



SMALL BUSINESS STARTER KIT

 **Rave** FINANCIAL.





A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Something That's Yours

This interactive guide to starting a small business is designed to help you turn ideas into action. From your first steps to long-term growth, you'll find the tools, tips, and confidence to build something that's fully yours—on your terms.



1

Understanding Your Credit

2

Validating Your Business Idea

3

Building Your Support Team

4

Financial + Business Services with Rave

5

Additional Resources



1

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Your credit plays a bigger role than you think.

When you're just starting out, your personal credit is often the key to unlocking funding. Over time, building strong business credit helps you expand those opportunities.

What to know:

- Credit impacts approvals, rates, and loan amounts
- Many traditional financing options look for scores in the mid-600s+
- Requirements vary based on your business stage and goals

RAVE TIP:

Not sure where you stand? Start there. Understanding your credit now can save you time (and stress) later.

2

MAKE SURE IT WORKS

A good idea is great. A validated idea is better.

Before you invest your time and money, take a step back and make sure your business idea is built to succeed.

Connect with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)—a free resource for entrepreneurs.

They can help you:

- Research your market and competition
- Test demand and feasibility
- Build a business plan and financial projections
- Get one-on-one guidance
- Access workshops, training, and funding insights

RAVE TIP:

The more you learn upfront, the more confident your next steps will be.



3

BUILD YOUR TEAM

Behind every successful business is a strong support system.

You don't need a huge team—but you do need the right people in your corner.

Start with these three:

Insurance Advisor

- What coverage do I actually need?
- How will my needs change as I grow?
- Should I have business interruption insurance?

Accountant

- What business structure makes the most sense?
- What can I write off?
- How do I stay ahead on taxes?

Financial Partner (Hi, that's us!)

- What funding options are available to me?
- How do I prepare to qualify?
- What should I be doing financially right now?

RAVE TIP:

The right advice early on can prevent expensive mistakes later.

4

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

The right tools make running your business easier from day one.

At Rave, we offer solutions designed to support you at every stage:

- Business checking accounts that work as hard as you do
- Lending options for startup and growth
- Payment processing and merchant services
- Educational workshops and resources
- Dedicated relationship managers for ongoing support

RAVE TIP:

Simple systems = smoother operations. Set yourself up right from the start.



5

KEEP LEARNING + GROWING

You're not expected to know everything—just where to go next.

Take advantage of resources built to support small business owners like you:

- Explore tools and templates through the Small Business Development Center
- Connect with advisors who can guide your next move
- Reach out to Rave's Business Lending team for personalized support

LET'S BUILD SOMETHING GREAT

Big ideas start with small steps.
And the right partner can make all the difference.

Ready to take the next step? *Let's talk.*

RAVE FINANCIAL

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A credit union worth **raving** about.