

SELF-EMPLOYMENT ONLINE Classes for People with Disabilities, Families and Community Agencies

NEXT CLASS STARTING September 12, 2023



Do you know a person with a disability or other individual who has a hobby or idea for a possible business or who needs more support for an existing small business? If so, our **FREE ONLINE ZOOM Business Classes** can help the person to learn all about self-employment and available resources for their business idea and financial future! Traditional employment in jobs may not be the best option for some people with disabilities as well as people without disabilities. Small business ownership is another option and great choice to do work that has *real meaning* for the person. It is something people can control themselves, and to sell a product or a service they really love. There are over 100 people with disabilities in RI and many others who have started their own businesses in the last few years.

Here's what Michael Coyne, business owner of "Red, White and Brew Café" in Warwick, RI has to say:

WHY CHOOSE SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

1. I love being my own "BOSS", meeting new people and spending my time working on something I really enjoy every day!
2. I decide my own flexible work schedule and hours.
3. The Business Classes helped me to learn skills for problem solving, communication, marketing, and self-advocacy. I met other great people with disabilities who also own their own businesses. I received a grant to buy the materials/supplies I needed for my business.
4. I have assistance through my personal support network, my Business Team and RIDDC who are there to help me with my business.
5. I am no longer "volunteering" my time at a job, but instead I have my own business making money and I now have an income!



The RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC), in partnership with SBA and others offers a **FREE Business Development Series of 8 Classes, ONLINE through ZOOM Meetings**. The first Class is **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 12:45 pm-2:30 pm** and others scheduled every week. We want to assist people to learn the right business skills and access resources to become profitable RI small business owners! Mini-grants up to \$1000.00 available to people completing classes and starting their businesses.

The Classes provide business advice, resources and ongoing peer and staff support to participants, families and staff and contact with experienced Business Advisors. They know how to work with people to develop good business plans, marketing ideas, and set goals the person can achieve in the industry he/she launches. The Series includes: 1. Is Entrepreneurship Right for You?, 2. Steps to Start a Small Business, 3. Identifying Your Target Market, 4. Creating an "Elevator Pitch" about Your Service/Product(s), 5. Writing a Good Business Plan, 6. Finances, Bookkeeping, & Community Resources, 7. Marketing, and 8. Using Social Media to Promote your Business.

To Register for this Class or For More Information Call Claudia Lowe at 738-3960 or Sue Babin at 523-2300. (Participation Is Limited!)

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