Resources to Develop a Business Plan

Any successful business starts with a plan. That is especially true for restaurants. A comprehensive business plan will provide a road map for creating a successful, and profitably business.

A business plan will:

- Allow you to turn your idea into an actual business.
- Understand the costs of running a business
- Prepare financially, especially if you need outside financing.
- Demonstrate a clear business vision to investors, partners, suppliers and others who will have a stake in your success.

In writing a plan, you will gain important knowledge that will be crucial to building a profitable business. Avoid taking short cuts by using off-the-shelf business plans or having someone else write it for you. For the business to be successful, you'll need to invest a lot of time, money and energy into your business. Your first big investment should be in your business plan. A realistic, well-researched plan is the first step on the road to success.

Here are some helpful resources from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and their Partners: These resources will help you learn about creating a business plan, customers, competition, future opportunities, key location factors, and much more.

- **Write your business plan** (https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan-your-business/write-your-business-plan)
- **Start and grow your business** using the SBA Business Guide (https://www.sba.gov/business-guide)
- Consider taking some classes using **Pre-Start Resources** from **RI SCORE** (https://ri.score.org/pre-start-resources)
- **SCORE** – "**12 Steps to Starting a Restaurant"** https://s3.amazonaws.com/mentoring.redesign/s3fs-public/SCORE%20CoE%20Deluxe-eGuide-12%20Steps%20to%20Starting%20a%20%20Restaurant7-17-16.pdf
- **Rhode Island Small Business Development Center (SBDC) –** https://web.uri.edu/risbdc/

If you are still unsure of where to start, take a class or attend a workshop. The more you know, the better your business plan will be.