***North Carolina is committed to helping small businesses succeed!!***

**OVERVIEW:**

* Small Business Advisors; EDPNC
* Small Business Partners
* Validate a business
* NC Fun

**How can Small Business Advisors & EDPNC Help Your Business?**

**OVERVIEW OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORS and THE PARTNERSHIP**

* **EDPNC Small Business Advisors:**

*Previously, we were* ***Business Link North Carolina (BLNC)*** *and now we have rebranded as EDPNC* ***Small Business Advisors!*** *(Same team, just a new look & feel)*

We are an extension of NC Department of Commerce (and part of the Economic Development Partnership of NC, EDPNC) and have been around since 1987 to help people who want to START or EXPAND a business in NC.

The Small Business Advisors assist individuals/companies with the rules/regulations to be compliant to conduct business in the state. We partner with all state agencies and licensing boards. In addition, we provide local business resources to further assist the business to achieve success. Resource information: licensure, permitting, education, funding, and events. Our goal is to help small businesses succeed.

***EDPNC Small Business Advisors*** toll-free, **1-800-228-8443**, or local at 919-447-7828, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET or go to our ***NCSBAdvisors.gov*** to learn more

* **Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC)- 919-447-7770**

EDPNC is to aid in the creation of sustainable private-sector jobs and investment in NC through the marketing of our state for corporate expansions and recruitment, international trade, small-business start-ups, tourism, exporting, film, and sports development.  We support both new and existing businesses. [www.EDPNC.com](http://www.EDPNC.com)

**PARTNERS - Small Business**

***Small Business Defined*** *– There are lots of definitions although we abide by the Federal Government, Small Business Administration (SBA). A business with 500 or less employees. Most of the time to entrepreneurial groups, small business is < 100 employees and likely under 10.*

**Small Business Center Network (SBC)**– Each community college has a Small Business Center which provides free business counseling, help with business plans, take classes, and find resources. The goal, for any North Carolinian to be within 20 min of finding a center to help them start, develop-grow a small business. Website: [www.NCSBC.net](http://www.NCSBC.net)

**Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC)** – There are 15 centers, specializing in helping small to medium size businesses with sustainability, financial planning, strategic counseling. Website: [www.SBTDC.org](http://www.SBTDC.org)

**NCWORKS.gov** - Complete set of tools for employers to advertise positions and job seekers to find work in NC. Website: https://www.ncworks.gov (NC employers can post jobs for free)

**VALIDITY OF A BUSINESS?**

***NC CONSUMER PROTECTION: NC offers a Consumer Protection Hotline to help North Carolinians avoid fraud or report issues with businesses.*** Contact NC Consumer Protection Hotline Provided by the Dept. of Justice *877-566-7226* or *1-877-5-No-Scam* (only if calling within NC)

***BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB)*** *– An* established nonprofit who offers BBB Accreditation (rating system – “A+”) for businesses meeting standards, also one can validate or complain about a business. Website: https://www.bbb.org/

***NC BUSINESS – Check the Status of a Business - Master online business database, NC Secretary of State*** *houses all registered NC businesses.* WEBSITE: ***SOSNC.gov – ‘I Want To…’*** – Under Attorneys – ***Search for a business***

* ***COMPANY –*** *Find: LLCs, Corps and Nonprofits*
* ***ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME –*** *Find: DBAs, Fictitious Names (only since 12/1/2017)*

**Fun**

**VisitNC.com** – Great site for FUN to see what festivals and events are in each region of the state