

# Business Incentives

Whether your business needs include venture capital, experienced commercial lenders, or access to federal & state programs, Florida has the resources your business requires.

**Venture Capital (VC):** Venture capital investments in Florida companies is encouraged by several Florida capital formation initiatives, such as the Florida Opportunity Fund and the Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research. Venture capital firms can provide you with the funding needed to jump-start your technology business. Florida's venture capital companies and The Florida Venture Forum can prove to be a valuable resource.

**Lenders:** Florida is home to more than 300 commercial banks with \$325 billion in deposits, and nearly 50 savings institutions with \$54 billion in deposits. For international financial institutions in the state (foreign banks, Edge Act corporations, and US-insured institutions) that enable the conduct of international trade by issuing letters of credit, providing currency exchange, and making trade related loans, as well as financing projects in various countries throughout the Americas, please visit the Florida International Bankers Association.

**Federal & State Programs:** Contrary to popular belief, the government does not give away "free money" to starting or expanding businesses. However, there are several federal and state programs available that provide businesses with some financial aid. Here are a few:

- **Enterprise Bond Program:** Offers tax-exempt, low interest bond financing to qualified manufacturing and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations through Florida Development Finance Corporation. For more information regarding the Enterprise Bond program, please visit the Florida Development Finance Corporation.
- **SBA Loan Programs:** Through its two local SBA offices in Florida, Jacksonville SBA office and Miami SBA office, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers several loan programs that provide financial aid to small businesses.
- **Federal Grants:** The federal government primarily provides grants for research and development. Below are a few websites that provide information about these grants and other types of assistance:

- [Federal Grants](#)
- [SBIR/STTR Grants](#)
- [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#)