

**Business Plan Template**

Place Company Logo Here

**Business Plan**

Owner’s Names

Name of Business

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

Website

**Elements of the Business Plan**

**Cover Page**

**Table of Contents**

**Executive Summary**

This is actually written last as a summary of the entire plan and to entice your reader to want to continue reading.

**Business Description**

Provide a clear and detailed description of the business. Items to include are business stage, location, owners and their backgrounds, company structure and company goals.

**Products and/or Services**

Describe the products and/or services you will be offering and the unique benefits of these products and/or services. Be as detailed and specific as possible and include pricing and mark-up information.

**Market Observations & Analysis**

Describe the unmet need that your product and/or services fills. Be specific on who your customers will be and how they will know about your product and/or service. Talk about the size of your market, your competitors, and the current and future state of the industry you are in as well as any pre-sales.

**Marketing Plan**

Explain how customers will get your products and/or services. Who is responsible for selling the products and/or services? What method(s) will be used to make customers aware of your offering? What will the initial strategy entail and the ongoing strategy?

**Management and Operations**

Discuss the legal organization of the business and who the owners are. Talk about key advisors and include background information on key employees. Who will manage the business on a day-to-day basis? Discuss hours of operation, facility needs, labor availability, accounting system, suppliers, insurance coverage, etc.

**Financial Plan**

Describe the financial need of the business and how the funds will be used. Include information on startup costs, cash flows, income projections, balance sheet and personal financial position.

**Attachments and Additional Documentation**

Attach any necessary financial documents and supporting information.

**Executive Summary**

This portion is written after the rest of the document is completed. It should include an enthusiastic snapshot of your company. Explain who you are, what you do, and why. Keep this section brief.

**Business Description**

Provide a clear and detailed description of the business. Items to include are business stage, location, owners and their backgrounds, company structure and company goals. Also include items such as:

•Business Purpose •Information about Business growth

•Business goals •Brief history of Business

**Products and/or Services**

Describe the products and/or services you will be offering and the unique benefits of these products and/or services. Be as detailed and specific as possible. Include items such as:

•What need does your product/service satisfy? •Price?

•What unique benefits does it have? •Cost to produce?

**Market Observations & Analysis**

Describe the unmet need that your product and/or services fills. Explain who your customers will be and how they will know about your product and/or service. Talk about the size of your market, your competitors, and the current and future state of the industry you are in.

•Geographic Profile of customers •Demographic Profile of customers

•Market Size •Competition

•Competitive Advantage/Disadvantage •Strengths and Weaknesses

•Local Economy •Barriers to entering the industry

**Marketing Plan**

Explain how customers will get your products and/or services. Who is responsible for selling the products and/or services? What method(s) will be used to make customers aware of your offering? What will the initial strategy entail and the ongoing strategy?

•Pricing of Advertising •Promotion

•Frequency of Advertising

**Management and Operations**

Discuss the legal organization of the business and who the owners are. Talk about key advisors and include background information on key employees. Who will manage the business on a day-to-day basis? Discuss hours of operation, facility needs, labor availability, accounting system, suppliers, insurance coverage, etc.

**Financial Plan**

Describe the financial need of the business and how the funds will be used. Include information on startup costs, cash flows, income projections, balance sheet and personal financial position.

**Attachments and Additional Documentation**

Attach necessary financial documents and supporting information. Documents may include:

•Owner’s Tax Returns for past 3 years •Loan Proceeds

•Owner’s Resume •Resumes of Key Employees

•Capital Equipment List with pricing •Company brochures

•Inventory List with pricing •Printed Advertising

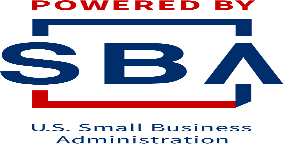
•Financial Projections – Income Statement •Press Articles

•Financial Projections – Balance Sheet •Pictures of business and products

•Financial Projections – Cash Flow •Information supporting growth

•Break-Even Analysis •Key Business Agreements such as leases, contracts, etc.





*Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Mary Sirna, Interim Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, and Affirmative Action Officer, 3350 Beardshear Hall, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, email eooffice@iastate.edu.*

*Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.*