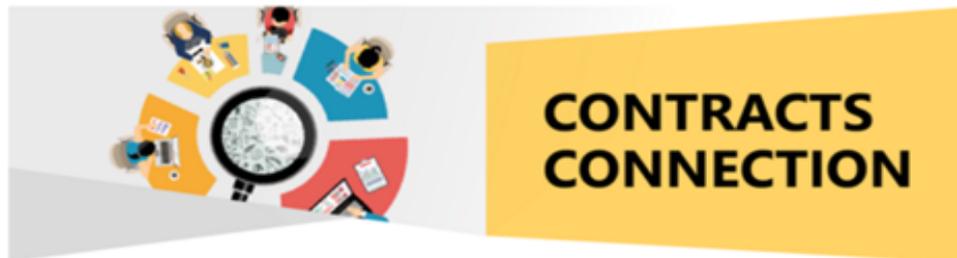




Monroe
**BUSINESS
NEWSLETTER**

City of Monroe, Washington

July 2024



Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses

Small, Diverse, and/or Veteran-Owned Businesses

Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) registers small, diverse, and/or veteran-owned businesses for state contracting.

- Attend free [monthly webinar](#).
- Register in [Washington Electronic Business Solution \(WEBS\)](#), the state bidding system.
- Learn how: [Tips for working with the state](#).
- View all upcoming contracting opportunities: [Planned procurements](#)
- Stay connected: [Subscribe to our monthly email bulletin](#) for the latest updates and opportunities for small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses.

Apply Now for DES New Small Works Roster

Small prime contractors looking for public works opportunities of \$350,000 or less should [apply now](#) to join the statewide [small works roster](#).

As of July 1:

- DES will be joining the statewide small works roster hosted by the Municipal Research and Services Center.
- Whether you're new to [small works](#) or you've been on DES's list before, you must [apply now](#) to continue to receive small works opportunities after June 30.
- DES will also be switching to online bids for the small works roster – [register for online bidding](#) today!

[Subscribe](#) for Public Works Business Diversity updates, or [email your questions](#)



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Two New Loan Programs Available!

Department of Commerce launches the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) with two new loan programs:

Washington Small Business Flex Fund 2. This Fund helps small businesses and nonprofits access affordable loans. With competitive interest rates and flexible repayment options, the new Washington Small Business Flex Fund 2 is designed to help small businesses and nonprofits access funds to grow and thrive.

Owner-Occupied Commercial Real-Estate Loan Program: The program is designed to assist small businesses in qualifying for financing and lowering their business risk when undertaking owner-occupied real estate loans. The program benefits small business owners with funding for commercial real estate loans for tenant improvements, construction, purchase or refinance.

[Learn More](#)



Northwest **Access** Fund



NW Access is a microlender specifically focused on lending to disabled business owners.

Their Small Business Support Program is designed to assist potential and existing entrepreneurs in starting, growing, and managing a small business, navigating the gig economy, or managing self-employment income. NW Access assists:

- All disabilities
- All income levels
- Ages 16 and up
- All types of businesses with under 5 employees

They also offer no-cost, one-on-one confidential **business coaching** on a wide range of topics based on individual needs, covering:

- Pre-business preparation
- Credit building and loan readiness
- Effects of business income on disability benefits, including reporting guidance on net earnings for self-employment
- ABLE accounts and PASS program enrollment and management
- Business planning and financial management
- Access to capital through their Opportunity Loan and other loan/grant programs
- Entrepreneurship webinar series

[For more information](#)



Survey: Is Lack of Childcare Impacting your Business's Bottom Line?

Lack of access to early learning and childcare is a **critical workforce issue** in Snohomish County.

To understand the impact of childcare on hiring and retention for Snohomish County business, we're gathering crucial data from businesses which will guide us in developing family-friendly workplace policies.

Take this quick survey **by July 31** to join with us in our efforts to create a thriving business environment for everyone!

[Take the Survey](#)



Small Business Grants, Energy Rebates, Contracting Opportunities, and More

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched the new [Investing in America \(IIA\) Small Business Hub](#), an online portal providing industry-specific resources to help small businesses connect with opportunities created under recent federal spending bills. The IIA Small Business Hub includes guides to help more small businesses access **Investing in America** grants, contracts, and market opportunities. It also highlights SBA resources that can help small businesses access the investment capital they need to scale and the certifications they need to qualify for IIA funding.

[Visit the Hub](#)



Resources for Black-Owned Businesses

Black-Owned Business Excellence (**BOBE**) is a "for and by" organization with a collaborative of different local minority-owned businesses, organizations, and individuals coming together since 2020 to support, educate, inspire, and elevate businesses that are owned by historically underserved business owners in Washington State.

[Visit BOBE for more information](#)

WA Data Bootcamp

Fast track to a high-demand data analyst career.



20-week program taught by expert instructors

 Live Zoom Training Sessions

 Business approach to data analytics

 Real world experience to hit the ground running

“

I came away from the very first class thinking I'd made the right choice. I like the idea of being part of something bigger than myself that is taking humanity forward, taking the data and using it positively.

Brian Starr | WA Data Bootcamp Grad

APPLY TODAY

(no cost to apply)

wa-data.nwirc.com/bootcamp/

Start a highly in-demand career across all industries with the WA Data Bootcamp! Gain the skills needed for one of the most rewarding careers, offering career advancement and compensation opportunities. The WA Data Bootcamp helps equip you with desirable skills like SQL and PowerBI to qualify you for high-demand/high-paying jobs like Business Analyst or Data Visualization engineer. Boost your skills with an education relevant to today's job market and the future!

Join one of the free live sessions to learn more about the bootcamp: <https://www.workforcesnohomish.org/wabootcamp/>

Upcoming sessions:

Monday July 1, 1PM

Wednesday July 3, 6PM

Friday July 5, 3PM

Wednesday, July 10, 11AM

Monday, July 15, 1PM

List Your Business with
Intentionalist - Showcasing
Minority-Owned Businesses in
Our Community



Intentionalist.com makes it easy to find and support local small businesses and the diverse people behind them through everyday decisions about where we eat, drink, and shop.

[Learn More and List Your Business!](#)



Small Businesses Can Save Money & Help the
Environment

Electronic products contain valuable materials that can be recycled and toxic chemicals that should be kept out of landfills. E-Cycle Washington is a free program that makes it easy for small businesses to recycle certain broken or worn-out electronics and save money. Items accepted include:

- TVs
- Computers
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Tablets

To find a nearby collection site, call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to ecyclewa.org. If you have more than 10 electronic items, contact the [Materials Management and Financing Authority](#) at 1-855-674-5871 before taking them to a collection location.

Small businesses may also participate in the program by **becoming a collection site** and **receive compensation** for the electronics collected. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a collector, contact Christine Haun at christine.haun@ecy.wa.gov.



Check out the Summer Edition of *Choose Monroe Magazine!*

Your live-shop-play local guide to Monroe and vicinity!

[View online version here.](#)

Energy System Grants for Manufacturers

The federal Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESCC), through its Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC), helps small- and medium-sized manufacturers **save energy, improve productivity, and reduce waste** by providing FREE technical assessments conducted by university-based teams of engineering students and faculty. This program can provide up to **\$300,000 grants** to implement energy-saving recommendations resulting from the assessment. Grants require a **50% cost-share**.

Eligibility:

- Gross annual sales less than \$100,000,000 (based on the manufacturing firm/entity);
- Under 500 employees at the facility site; and
- Annual energy bills of more than \$100,000 but less than \$3,500,000 (based on the manufacturing firm/entity)

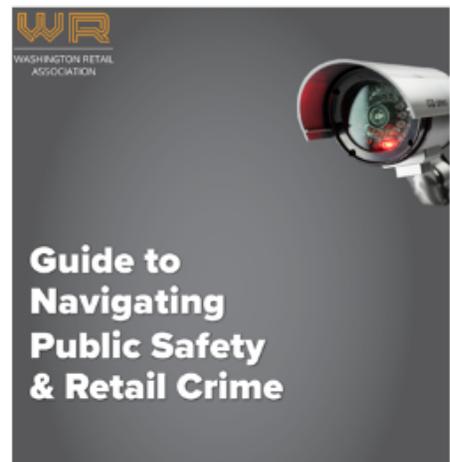
For more information or to apply for an assessment.



Useful Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety

The Washington Retail Association has compiled a useful *Guide to Navigating Public Safety & Retail Crime*.

Peruse the Guide!



Main Street America Offers Series of Insightful Podcasts for Small Businesses



Latest in the "Main Street Business Insights" series:

Uniting Design and Culture

Listen in and follow the series.

On-Going Resources for Small Businesses



No matter what phase your business is in -- from starting up or growing, to down-sizing -- the **Small Business Guide**, created by the State Commerce Department, is an invaluable resource for your business.

The **Guide** covers:

- Planning -- Start-Up
- Payroll -- Opening
- Management -- Growth
- Closure -- Loan Programs
- And more

The State also offers an array of knowledgeable **Small Business Liaisons** who can help you with specialized resources and information.

Plus, **FREE workshops** are available, providing essential information and resources to help start and grow your business. **Next workshop: May 7, 9am-10am.**



Owning a business is both exciting and intimidating.

If you're looking for local resources, free business templates, e-guides, check-lists, and other helpful resources for **starting or growing** your enterprise, SCORE Greater Seattle is your destination. SCORE's mentors can assist in putting your ideas into action.

Tools and resources to help your small business grow - SCORE



Upcoming Events

Monroe Farmers Market - Wednesdays 3PM - 7PM through Sept 25.

Music in the Park - Fridays in July, 6PM - 9PM

Fair "Opening Day" Food Drive - July 13, 12PM - 5PM

Washington Midsummer Renaissance Faire - 5 weekends from July 19 - August 18, 10AM - 7PM

[More information here](#)

Fireworks may be discharged within Monroe city limits on:

July 4 9 a.m. - Midnight
December 31 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.



It is legal to sell and purchase common fireworks within Monroe city limits from July 1-4 between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m., and from December 27-31 between 12-11 p.m. Contact the City of Monroe at 360-794-7400 to learn more about public fireworks display permitting and fireworks stand business licensing.



For more safety tips & information scan the qr code above.



Local Webinars and Classes

Attend any of the following small business webinars hosted by Katy Woods, Coastal Community Bank Branch Manager and Certified Coach:

- **Risk Management**, Thursday, July 25, 1:00 - 2:00PM
- **Insurance**, Thursday, August 29, 1:00 - 2:00PM

[Learn More and Register](#)

Monroe Listens Report Your Issue!

The City offers a direct and easy way to send your questions, concerns, requests, and compliments directly to the City staff person who can help you. Potholes, graffiti, fallen tree limbs, drainage problems, etc. Please let us know at [Monroe Listens](#).





Geoffrey Thomas

Have a question or comment for Mayor Thomas?
Contact him at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember
Tami Beaumont



Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question or comment for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov