



Small Business Guide



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Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to open a business in the City of Barberton. Awarded the All-America City Award in 2022, our recent business climate, existing and planned projects, customer base, amenities, and overall quality of life make Barberton one of THE best places to start a business. Many people at one time or another have considered owning and operating their own business.

Who doesn't long for the independence of being your own boss and being successful with something you're passionate about? The City of Barberton welcomes your business and your entrepreneurial spirit and wants to make the process of opening your business as easy as possible.

By reading this guide, you have already taken the first step in developing a solid foundation for your small business. We hope that you find this guide useful in navigating the various procedures required when opening a business. Although this guide may not answer all of your questions, Main Street Barberton hopes it will provide you with some of the basic tools and resources that may enable you and your business to become a success story.

This guide was developed in partnership with the City of Barberton and Main Street Barberton, a 501(c)(3). Main Street Barberton was established in 2022 with the goal of creating new economic growth and development opportunities in the City of Barberton's downtown district by rehabilitating and revitalizing the downtown Barberton area.



Main Street Barberton

99 4th St NW

Barberton, OH 44203

(330)510-1335

mainstreetbarberton.com



City of Barberton

576 W Park Ave.

Barberton, OH 44203

(330)753-6611

www.cityofbarberton.com



Prepare

All businesses in Ohio must fulfill their tax obligation for the state, federal, and local governments. If you are going to be in business, you'll want to know what types of business taxes may apply, including: State and Federal Tax Sales and Use Tax, Self-Employment Tax and Property Tax. It is a good idea to consult with a tax professional before you get started, so you will be well aware of what taxes will apply and when.

You should also determine what regulations will affect your business. The following is a list of some of the agencies that may offer useful resources:

- Internal Revenue Service (IRS): www.irs.gov/business
- Department of Job and Family Services: jfs.ohio.gov
- Department of Taxation: tax.ohio.gov
- Worker's Compensation: bwc.ohio.gov

Visit your local library: www.barbertonlibrary.org

Small Business Development Center (SBDC): www.sbdc.net

Small Business Administration: www.sba.gov

South Summit Chamber of Commerce: www.southsummitchamber.org/

Bounce Innovation Hub: bouncehub.org

Main Street Barberton: mainstreetbarberton.com

For additional resources, visit the City of Barberton website: www.cityofbarberton.com



Zoning and Permits

Once you've found the perfect location, it's now time to obtain any necessary permits and licensing. Contact the City of Barberton Planning Department at (330) 848-6729 to answer any questions about Zoning or any of the following permits:

Certificate of Zoning Compliance Application – This is required before any building can be occupied. A Zoning Certificate for Zoning Use Compliance confirms that a declared use, and only that use, of a specified property conforms to zoning requirements.

Certificate of Appropriateness – This is required when making alterations, renovations, sign changes or new construction on a property located within the downtown designated historic district or an area with architectural guidelines. All applications must be reviewed by the Design Review Board.

Certificate of Occupancy- Certifies that a building or structure complies with all relevant building codes, zoning laws, and regulations, and is safe and suitable for occupancy.

Sign Permits

Before you put up a sign for your new business, make sure you have a permit. Most sign types will require some type of permit. Most signage, including window decals, will require some type of permit or design approval. It is best to call the City of Barberton Planning Department at (330)848-6729 between normal business hours to discuss signage requirements before finalizing your sign purchase. We encourage you to work with your sign company to obtain drawings and specifications of your design. A Certificate of Appropriateness may be required if the business is located within the downtown designated historic district.

Know Before You Go!

You can get an estimate of all permit and processing fees due before you start the permit process by calling the City of Barberton or visit their website to determine fees.

CONTACTS

City of Barberton
Planning Department
576 W Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203
(330) 848-6729

City of Barberton
Building Department
(330) 848-6730

ADA REQUIREMENTS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that businesses that serve the public modify policies and practices that discriminate against individuals with disabilities. It includes complying with accessible design standards when constructing or altering facilities; removing barriers in existing facilities where readily achievable; and providing auxiliary aids and services when needed to ensure effective communication with people who have hearing, vision, or speech impairments.

All businesses, even those that do not serve the public, must comply with accessible design standards when constructing or altering facilities. For more information on ADA requirements visit: www.ada.gov



Utilities

To begin utilizing water and sewer at your business, you will need to call or visit the Barberton Utilities Department.

576 W Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)848-6720

In addition, you may need to contact the local electric, gas and cable company to start service. We encourage you to research the electric and gas aggregate program available to City of Barberton residents.

Electric: First Energy
www.firstenergycorp.com

Gas: Dominion
888-619-0786
www.dominionenergy.com/

Cable: Spectrum or AT&T
<https://official.spectrum.com/>
fiber.att.com

City of Barberton Gas Aggregate Program
www.constellation.com/oh-barberton
1-844-467-4294

City of Barberton Electric Aggregate Program
Energy Harbor
1-866-636-3749

Chamber of Commerce Energy Program
Email chamberenergy@ceateam.com
Or call 330-208-2082

City of Barberton Gas Aggregation Program

The City of Barberton is pleased to offer Constellation (Constellation New Energy – Gas Division, LLC) as the supplier for the City's Natural Gas Aggregation Program. A rate of \$3.31 per Mcf has been set for gas consumed for the December 2021 through November 2025 bill cycles.

City of Barberton Electric Aggregate Program

The city is pleased to offer Energy Harbor as the supplier for the City's Electricity Aggregation Program. The City has set a fixed rate of 4.97 cents/kWh for electricity generation for a 4-year term starting with May 2021 meter reads.



Leveraging your Resources

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Barberton Community Development Corporation

139 East Tuscarawas Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
(330)745-3070 Phone
www.bcdc.org

City of Barberton Economic & Development Grant

Planning Dept.
(330) 848-6729 Phone
www.cityofbarberton.com

City of Barberton Facade Loan Program

Planning Dept.
(330) 848-6729 Phone
www.cityofbarberton.com

Development Finance Authority

<https://www.developmentfinanceauthority.org/small-business>

Community Reinvestment Fund USA

smallbusiness.crfusa.com

City of Barberton Community Reinvestment Area

www.cityofbarberton.com

Western Reserve Community Fund

(330)762-4776

The Economic & Community Development Institute

<https://www.ecdi.org/>

Akron SCORE

(330)379-3163
Score.org/akron

Barberton Community Foundation

<https://www.barbertoncf.org/>

(330)745-5995

EDUCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Ohio.gov- Starting a Business

<https://ohio.gov/business/resources/business-first-stop>

S. Summit Chamber of
Commerce

(330)745-3141

<https://www.southsummitchamber.org/>

Elevate Greater Akron

<https://elevategreaterakron.org/>

Bounce Innovation Hub
<https://bouncehub.org/>



Contacts

Barberton Gazette Newspaper
PO Box 270
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)760-0720
www.thebarbertongazette.com

Barberton Community Foundation
Economic Development
(330)745-5995
<https://www.barbertoncf.org/>

Barberton Police Department
576 W Park Ave #1,
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)745-2181
Emergency- 911

City of Barberton
Utilities Department
576 W Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)848-6720

City of Barberton
Building Department
576 W Park Ave
Barberton, OH 44203
(330) 848-6730

City of Barberton
Planning Department
576 W Park Ave. Barberton,
OH 44203
(330) 848-6729

Barberton Fire Department
Station 1
580 Wooster Rd W
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)848-6732

Barberton Fire Department
Station 2
93 East State St.
Barberton, OH 44203
(330)861-5223

**MAIN STREET
BARBERTON**