managers, and professionals working together as volunteers to help start-ups, established businesses, and individuals who want to explore creating a business.

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BUSINESS RESOURCES:

ShopHERE Powered by Google

The ShopHERE program offers businesses and artists the opportunity to build a digital presence and minimize the economic impact of COVID-19 with a quick, easy, and no-cost way to get selling online right away.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Digital Main Street R.A.I.S.E.

R.A.I.S.E. is a program focused on assisting Indigenous, Black and other racialized entrepreneurs to start and scale their business. The program provides coaching, mentorship, advisory services, and grant opportunities.

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Canadian Digital Adoption Program (CDAP)

The Canadian Digital Adoption Program provides funding and support to businesses, as well as training and work opportunities for young Canadians. Which grant is your business eligible for?

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Small Business Centres Ontario

An association supporting the 54 Small Business Centres in Ontario helping entrepreneurs and business owners who are looking to launch a start-up or grow their small business.

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BUSINESS RESOURCES:

Opening a Restaurant in Hamilton (Guide)

Thinking of opening a restaurant? This free guide is here to help you understand the steps you will need to take, and the important people you will need to connect with to start your business.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Digital Service Squad

The Digital Main Street Squad is a team of trained professionals with strong technology and digital marketing skills and experiences that communities & businesses can access for free 1-1 support.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Digital Resource Hub

Whether you're looking to create a logo for your business, learn how to effectively use social media, build a website, or find that perfect photo, this is your hub for 140+ of the best FREE digital resources from around the web.

[LEARN MORE](#)

BizPaL

BizPaL helps you find the permits and licences you may require when starting and/or operating your business. Filter permits based on your location, industry, and business activities and save the ones that apply to your situation.

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BUSINESS RESOURCES:

Business Licences

Many businesses in Hamilton must be licensed to operate legally. A business licence protects the health and safety of the public and also helps ensure consistency for business owners and customers.

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Permits & Inspections

When do I need a building permit? What if I'm just making changes to the structure of my building? Who's responsible for scheduling a construction inspection? Learn more about this important topic for your business.

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Business By-laws

The City of Hamilton has several by-laws to ensure business owners operate a legitimate business and maintain their property or building. Learn more to better understand and recognize your business' responsibilities.

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Health Requirements & Inspection

Do food premises need certified food handlers on site at all times? What do the coloured cards posted by restaurants mean? Learn more about what your businesses requirements might be.

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