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Looking for a Business Mentor?

In the first months of opening your business, you'll need to make many important decisions. But you don't have to make every decision on your own. Ultimately, you're responsible for your business, but you can always consult a mentor for advice.

[Here are some steps for finding and working with a mentor](#) for your new business venture.

Events: Instagram and Business Financing

Looking to up your game and learn a new trick or two?

Check out our [online directory of live and online events](#).

Be sure to refine your search by date, location or the other options offered to get the best results. Here are a couple upcoming opportunities to network and learn:

Instagram for Small Business Marketing: In this webinar, learn ideas for adding Instagram to your marketing plan, how to create an engaging post, review the use of hashtags on Instagram, and examine real-world examples of successful businesses using Instagram.

Funding Your Business: Do you live or work in the greater D.C. region? At this live event, you'll meet a panel of lenders and business specialists to learn more about how you can start or grow your business through microloans, bank loans and government programs.

U.S. Agriculture by the Numbers

Did you know that 4,432 California farms sold their products to restaurants, grocery stores, schools, hospitals and other retail outlets in 2012, more than any other state?

Last week we highlighted a fascinating interactive map published by the U.S. Trade Representatives that illustrates overall trade stats according to state.

But if you're looking to drill down into more specific agricultural stats at the state and local level, including what's exported, you'll want to check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [exhaustive collection of agricultural trade stats](#).

Bids and Auctions

Did you know that the US government contracts out millions in goods and services every year? Learn more about the ins and outs of how it all works with this SBA course on [Government Contracting 101](#). For those ready to poke around at what kind of opportunities are out there, here's [BusinessUSA's own government contracting tool](#) for helping you do just that.

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