

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



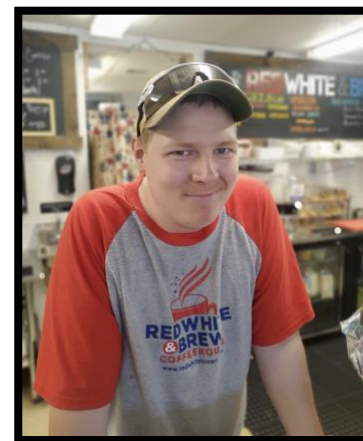
NEXT CLASS STARTING January 2026

Do you know a person with a disability or other individual who has a hobby or idea for a possible business or 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. Small business ownership is another great opportunity to do work that has *real meaning* for the person. It is something people can control themselves, and be able to sell a product or service they really love. Many people with disabilities 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. And I received a grant to buy the materials/supplies I needed for my business.
4. I have help 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) offers a FREE Business Development Series of 10 Classes, ONLINE through ZOOM Meetings. The first Class will begin in early January 2026 on Tuesdays from 12:00 pm-1:30 pm 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 are available to people successfully completing classes, developing a Business Plan and starting up their businesses.

The Classes provide business advice, resources and ongoing peer and staff support to participants, families and staff and contact with professional 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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