



## Libraries and Business Startups

*Resources in libraries provide a platform of opportunity for entrepreneurship in Montana communities.*

### SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Libraries propel entrepreneurship across the U.S. (American Library Association). *"More than 6,000 public library outlets provide specific assistance with the development of small business plans."* Librarians assist with business plans, market research, and business how-to references on every topic. A search engine may give you a million results; your local librarian knows what's pertinent for you.

Reporting on the state of entrepreneurship in Montana at the 2018 Montana Chamber Economic Update, UM economist Bryce Ward, said *"To get from idea to launch, budding entrepreneurs need to evaluate their idea, learn what it takes to start a business and develop their product or service. Information resources are vital to helping people through this process."*

Libraries in your community are a natural connection with local government—librarians can direct you to help with permitting, applications, and other first steps.

### BUSINESS SERVICE

Along with free Internet access and technical assistance, libraries provide business services—copies, sending and receiving faxes, even legal forms—to help individuals or groups get an endeavor off the ground. *"Especially in rural Montana, the library is their Kinko's."* Stacey Moore, Fallon County Library.

Librarians connect people with local resources. They are likely to have local, reliable, and relevant small business resources at their fingertips.

### TOOLS TO RESEARCH BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Web-based data such as the Site Selector (<http://svc.mt.gov/gov/siteselector>) help business startups and relocating businesses identify opportunities. Want to research infrastructure and property features at a potential business location? Geographic information is supplied at <http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral>, maintained by the Montana State Library. Information to speed environmental reviews and permitting processes is available from the Montana Natural Heritage Program at <http://mtnhp.org>.