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## CITY OF STOCKTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 CITY OF STOCKTON

# BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

10 Steps to Starting a  
Business in  
the City of Stockton

  
CITY OF STOCKTON

# 10 STEPS TO STARTING A BUSINESS

1

## MARKET RESEARCH

Understand the market for potential customers and competitors.

2

## CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN

Map the structure, operations, and goals for growth.

3

## FUND YOUR BUSINESS

Explore different sources of funding to help launch and support your business.

4

## CHOOSE LOCATION

Check zoning restrictions and obtain appropriate permits for your business operations.

5

## CHOOSE LEGAL STRUCTURE

Decide whether your business will be a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, or limited liability company.

10

OPEN

## OPEN YOUR BUSINESS

Find resources to help support your business.

9

## HIRE EMPLOYEES

Be aware of local, state, and federal employment reporting, taxation, and withholding laws and requirements.

8

## OBTAIN BUSINESS LICENSE

Obtain a City of Stockton Business License to legally operate in the City.

7

## OBTAIN TAX ID NUMBER

Federal (EIN) and State (SEIN) Employer Identification Numbers are required to operate.

6

## CHOOSE NAME

Choose and register your business name with the county or Secretary of State (if applicable)