



Growing

Connecting

Supporting

CompuRecycling Center, Inc.

501(c)(3) Technical Agency * MS Delta SBDC Center

Located in Business Technology Complex

1719 George Abraham Blvd Greenville, MS 38703

Website: compurecyclingcenter.org Email: compurecyclingcenter@gmail.com

Telephone: 662 335 2060

Alt: 662 822 5751

10 Steps To Starting A Business In Mississippi

1. Choose a Business Idea

Take time to explore and research ideas for your business. At this stage, take into consideration your own interests, skills, resources, availability, and the reasons why you want to form a business. You should also evaluate the likelihood of success based on the interests of your community, and whether your business idea will meet an unmet need.

After you select an idea, consider drafting a business with support from compurecyclingcenter.org to determine your chances of making a profit. When you create a plan, you will have a better idea of the startup costs, your competition, and strategies for making money. Investors and lenders will want to review your business plan before providing financial assistance, and you can be prepared by drafting a plan in advance of submitting funding requests.

2. Decide on a Legal Structure

The most common legal structures for a small business are:

- sole proprietorship
- partnership
- limited liability company (LLC), and
- corporation.

There also are special versions of some of these structures, such as limited partnerships and S corporations. You'll want to consider which business entity structure offers the type of liability protection you want and the best tax, financing, and financial benefits for you and your business.

3. Choose a Name

For LLCs and corporations, you will need to check that your name is distinguishable from the names of other business entities already on file with the Mississippi Secretary of State (SOS). You can check for available names by doing a business name search on a [business name search](#) on the SOS website. You can reserve an available name for 180 days by filing an *Application for Name Reservation* with the Mississippi SOS. You will need to register with the Mississippi SOS's [online filing system](#) to get the name reservation application form. There are certain name requirements for LLCs and corporations (like including a word such as "LLC" for LLCs or "Company" for corporations).



CompuRecycling Center, Inc.

501(c)(3) Technical Agency * MS Delta SBDC Center

Located in Business Technology Complex

1719 George Abraham Blvd Greenville, MS 38703

Website: compurecyclingcenter.org Email: compurecyclingcenter@gmail.com

Telephone: 662 335 2060

Alt: 662 822 5751

Growing

Connecting

Supporting

If you plan on doing business online, you may want to register your business name as a domain name. In addition, to avoid trademark infringement issues, you should do a federal and state trademark check to make sure the name you want to use is not the same as or too similar to a name already in use.

4. Create Your Business Entity

- **Sole proprietorship:** To establish a sole proprietorship in Mississippi, you don't need to file any documents.
- **Partnership:** To create a general partnership in Mississippi, you don't need to file any organizational documents with the state. Although not legally required, all partnerships should have a written partnership agreement. The partnership agreement can be very helpful if there is ever a dispute among the partners. To form a limited liability partnership (often used by professionals), you must file a Statement of Qualification with the Mississippi SOS.
- **LLCs:** To create an LLC in Mississippi, you must file a [certificate of formation](#) with the Mississippi SOS. Filing must be done online. You will also need to appoint a registered agent in Mississippi for service of process. In addition, while not required by law, you also should prepare an operating agreement to establish the basic rules about how your LLC will operate. The operating agreement is not filed with the state.
- **Corporations:** To create a corporation in Mississippi, you must file [articles of incorporation](#) with the Mississippi SOS. Filing must be done online. You will also need to appoint a registered agent in Mississippi for service of process. Although not legally required, you also should prepare [bylaws](#) to establish your corporation's internal operating rules. Bylaws are not filed with the state.



Growing

Connecting

Supporting

CompuRecycling Center, Inc.

501(c)(3) Technical Agency * MS Delta SBDC Center

Located in Business Technology Complex

1719 George Abraham Blvd Greenville, MS 38703

Website: compurecyclingcenter.org Email: compurecyclingcenter@gmail.com

Telephone: 662 335 2060

Alt: 662 822 5751

5. Apply for Licenses and Permits

Tax Registration. If you will be selling goods in Mississippi, you must register to collect sales tax with the Mississippi Department of Revenue (DOR). If you will have employees in Mississippi, you must register with the DOR for employer withholding tax. For both types of tax, you can register online using the Mississippi [Taxpayer Access Point](#) (TAP).

EIN. If your business has employees or is taxed separately from you, you must obtain a federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS. Even if you are not required to obtain an EIN, there are often business reasons for doing so. Banks often require an EIN to open an account in the business's name and other companies you do business with may require an EIN to process payments. You can get an EIN by completing an [online application](#). There is no filing fee.

Regulatory licenses and permits. These cover areas such as:

- health and safety
- the environment
- building and construction; and
- specific industries or services.

6. Find a Business Location and Check Zoning

You'll need to pick a location for your business and check local zoning regulations. Before you commit to a location, take time to calculate the costs of running your business in the desired spot, including rent and utilities. You can refer back to your business plan to evaluate whether you can afford your desired location during your company's early months.

It is important to verify that the spot is zoned for your type of business. You might find zoning regulations for your town or city by reviewing your local ordinances and contacting your town's zoning or planning department.

One alternative to opening your business at a new location is running your company out of your home. If you decide to run a home-based business, again check your local zoning laws. In addition, review your lease (if you rent your home) and homeowners association rules (if applicable), either of which might ban some or all home businesses.



CompuRecycling Center, Inc.

501(c)(3) Technical Agency * MS Delta SBDC Center

Located in Business Technology Complex

1719 George Abraham Blvd Greenville, MS 38703

Website: compurecyclingcenter.org Email: compurecyclingcenter@gmail.com

Telephone: 662 335 2060

Alt: 662 822 5751

Growing

Connecting

Supporting

7. File and Report Taxes

Mississippi taxes every kind of business.

Sole proprietorships. Pay state taxes on business income as part of their personal state income tax returns ([Form 80-105](#)).

Partnerships. Partners pay state taxes on partnership income on personal tax returns. In addition, most partnerships also must file [Form 84-105](#), *Pass-Through Entity Tax Return*.

LLCs. Members pay state taxes on their share of LLC income on personal tax returns. In addition, the LLC itself must file [Form 84-105](#), *Pass-Through Entity Tax Return*. Furthermore, the LLC also must file an annual report with the Mississippi SOS.

Corporations. Shareholders must pay state taxes on their dividends from the corporation. A shareholder-employee with a salary also must pay state income tax on his or her personal state tax return. Moreover, the corporation itself is subject to Mississippi corporation taxes and a corporate franchise tax. Finally, corporations must file an annual report with the Mississippi SOS.

If you have employees, you must also deal with state employee taxes.

8. Obtain Insurance

Business insurance can protect your company and your personal assets from the fallout of unexpected disasters, such as personal injury lawsuits or natural catastrophes. An insurance agent can help you explore the different coverage options for your business, which may include general liability insurance to protect you against claims relating to bodily injury or property damage, or malpractice insurance for professionals such as doctors and lawyers

9. Open a Business Bank Account

No matter the type of business you form, you should consider opening a separate business account to make it easier to track your income and expenses. For some business types, like LLCs and corporations, a separate bank account is necessary to maintain your liability protection.

10. Develop Your Business Plan

Contact compurecyclingcenter.org to develop your business plan.