

When starting up a new business in Sikeston, there are several things to keep in mind. The following is a checklist of things to do once you come up with an idea for your business.

### **Looking for a building**

When looking for a building to house your business, make sure to:

Check the zoning for the property to see what is allowed.

- If the zoning doesn't allow for the type of business you want to have, contact Sikeston Community Development to see if it will be possible to get a conditional use variance.
- To receive a conditional use variance, the business owner will go to Planning and Zoning. If approved at Planning and Zoning, it will go to Sikeston City Council for final approval.

### **Once a building is found**

Once a building is found to house your business, be sure to:

- Look at your floor plan. If making changes to the structure that are more than cosmetic, you will need a permit. Things like moving outlets, changing walls or making any structural changes require a permit.
- Contact the city fire marshal to see if there are any codes against what the changes will be.
- Speak with Sikeston BMU and make sure the building you are going into has the range of power you will need. Check for the water usage as well.
- If building a new building in a C-3 zone that ties into Main and Malone, talk to MoDOT about egress to a state highway.

### **Ready to open the business**

Before you can open for business, there are a few final steps.

- Apply for a business license at Sikeston City Hall.
- Once you apply for a business license, it will trigger a business license inspection, which will include fire and code enforcement.
- Once the business passes, the collector's office will issue a business license and the inspector will issue a certificate of occupancy (COO).

### **Important numbers to know**

Sikeston Community Development	573-475-3743
Sikeston Collector's Office	573-471-2193
Sikeston BMU	573-471-3328
Sikeston Chamber of Commerce	573-471-2498
Historic Downtown Sikeston	573-380-3801