



Monroe BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City of Monroe, Washington

July 2025

Small Business Guide

The **Small Business Guide** is broken into six sections, based on your stage of business. Whether you're launching a new business, managing an existing one, or looking to expand, you'll discover valuable information and resources here. The guide offers essential details, links to important resources, and a clear outline of the steps needed to start and run a business in Washington State. The guide is available in multiple languages.



Grants for Small Businesses

Amber Grant for Women awards \$10,000 monthly to women entrepreneurs, with an additional \$25,000 annual grant to one of the monthly winners. [Application](#)

The Freed Fellowship awards \$500 **monthly** to small business owners, with the potential for more funding. [Application](#)

The Awesome Foundation awards \$1,000 grants **each month** to individuals and groups looking to fund various projects, including startups and small businesses. [Application](#)

Wish Local Empowerment Program offers **on-going** grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to support Black-owned businesses in growing their operations. [Application](#)



Wealth of Small Business Resources Available

NEW

Revenue-Based Financing Fund (RBF). It's a Pay-As-You-Earn loan that works with the reality of running a small business. Instead of fixed monthly payments, businesses repay based on what they actually make. The Revenue-Based Financing Fund is an alternative to a traditional bank loan, with **repayments that are customized to a business's needs and tailored to the business's net income**. It's especially helpful for seasonal businesses, such as event venues, florists, caterers and tourism-focused enterprise. [Learn more](#).

Small Business Flex Fund 2.

Are you a small business owner with fewer than 50 employees and an annual revenue of less than \$5 million? Are you looking to take your business to the next level? We may have a great solution for you — The Small Business Flex Fund 2. [Learn more](#).

Food Biz Academy

Through the Food Biz Academy, **Washington's Small Business Training & Education Center** offers you a competitive advantage. It's FREE, and available **online and on-demand** 24/7! Food Biz Academy just might help you whip up a recipe for success. [Learn more](#).

Web Academy

Your 24/7 Storefront: Build Lasting Customer Connections Online! A website is like having a second storefront, one that is open 24/7.

With a well-designed online presence, you can build deeper relationships with your customers. Check out the listing of **FREE online on-demand training**, including **Web Academy**.

Partners In Exporting 2025 Series

The Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington (EFACW) provides tailored export training programs developed through strategic partnerships, led by nationally recognized experts in export and international trade. **Learn more**.



WA Small Business Development Center FREE Training Events for Small Business Owners

LIVE

- **Accounting Basics and the Importance of Accounting to Your Business**, July 10, 1pm to 2pm

NUMEROUS ON-DEMAND SESSIONS



Business Resource Navigator

Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator

The Evergreen BizLink Resource Navigator will connect you and your business with nonprofit resources in your area to help you **grow and thrive**. Use the search tool on their website to search for **customized resources** by location, area of assistance, business stage, business type, industry, demographics, and key words.

For more information or to get started, check out: EvergreenBizLink.com



FREE training Sessions on Expanding Your Business through Exporting

- [Logistics and Payments for Global Markets, July 2, 1pm to 2pm](#)
-



New Rules For Businesses That Use or Sell Refrigerants

Stay compliant, protect the climate - navigate new refrigerant rules with ease!

Washington is phasing out certain refrigerants that harm the climate. If your business sells, installs, or works on air conditioners or refrigeration equipment, new state rules apply to you. Also, if you own equipment that uses 50 pounds or more of climate-polluting refrigerant, you may need to register and report under the Refrigerant Management Program ([WAC 173-443](#)).

Visit Ecology's [Refrigerant Management Program webpage](#) to see how the rule affects you. Our webpage includes reporting deadlines, step-by-step guides, and weekly drop-in office hours to answer your questions. Keep informed about HFC regulations by joining our [email list](#).



TAKE MONROE'S STORM DRAIN AWARENESS SURVEY!

Share your insight with
Monroe's Environmental
Services Program

This 3-minute, confidential survey will help the City's Environmental Services Program better gauge the community's familiarity with storm drains. Your feedback will help us evaluate our stormwater program.

All answers will only be used for improving the program and determining ways to serve the community better.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/StormDrainAwareness

Online Storm Drain Awareness Survey

The City is gauging community awareness about caring for storm drains in Monroe. Take a quick, confidential **survey** sponsored by our Environmental Services Division and help us understand what you know about storm drains. The survey closes July 18, 2025. To learn more or if you have a question or concern about stormwater quality, contact April Hardy, Environmental Program Analyst, Public Works Department, at ahardy@monroewa.gov or 360-794-6100.



Adopt-a-Planter on Main Street

Join other adopters and sponsor a planter on Main Street to ensure flowers, greenery, and seasonal color in our Historic Downtown Monroe. Thanks go out to the following "early adopters":

- A Different Path
- Better Built Masonry
- SugarBelle Photography
- Garden In Situ
- Monroe Chevron
- Monroe Laundry
- Fairway Mortgage
- EC Gardens
- Dianne and Richard Forth
- Tualco Grange
- Indigo Law PLLC
- Cheri Hurst
- Adkinson Estates Adult Family Home
- Ink It Your Way
- In Memory of Barbara "Grandma B" Rose
- Consolidated Services, Inc.
- In Memory of Kathleen Sather
- EvergreenHealth Monroe
- Route 2 Taproom

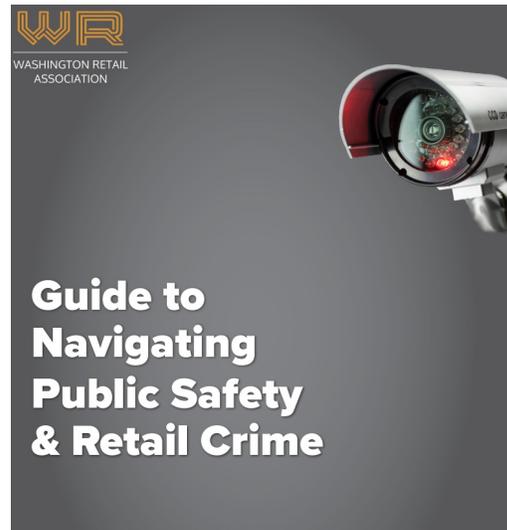
- In Memory of Lucille, Carol, and Gayle Hurst
- Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

Sign up soon - **there are 8 planters left for "adoption"!** To sponsor, send a check for \$100 to: City of Monroe, Parks & Rec. Dept., ATTN: Shelley Rowe, 806 W. Main St, Monroe 98272. Questions? Email Economic Development Coordinator Patrick Doherty at pdoherty@monroewa.gov

Useful Guide for Dealing with Retail Crime and Safety

The Washington Retail Association has compiled a useful *Guide to Navigating Public Safety & Retail Crime*.

[Peruse the Guide!](#)



Main Street America Offers Small Business Digital Strategies to Grow Your Business

Numerous on-demand training sessions are available on topics related to digital presence, marketing, online sales, analytics, website, and much more. **[Visit Main Street America's digital training webpage.](#)**

Monthly Business Profiles

- Downtown Monroe -



Monroe Floral

Jennifer Wirt has owned and operated this lovely floral shop at 215 S. Lewis Street over the past 14 years, having taken over a business that graced Monroe since 1941. A family- and locally owned business, Monroe Floral offers far more than standard flowers and plants.

Jennifer and her three friendly, helpful staff provide consultations on just the right floral arrangement for every occasion. What's more, Monroe Floral offers décor items, indoor plants, local honey, fragrant olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

And to top that off, Jennifer offers delectable chocolates and truffles from



Northwest Differential

Just next door, at 211 S. Lewis, local resident Dan LaFleur has owned and operated Northwest Differential since 2018, having moved the business that started in October 1988 in Kirkland.

The building housing both Northwest Differential and Monroe Floral was originally a Ford dealership from the 1930s!

Dan diagnoses and overhauls differentials in both domestic and import vehicles of 1 ton in size on d o w n . His differential-friendly tip: check and maintain your vehicles fluids every 25-30,000 miles. You can inquire at

Spokandy and Sweet Shop USA.

Jennifer has been active with other nearby merchants in promoting Downtown Monroe and played host to this spring's first-annual Downtown Flower Crawl.

Check out the [Monroe Floral website](#) for all your floral needs.

your dealership or mechanic's shop. Dan and his family have been active in Evergreen Speedway events, with his daughter having raced cars herself until recently.

Stop by and say hi to Dan - even if your differential is doing OK!



No matter what phase your business is in -- from starting up or growing, to down-sizing -- the [Small Business Guide](#), created by the State Commerce Department, is an invaluable resource for your business.

The [Guide](#) covers:

- [Planning -- Start-Up](#)
- [Payroll -- Opening](#)
- [Management -- Growth](#)
- [Closure -- Loan Programs](#)
- [And more](#)

The State also offers an array of knowledgeable [Small Business Liaisons](#) who can help you with specialized resources and information.

Plus, [FREE workshops](#) are available, providing essential



Owning a business is both exciting and intimidating.

If you're looking for local resources, free business templates, e-guides, check-lists, and other helpful resources for [starting or growing](#) your enterprise, SCORE Greater Seattle is your destination. SCORE's mentors can assist in putting your ideas into action.

[Tools and resources to help your small business grow - SCORE](#)

information and resources to help start and grow your business.



Membership in the Chamber brings many advantages for member business. It may include networking opportunities, member benefits and discounts, business support and advice, and the chance to have your views represented at county, state, and national levels through the Chamber's on-going lobbying activity. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

Monday Morning Mingle - Last Monday of each month, 8:30am - 9:30am, July 28, Monroe Coffee Company, 408 W. Main St.

Music in the Park. Cocktail Garden opens 6pm. Live shows 7pm - 8:30pm, July 11, 18 & 25.

Monroe Farmers Market - Wednesday afternoons through September, 3pm - 7pm.

And more...

[More information and events here](#)

Monroe Listens Report Your Issue!

The City offers a direct and easy way to send your questions, concerns,



requests, and compliments directly to the City staff person who can help you. Potholes, graffiti, fallen tree limbs, drainage problems, etc. Please let us know at **Monroe Listens**.

MAYOR



Geoffrey Thomas

Have a question or comment for Mayor Thomas?
Contact him at **GThomas@MonroeWA.gov**



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

Councilmember
Heather Fulcher

Councilmember
Tami Beaumont

Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question or comment for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov

Council
Agendas/Minutes



City of Monroe | (360) 794-7400 | 806 West Main Street | Monroe, WA 98272 US

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