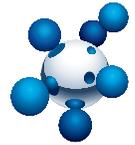


# SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

## Sasol Corporate Social Investment



sasol



Education &  
Workforce  
Development



Environment



Economic  
Development



develop a plan



make it official



market your services



grow your business

### BACKGROUND

During this period of high economic growth and industrial development in Southwest Louisiana, local residents and small businesses have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience their own growth.

Sasol partnered with local business development organizations—the Louisiana Small Business Development Center and the Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center, to develop a Small Business Resource Guide that outlines suggested steps for launching a new business and recommendations for existing businesses that want to build a working relationship with area industry.

### LOCAL RESOURCES

Starting, managing and maintaining a small business takes hard work, self-initiative, determination, resilience and staying power. There are numerous organizations across Southwest Louisiana that can help open doors of opportunity and help business owners reach their business goals. The Small Business Resource Guide aims to connect businesses with these resources and with the companies that need their services.

The guide contains three main sections:

1. A step-by-step guide to starting a business
2. Guidance for existing businesses who want to work with area industry
3. A comprehensive resource section with contact information

### STEERING COMMITTEE

The Small Business Resource Guide's steering committee is composed of local small business owners who understand that being your own boss is rewarding, but comes with additional responsibilities and challenges. The steering committee's purpose is compiling a resource that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit of Southwest Louisiana by mitigating business challenges.

The steering committee continues to collect purchasing and contracting information from industrial development projects in an effort to demystify processes involved with doing business with local industry. The guide is updated with that information as projects move toward the contracting phase.

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Learn more about Sasol and other community initiatives at [www.sasolnorthamerica.com](http://www.sasolnorthamerica.com)

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### **WORKSHOPS**

Following the launch of the Small Business Resource Guide, Sasol committed to fund monthly certification workshops and other small business development trainings through the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at McNeese for area businesses and entrepreneurs, including workshops that qualify local businesses as minority, woman-owned, small disadvantaged or HUB Zone certified. Other workshops include understanding cash flow, financing business expansion, risk management, marketing and QuickBooks. Interested parties should contact Donna Little, Director, at 337-475-5529 for more information.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Advanced Audio Video Technologies, City of Lake Charles, City of Sulphur, City of Westlake, Elite Janitorial Services, Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Small Business Development Center at McNeese State University, Simien Law Firm, Southern Touch Technologies and Southwest Louisiana Chamber-Economic Development Alliance and Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center