

## Frequently Asked Questions for Economic Development

1) *Does the Town of Hamden offer business incentives?*

Yes, Hamden offers a variety of business incentives including grants, permit fee waivers, and tax abatements. We can even provide information about low interest loans and energy improvements. The level of incentives is based on the location of the business and the amount of capital investment.

2) *How are the incentives awarded?*

Hamden's businesses incentives are awarded through a collaborative process between the Town's departments, the Legislative Council, and the Hamden Economic Development Commission. For more information regarding incentives, visit [http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Business\\_Incentives.asp](http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Business_Incentives.asp).

3) *Where do I go for permits and licensing to open and register my business?*

- a) All new businesses must first register with the Connecticut Secretary of State as an LLC or corporation- this can be done at <http://www.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3177&q=392124> or by calling (860) 509-6002.
- b) All businesses must have a zoning permit. To get zoning approval and a permit, you must contact the Hamden Department of Planning and Zoning at (203) 287-7070.
- c) The business must also be registered with the Hamden Town Clerk.
- d) Search what licenses your business may need by keyword at <https://www.cerc.com/licenses/>.

4) *Can I open a business in my home? If so, how can the town help?*

Yes, you can start a business in your home and there are still ways for the Town of Hamden to help you. There is a "Solopreneur Cluster" support group offered for home-based businesses that is free. All permit (i.e.

zoning) and licensing regulations still apply to home-based businesses. To connect to the Solopreneur Cluster, visit <http://www.hamden-ct.com/images/customer-files/SolopreneurWebPage1a.pdf>.

5) *Where can I find out about available commercial real estate?*

Available properties can be found on webpage, “Featured Properties” on the Department of Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization website. You can view them by clicking <http://www.hamden-ct.com/FeaturedProperty/default.asp>. You may also consider contacting a local real estate broker to learn about other available listings. Director Dale Kroop can also be a resource. He can be contacted at [dkroop@hamden.com](mailto:dkroop@hamden.com) or by calling (203) 287-7030.

6) *What are the key industries in Town?*

The largest industries in Hamden in terms of employment and tax base are: Healthcare and government, followed by retail and science. Other prominent industries are manufacturing, arts/recreation/food, and finance, insurance, and real estate.

7) *How can I get involved in Town initiatives?*

There are several ways to get involved- one is through interacting with Hamden’s business clusters. The webpage on Hamden’s clusters can be found at [http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Business\\_Cluster\\_Program.asp](http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Business_Cluster_Program.asp). It is also possible to observe the meetings of the Hamden Economic Development Commission or join if there is an opening. The member list and meeting dates for the Commission can be found here <http://hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7966/8227/default.aspx>. One may also consider joining the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce. For further information on any of these opportunities, contact Dale Kroop at (203) 287-7030 or at [dkroop@hamden.com](mailto:dkroop@hamden.com).

8) *What are the key goals for growing business in Hamden?*

The most important goals in Hamden are business retention and attraction. Another important goal is workforce development; to retain as many talented young people as possible so that they will live, work, play, and open businesses in Hamden. The Town also seeks to provide start-ups with the guidance and tools they need to be successful whether that takes the form of loans, tax deferrals, fee waivers, and classes. Hamden also prioritizes brownfield development and neighborhood improvement.

9) *Does the Town have a plan for economic development?*

Yes, the Town of Hamden puts out a comprehensive economic development plan every 2-3 years, designed by the Hamden Economic Development Commission. The current plan can be found at <http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Three Year Comprehensive Economic Development Plan.asp>.

10) *If I am a startup, where can I get help with my business planning?*

The Town of Hamden offers several resources- the Hamden Business Assistance Center offers technical assistance and training for prospective entrepreneurs. You can read more about the Hamden BAC at <http://www.hamden-ct.com/Content/Business Assistance Center.asp>. The Hamden Business and Career Center also provides self-help materials and resources: <http://www.hamdent.com/Content/Small Business Resource Center.asp>.