



CHARLESTON
COUNTY ■ SC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE





Boeing South Carolina



South Carolina Ports Authority



Riverfront Park

Charleston County is a prime business destination, not only because of our growing workforce and diverse talent pool but also because of the competitive advantage of our Business Concierge Program.

This program is tailored to the unique needs of the 350+ companies that call Charleston County home, from tech firms to manufacturers. The Business Concierge Program is critical to our economic vitality, providing key support in areas such as:

- Talent attraction, workforce training, and navigating government services
- Expansion needs, including site selection, financing, infrastructure, startup support, and incentives
- Access to programs for technical assistance and international trade
- Marketing and industry sector support
- Continuity of operations through Emergency Management



Ranger Design Ribbon-Cutting



REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE BUSINESS CONCIERGE TEAM TODAY!



STAY CONNECTED!



BUSINESS CONCIERGE HIGHLIGHTS

On behalf of our existing industries, we attend various conferences, tradeshow, and events to spread the message that Charleston County companies open for business!

These include:

- Eastern Defense Summit
- DIG SOUTH Tech Conference
- Lowcountry Local First Good Business Summit
- SCbio Conference
- South Carolina Automotive Summit
- South Carolina International Trade Conference
- South Carolina Manufacturing Conference and Expo
- South Carolina Manufacturing Summit

“Through our strategic partnership with the Charleston County Economic Development team, Charles River Laboratories can continue to accelerate what’s next in the life sciences industry, creating healthier lives for people in our community. We appreciate the county’s dedicated leadership in promoting sustainable prosperity for all and look forward to the economic impact we can have together.”

- Charles River Laboratories, Gregory Marshall

Existing Industry is our #1 priority. Partner with our Business Concierge team for 360° of support.

Navy Yard Business Meetup:

Provides networking opportunities for tenants of the Navy Yard and extends our Business Concierge resources to those companies.

Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon:

This invite-only annual event honors Charleston County’s existing industries. Special presentations include the Charleston County Industry Impact Awards, Community Impact Award, and Charleston County Ambassador for Economic Development Award. More than 350 industry executives, elected officials and economic development professionals gather to honor the industries that drive our county’s economic engine.

Palmetto Commerce Park Roundtable:

This meeting, which is exclusive to companies located in Palmetto Commerce Park, is a great way to engage with business neighbors and receive specific business park updates.



MSC - Mediterranean Shipping Company



Mercedes-Benz Vans



SHL Medical



Neal Brothers Charleston, Inc.



Charleston County Career Fair



Tri-County STEMersion

Proud members of:





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Area workforce development resources can provide solutions for new operations or existing ones looking for assistance with retraining incumbent workers for more highly skilled positions.

SC Works Trident

SC Works Trident Centers provide employers with valuable resources to recruit qualified employees from various backgrounds and skill sets. Services include local and state initiatives to aid recruitment, employer training programs and business retention and expansion efforts.

 scworkstrident.org

SC Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation program helps individuals with disabilities find employment. Services offered include rehabilitation, counseling, diagnostic and evaluation services, physical restoration, artificial appliances, training and placement.

 scvrd.net

readySC


As an integral part of the SC Technical College System, readySC works with the 16 technical colleges to prepare South Carolina's workforce to meet your company's needs.

- Ready to quickly and successfully start up your new facility
- Ready to help you seamlessly expand your existing facility
- Ready to discover the skills, knowledge and abilities needed at your facility
- Ready to design new and innovative training solutions customized specifically for your needs

 readysc.org

Palmetto Warrior Connection

Palmetto Warrior Connection is a workforce development agency servicing veterans, spouses, & dependents throughout the state of South Carolina. Critical funds & monetary donations are leveraged to broker comprehensive wraparound & career support services, including enrollment, job placement, upskilling, and career credentialing for participating clientele.

 palmettogoodwill.org/palmettowarriorconnection



Apprenticeship Carolina

A division of the SC Technical College System, Apprenticeship Carolina leads South Carolina in registered apprenticeship programs that help businesses and communities thrive economically. Through innovation, partnerships, and a spirit of excellence, Apprenticeship Carolina catalyzes the promotion of registered youth, adults, and pre-apprenticeships. It is also a resource to help employers create, maintain, and maximize the use of these programs. Apprenticeship Carolina is committed to creating and strengthening career pathways that enrich and enhance South Carolina's existing and future workforce.

 apprenticeshipcarolina.com

Charleston County School District-Center for Advanced Studies (CAS)

CCSD has built three state-of-the-art career-focused schools designed to bridge the gap between high school and college, providing technical skills and training beyond the high school level. Business partnerships are encouraged to help students become career-ready. A few program offerings include biomedical science, multimedia and visual arts, health science, engineering, welding, mechatronics, IT programs, and automotive technology.

 ccsdschools.com/CTE

Turn90

Working with men at the highest risk of re-arrest, Turn90 combines cognitive behavioral classes, supportive services, transitional work, and job placement to create an opportunity for success after prison, where one doesn't currently exist.

 turnninety.com



Charleston County School District Centers for Advanced Studies

HIGHER EDUCATION

Area workforce development resources can provide solutions for new operations or existing ones looking for assistance with retraining incumbent workers for more highly skilled positions.

Trident Technical College

Approximately 12,000 students are attending TTC to prepare for a successful future. The college offers more than 150 programs of study, including transfer programs for those continuing at four-year colleges and beyond. Students prepare for careers in business, industrial and engineering technology; aeronautical studies; health care; hospitality, tourism and culinary arts; film, media and visual arts; law-related studies; community, family and child studies; humanities and social sciences; and science and mathematics.

 tridenttech.edu

Charleston Southern University

CSU is a private Christian university founded in 1962 in North Charleston, South Carolina. Offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, it offers majors in fields such as business administration, nursing, education, engineering, and the arts and sciences.

 charlestonsouthern.edu

College of Charleston

Founded in 1770, the College of Charleston is the oldest educational institution south of Virginia and the 13th oldest in the United States. With over 250+ years of academic history, state-of-the-art facilities, and distinguished faculty, the college has over 11,000 students and offers 81 majors and 67 minors.

 charleston.edu

Clemson University-Zucker Family Graduate Education Center

The approximately 70,000-square-foot center opened in the fall of 2016. It fosters collaboration and innovation in a place where students, university faculty and staff, and private industry interact daily. The center's graduate programs in engineering, science and digital production arts support the growing technical workforce in our area and enable working professionals to get career-advancing degrees without leaving the Lowcountry.

 clemson.edu/innovation-campuses/charleston/index.html

The Citadel

Since 1842, classic military college education for young men and women has focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. About 2,300 undergraduate students make up the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. Students can choose from 31 Majors, 57 Minors, pre-health professions, and pre-Another 1,000 students attend the Graduate College, a civilian evening and online program that offers graduate and professional degrees and undergraduate programs.

 citadel.edu



STATE TAXES & INCENTIVES

Corporate Income Taxes

Many companies qualify for a Job Tax Credit, which eliminates up to 50% of a company’s corporate income tax liability for a specified number of years.

Sales and Use Taxes

A range of sales tax exemptions that reduce startup costs and operating costs. South Carolina’s sales and use tax rate is 6%.

South Carolina offers the following statutory incentives:

- FAVORABLE CORPORATE INCOME TAX STRUCTURE
- **NO** PROPERTY TAX
- **NO** LOCAL INCOME TAX
- **NO** INVENTORY TAX
- **NO** WHOLESALE TAX
- **NO** UNITARY TAX ON WORLDWIDE PROFITS
- **NO** SALES TAX ON MANUFACTURING MACHINERY, INDUSTRIAL POWER OR MATERIALS FOR FINISHED PRODUCTS

State Discretionary Incentives

Special state discretionary incentives may be used to meet specific needs. South Carolina has three discretionary grant funds that the South Carolina Coordinating Council for Economic Development administers. The Coordinating Council will evaluate each project on a case-by-case basis, and a grant may be awarded by the Coordinating Council at its sole discretion, depending on the project’s needs. The Coordinating Council also evaluates applications for Job Development Credits (JDC).

Job Tax Credit

South Carolina provides eligible companies that create new jobs in the state a tax credit against their income tax liability. Charleston County, a Tier 1 County, allows a credit of \$1,500 per year for each new job created. Credits can offset up to 50% of South Carolina income tax annually. Unused credits may be carried forward for 15 years.

Available Corporate Incentives

- Corporate Headquarters Tax credit
- Enhanced Corporate Headquarters Tax credit
- Investment Tax credit
- Research & Development Tax credit
- Port Volume Increase Tax credit
- Numerous Green Initiative credits

To learn more, contact the Charleston County Business Concierge Team or visit

 CharlestonCountyDevelopment.org



Allegiance Flag Supply

“We are beyond excited about this new expansion. Charleston County has been our home and with this new chapter for Allegiance, we’re hopeful that it will continue to be for a long time. We’ve still got a lot of growth to go and we’re hopeful the positive benefits of that growth will continue to reverberate loudly across the community.”

*- Allegiance Flag Supply,
Wes Lyon*



COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES & INCENTIVES

In South Carolina, only local governments levy property taxes. There is no state tax on real or personal property. In addition, there is no state or local tax on inventories or intangibles in South Carolina. A company's property tax liability is a function of:

**Property Value (less depreciation)
x Assessment Ratio x Millage.**

5-Year Property Tax Abatement

By law, manufacturers (investing \$50,000 or more) and distribution or corporate headquarters facilities (investing \$50,000 or more and creating 75 new jobs in year 1) are entitled to a five-year property tax abatement from county operating taxes. This abatement usually represents an offset of up to 20% to 50% of the total millage, depending on the county. The abatement does not include the school portion of the local millage.

The tax abatement on investment is in effect for five years only. In year 6, the abatement terminates, and the property is taxed at the millage rate in effect. The five-year property tax abatement is not available for property placed under a Fee-in-Lieu agreement.

Fee-in-lieu of Property Taxes (FILOT)

The legislature enacted a fee-in-lieu of property tax statute for industries considering an expansion or move to South Carolina. Property potentially subject to the fee-in-lieu usually consists of land, improvements to land, new building construction, and machinery and equipment located in the project. The fee-in-lieu statutes permit qualifying companies (those with a minimum investment of \$2.5 million) to negotiate to pay a fee instead of paying typical property taxes. The assessment ratio may be negotiated from 10.5% down to as low as 6% on property, machinery and equipment, depending on the size of the investment for the project.


Multi-County Parks

This discretionary incentive can be made by a county pertaining to specific business properties, enabling the level of job tax credits (JTC) for which the company is eligible to increase. Specifically, an additional \$1,000 per net new employee can be added to the current \$1,500 JTC per net new employee available in a developed county.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



The State's Existing Industry Program offers assessment services to industries in every county to help them achieve peak performance by leveraging an extensive network of in-house resources and external partners. In partnership with the CCED Business Concierge Team, this program helps connect industries with state and local entities to ensure their businesses have everything they need to grow within our state.

 sccommerce.com/doing-business-in-south-carolina



SourceSC

SourceSC, a statewide material and service locator database, is designed to generate more business for companies with a physical presence in South Carolina. Participants gain access to exclusive invitations for B2B and outreach events, industry sourcing requests, and other business opportunities, along with updates on relevant projects, events, grants, and new programs across the state. This database offers a valuable opportunity to connect with local suppliers and enhance a business's visibility and growth potential.

 sourcesc.com



Recycling in SC

The Recycling Market Development staff at the South Carolina Department of Commerce provides business matchmaking services, administers one-on-one materials management consultation, works with existing and emerging markets for materials, and tracks the economic impact of the recycling industry. The RMD team responds to sourcing requests from companies interested in expanding recycling operations or achieving zero waste.

 recyclinginsc.com

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERVICES

*Built in Charleston,
Delivered Worldwide*

South Carolina Department of Commerce, Export Services

The State Department of Commerce partners with companies of all sizes to support the development and expansion of their export markets worldwide. With a presence in major global markets and five foreign countries, the Department of Commerce enhances business connectivity for South Carolina companies and the US Commercial Service. For companies currently exporting or aspiring to enter international markets, the South Carolina Department of Commerce is committed to helping them leverage the many advantages of global trade.

 sccommerce.com

South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCPA)

SC Ports owns and operates public facilities at the Port of Charleston and the Port of Georgetown, in addition to the Inland Ports of Greer and Dillon. These facilities create a \$87 Billion annual statewide economic impact. 1 in every 9 South Carolina jobs is attributed to the port. In addition, SCPA is the administrator (grantee) of Foreign-Trade Zone 21. Consistently ranked among the most productive ports in the world, the Port of Charleston's highly efficient operating environment and advantageous position — deep channels close to the open ocean and major transportation hubs — offer tremendous benefits for customers.

 scspa.com



Palmetto Railways

U.S. Department of Commerce – Export Assistance Center

The U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, in collaboration with 19 U.S. Government agencies, created **Trade.gov** to help businesses navigate government resources, find answers to questions, and access tools, assistance, and expert knowledge for expanding international sales. Developed by international trade experts and economists, **Export.gov** offers trusted market intelligence, practical advice, and business tools to support U.S. companies in expanding their presence in global markets.

 trade.gov/export-solutions



CCED ECOSYSTEM

Economic Development is a team sport and we celebrate our accomplishments with our many partners. With a dedicated focus on fostering strong partnerships and connections within the business community, Charleston County Economic Development plays a pivotal part in creating a vibrant ecosystem for local businesses to thrive.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS



Charleston Defense Contractors Association

The CDCA's mission is to advocate for, preserve, strengthen, and grow the Charleston defense industry through partnership and collaboration with stakeholders and their community.

charlestondca.org

Charleston Digital Corridor

The Charleston Digital Corridor (CDC) is a community-sourced initiative to attract, nurture and promote the region's tech economy through impactful programs, products and events while leveraging Charleston's renowned livability. The CDC is focused on creating an attractive business, education and social environment for tech and tech-related companies.

charlestondigitalcorridor.com

DIG SOUTH Tech Summit

DIG SOUTH Tech Summit is where leading global brands and mid-market companies connect with the South's most scalable startups. The annual event attracts over 1,200 attendees, 75 speakers, and 100 investors, featuring deep dive sessions, prime networking events, and investor pitch opportunities. DIG speaker sessions cover business growth, emerging tech, marketing, web3, and more. The Wild Pitch demo day showcases the region's most promising early and growth-stage companies.

digsouth.com

Harbor Entrepreneur Center

The Harbor provides opportunities for local entrepreneurs to interact with other highly motivated, capable, and intelligent individuals through various programs, including a shared workspace, a business accelerator program and forum groups.

harborec.com



Lowcountry Local First

A 501(c)3 nonprofit cultivating an economy anchored in local ownership. Lowcountry Local First advances economic prosperity and local ownership through innovative and inclusive initiatives that build our community's wealth and well-being.

 lowcountrylocalfirst.org

Local Works coworking space:

 localworkscarleston.org

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Charleston Area Small Business Development Center offers no-cost, one-on-one consultations to prospective and existing business owners. Consultants assist with developing business plans, analyzing new opportunities and strategies, and securing capital funding for business start-up or expansion. Specialists are available to support business owners in areas such as government contracting, manufacturing, and technical commercialization. The Small Business Development Center's services are free and confidential.

 charlestonsbdc.com

SCBIO

A statewide, non-profit industry association and economic development organization was formed to promote, build, support, expand, and convene South Carolina's life sciences industry.

 scbio.org

South Carolina Council on Competitiveness

Business-lead, nonprofit organization that drives South Carolina's long-term economic growth by managing the state's industry clusters.

SC Aerospace | SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance
SC Logistics | SC Tech & CyberSecure SC

 sccompetes.org

South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance

The state's preeminent industrial trade association, the SCMA, is the single most effective advocate for advanced manufacturing in South Carolina. The South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance has been the voice of manufacturing in South Carolina for more than a century.

South Carolina Automotive Council

Lowcountry Manufacturers Council

 myscma.com

South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)

SCMEP is a private, non-profit group that serves as a proven resource to South Carolina manufacturers, providing them with various innovative strategies and solutions to improve competitiveness, performance, and profitability. An affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), SCMEP operates under the US Department of Commerce.

 scmep.org



Mercedes-Benz Vans Groundbreaking Ceremony



Charleston County Economic Development Office

Figuring out who to contact when starting a business can be time-consuming. Let us connect you with the right person at one of our major municipalities.

City of Charleston

 charleston-sc.gov/2100/Business

Town of Mount Pleasant

 mountpleasantmade.com

City of North Charleston

 northcharleston.org/business

Chamber of Commerce

 charlestonchamber.org

 northcharlestonchamber.org

 mountpleasantchamber.org



The Charleston County Economic Development Office is a division of the Charleston County Government. Let us help you navigate the many departments and programs that may benefit your business.

 charlestoncounty.org



CHARLESTON
COUNTY ■ SC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CharlestonCountyDevelopment.org

4922 O'Hear Avenue, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

