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Hello 2016!

Like all business owners, you're looking to make it to a new level of success in this leap year of 2016. That's why we have plenty of resources in this week's newsletter to help you get a leg up on business planning for 2016. From financing your new ideas to securing government contracts, the opportunities are endless! Let's jump in!

1. Get Connected

The beginning of a new year is a great time to build new partnerships by connecting with others in your industry. So whether you work in technology or manufacturing, we have event and conference listings for you from next door to around the world. Visit our [events database](#) today.

For example, in January you can attend the [2016 International Consumer Electronics Show \(CES\)](#) in Las Vegas or join in the [SelectUSA Silk Road Road Show](#) in Beijing, China, to promote Chinese investment in your community.

Have a specific need? Visit a [business assistance center](#) near you.

2. Go Global

Are you new to exporting or just need a refresher on the latest ideas and techniques? With more than 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States, now is a great time to consider it. Our comprehensive exporting resources include checklists and other materials that can help you get ready to go global.

Read more about how [exporting could benefit your business](#) and start taking steps to begin exporting now.

Also, if you are a rural business, you could be eligible for the "[Made in Rural America](#)" export and investment initiative led by the White House.

Learn more about each country from the [CIA's World Factbook](#), and before you travel, learn the local business customs by consulting [business etiquette guides by country](#), such as this one.

3. Win That Bid

Did you know that the U.S. government is the world's largest customer? In fact, each year the U.S. government contracts out millions in goods and services to private sector businesses. So whether you are a small business or a minority-owned business, we have resources for you.

Find out which federal contracts your business is eligible for by [exploring our tool](#).

4. Secure Funding

You've got a new idea and you've done your research. Now it's time to secure funding that will allow you to expand your business. From programs like [The Economic Development Administration's Revolving Loan Fund Program](#) to [The Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Program](#), our tool can assist you with [researching and identifying resources](#) to fund your expansion.

Need help preparing your loan package? Visit a [SCORE](#) or a Small Business Development Center ([SBDC](#)) near you.

If you're looking for additional ways to make 2016 your best year yet, check out [this article](#) on New Year's resolutions for businesses. From optimizing your website for mobile device users to experimenting with geo-specific marketing, there is something for everyone.

What do you want to accomplish this year? Tweet us at [@BizUSA](#). We'll be watching—and we'll try to incorporate your feedback in future newsletters.

BusinessUSA Twitter Highlights and Digests

Here's a few of our top tweets from the past week:

1. We recently expanded our state resources portal to provide you w/ up-to-date info for your #biz. Explore: [\[Tweet\]](#)
2. #INFOGRAPHIC: Start or grow your #biz with these 10 #gov resources: [\[Tweet\]](#)
3. Sole proprietor or LLC? Which legal #business structure is best for you? We explain them in detail here: [\[Tweet\]](#)
4. Do you need help writing a #biz plan or obtaining an EIN? We have resources for you: [\[Tweet\]](#)

Interested in getting all of our BusinessUSA business advice and news from our Twitter stream in one, easy-to-read email? Sign up for [the BusinessUSA Twitter digest here](#).

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