

Starting a Business as a Veteran

As a veteran, you've spent many years dedicated to protecting your fellow Americans. Many veterans, when moving onto the next phase of life, decide to start businesses. In fact, nearly 10% of all businesses in America are [owned by veterans](#). Several special programs and resources are available to help make sure businesses owned by veterans are successful.

Determining a Business Type

Overall, if you have an idea, skill, or passion for a certain business, that's the best place for you to begin. However, if you know you want to start a business but aren't sure what type, [some businesses are simpler than others](#) to own and operate. Some ideas to consider include mobile businesses (such as food trucks, car detailing, animal grooming), drop-shipping, online coaching, freelancing, and real estate. It's not enough to just choose an idea out of a hat, though. Consider your particular talents and interests, startup costs, your market, and potential competition.

Writing a Business Plan

Once you know what you want to do, writing a business plan is an excellent next step. Many lenders require a detailed business plan, and it serves as a road map to success for you. The [Boots to Business Revenue Readiness program](#) offered to veterans by the Small Business Administration is a virtual program that can help you with all the considerations for starting a business, and you graduate the course with a full business plan.

Registering Your Business

Each state and locality has its own requirements for business licensing and permits as do different industries. In Bergen, New York, you can contact the [Village Office](#) for more information on regulations, or contact your state Department of Commerce. In addition, reach out to a business formation service to help you navigate all the requirements with ease. The company can also help you decide which business structure is best for you.

Funding

Next, consider how to fund your business. Many programs are available that offer special financing and grant options specifically for veteran entrepreneurs. Your [local Veterans Business Outreach Center](#) can provide more information on financing options. It also provides training and many other resources for veterans transitioning from the military to business ownership.

Setting Up Systems

Before you're ready to begin operations, you must set up your systems. Depending on your specific business, this may include developing a website or [social media](#) presence, obtaining a business phone number, and creating accounts with vendors.

Some systems are required regardless of your chosen industry. Make a plan for bookkeeping, whether you decide to use software for this or hire a bookkeeper to track the financials. You must also have a way to invoice customers accurately and promptly so that you receive timely payments. Consider using an [online invoice generator](#) that provides templates and lets you personalize the invoice with your logo, photos, and other details, then download it in one of several formats to be sent on to the customer.

You're on Your Way

Once you've completed these initial steps, you're well on your way to being a successful business owner. Check out the [Village of Bergen website](#) for more information about the town and local industry.

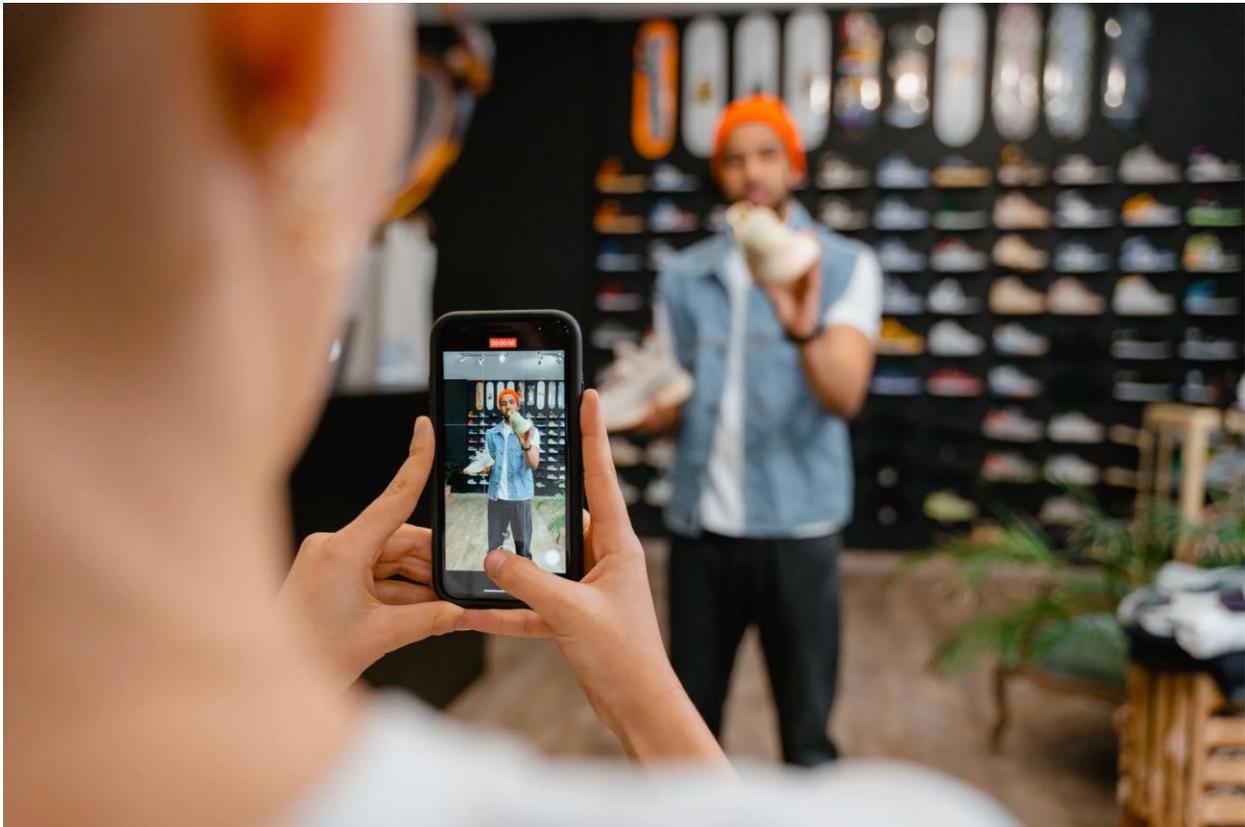


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