

**Michigan City Area**  
**Chamber of Commerce**

***"Business is our Business"***



**219.874.6221**

**[michigancitychamber.com](http://michigancitychamber.com)**

# MICHIGAN CITY Area Chamber of Commerce

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## Small Business Resource Guide

August 2006



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CREATIVE GROUP

## **Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber's mission is "**Business is our Business.**" The Chamber strives to serve its members and the Michigan City area by promoting economic and community development. With the support and continued involvement of its members, partners and government organizations, Michigan City will remain a great place to live, play, work and do business.

As advocates on behalf of the business community, the Chamber works on important issues that affect the business climate. Some of these include taxation, technology, transportation and education.

The Chamber works to advance the business climate and quality of life for the entire Michigan City area by supporting economic development, social change, entrepreneurship and education.

This Small Business Resource Guide is designed to assist small existing, and new commercial and retail businesses in their pursuit of success.

# **Business Express** **Hotline**

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce has established a **HOTLINE** for small commercial and retail businesses to call if they need assistance with any issue that may affect their business. The Chamber has engaged a network of local Chamber member professionals who have expertise in all areas of business and who are available to the Chamber for answering any business related question. Calls to the **HOTLINE** will be returned within 24 hours. There is no charge for the initial inquiry.

*The number to call is:*

**2 1 9 - 8 7 3 - 1 2 0 3**

For additional information on the Chamber, please visit:

[www.michigancitychamber.com](http://www.michigancitychamber.com)

# **Business** **Development** **Resources**

## **LaPorte County Revolving Loan Fund**

Administered by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, (NIRPC) this plan awards low-cost capital up to \$75,000 in exchange for companies creating or retaining private sector jobs.

NIRPC  
6100 Southport Road  
Portage, IN 46368  
219-763-6060  
[www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org)

## **Northwest Indiana Regional Development Company**

The Regional Development Company (RDC) is certified to administer the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan Program in LaPorte County. The 504 Loan Partnership blends private capital, bank financing and government bonds to provide long-term,

fixed asset financing to eligible healthy, expanding and creditworthy businesses.

**Regional Development Company**  
5997 Carlson Ave., Suite B  
Portage, IN 46368  
219-764-2700  
[www.nwirdc.org](http://www.nwirdc.org)

## **Programs**

### **Small Business Development Center**

The SBDC, located in the Entrepreneur Center Michigan City, supports new and existing companies with seasoned professionals and offers a full range of business assistance at no cost. Advice is available on subjects such as business plans, financial support and resources, market development, as well as state-funded programs including E-Commerce, computer counseling and business enterprise development.

**Entrepreneur Center Michigan City**  
422 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-809-4200 x 304  
[www.nwisbdc.org](http://www.nwisbdc.org)

## **Property Tax Abatement**

Business property owners located in a Designated Economic Revitalization Area (Downtown Michigan City) who construct new, or improve existing, real property are eligible for property tax abatement. This process, which requires application to the Michigan City Common Council for designation, is coordinated by the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation.

**Michigan City Economic  
Development Corporation**  
Two Cadence Park Plaza  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-873-1211  
[www.mc-edc.com](http://www.mc-edc.com)

## **NxLevel**

This program, which is co-sponsored by the Entrepreneur Center Michigan City and the Small Business Development Center, is a training network whose mission is to help entrepreneurs reach the “next level” of success. **NxLevel** is a 14 week course taught by business professionals.

Small Business Development Center  
422 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-809-4200 x 304

**SCORE  
(Service Corps of Retired  
Executives)**

These volunteer executives are “Counselors to America’s Small Business.” SCORE is a nonprofit association that provides entrepreneurs with free, confidential face-to-face counseling to help build the business, from concept to success. The local SCORE chapter is one of 389 national offices with more than 10,500 volunteer counselors.

Entrepreneur Center Michigan City  
422 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-809-4200 x 304

**Purdue North Central Career  
Service Internship Program**

Students at PNC are available to work with established area employers. The internships are “custom tailored” to match the needs of a specific employer with the unique talent of a particular student.

Purdue University North Central  
1401 S. Hwy 421  
Westville, IN 46391  
219-872-0527  
[www.pnc.edu](http://www.pnc.edu)

## **Partners in Contracting Corporation**

PICC is a one-stop resource center for small minority, female and veteran owned businesses, which provides technical assistance to learn how to more effectively sell and negotiate with federal, state and local governments. A PICC associate utilizes office space at the Entrepreneur Center Michigan City for business consultations.

**Partners in Contracting Corporation**  
2646 Highway Ave., 1st Floor  
Highland, IN 46322  
219-838-0176  
[www.piccorp.com](http://www.piccorp.com)

## **Entrepreneur Center Michigan City**

The Chamber, the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation have partnered to create a more flexible space

facility with short-term leases available for entrepreneurial start-up and expanding businesses. The facility offers centralized shared business services, office space at below market lease rates, storage, office furniture and use of a conference room. Office sizes range from 90 sq. ft. to over 500 sq. ft.

**Entrepreneur Center Michigan City**  
422 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-809-4200

### **WorkOne Express**

WorkOne Express coordinates and provides the local workforce development activities and programs in the area. These services include assisting companies with skills assessments and related training needs and requirements, as well as job placement services.

**WorkOne Express**  
344 Dunes Plaza  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-872-5575

# **Business Partners**

The Chamber of Commerce works closely with the following local partners:

## **City of Michigan City**

100 East Michigan Blvd.

Michigan City, IN 46360

[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

The City's administration and Common Council have demonstrated a pro-growth, pro-business attitude and have demonstrated this through support of the local business community.

## **Planning and Zoning Department**

219-873-1419, Ext. 324

## **Building Department-inspections**

219-873-1419 Ext. 315

## **City Engineer**

219-873-1426 Ext. 333

**Historic Review Board**-reviews plans for exterior remodeling

219-872-6141

## **Michigan City Economic Development Corporation**

Two Cadence Park Plaza

Michigan City, IN 46360

219-873-1211

[www.mc-edc.com](http://www.mc-edc.com)

The MCEDC promotes the community through aggressive business attraction efforts and works with larger existing businesses through retention and expansion initiatives.