

Business Plan Workbook For Startups



Compliments of the University of Georgia
Small Business Development Center at GSU



Small Business
Development Center
at Georgia State University
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Executive Summary

Tip:

The Executive Summary should be written LAST and summarizes the main points of the entire document.

It also explains the purpose of the plan.

Keep it brief.

Opportunity

What are you going to sell?

How much money are you requesting (if applicable)? _____

How much money are you contributing from personal funds (if applicable)? _____

Management Team

Who are the key managers, and what are their roles in the company?

Key Managers	Roles (Titles, Summary of Major Responsibilities)

Target Market

Customer 1:	Customer 2:	Customer 3:

Summarize:

What customers will you concentrate on?

What are the defining characteristics of each?

What is the size of this market in your area?

How will your company meet the needs of these customers?

Marketing Plan

Summarize how you will reach customers.

Summarize how you will retain customers..

TIP:

Each of the sections of the Executive Summary should be no more than one paragraph.

Competition

Summarize your direct competitors (companies that sell what you will sell in the same market).

Indirect competitors (who sell something customers could substitute for the product/service you sell).

Competitive Advantage

Why will customers buy from you? How are you different from your competitors?



Company Description

Description

When was your business formed? _____

What is the legal structure of your business? _____

Where will your business be located? _____

Tip:

Most small businesses are sole proprietors, partnerships, LLCs, or S-Corps

Ownership (include all shareholders)

Name	Title	% Owned

Example:

Phase 1: Operate out of home, employing family and two employees. Sell to local market.

Phase 2: Add two more employees and look for leased space when sales reach around \$100,000; add second product.

Phase 3: Add service capacity when sales reach around \$250,000, and hire additional employees.

Timeline

What are your plans for this business, in phases or stages?

TIP:

Include locations, employees, milestones, goals, and timeline for adding new products and services.

Management Team

Tip:

This is just a sample organizational chart. All of these blocks may not be filled right away, or other blocks may be needed.

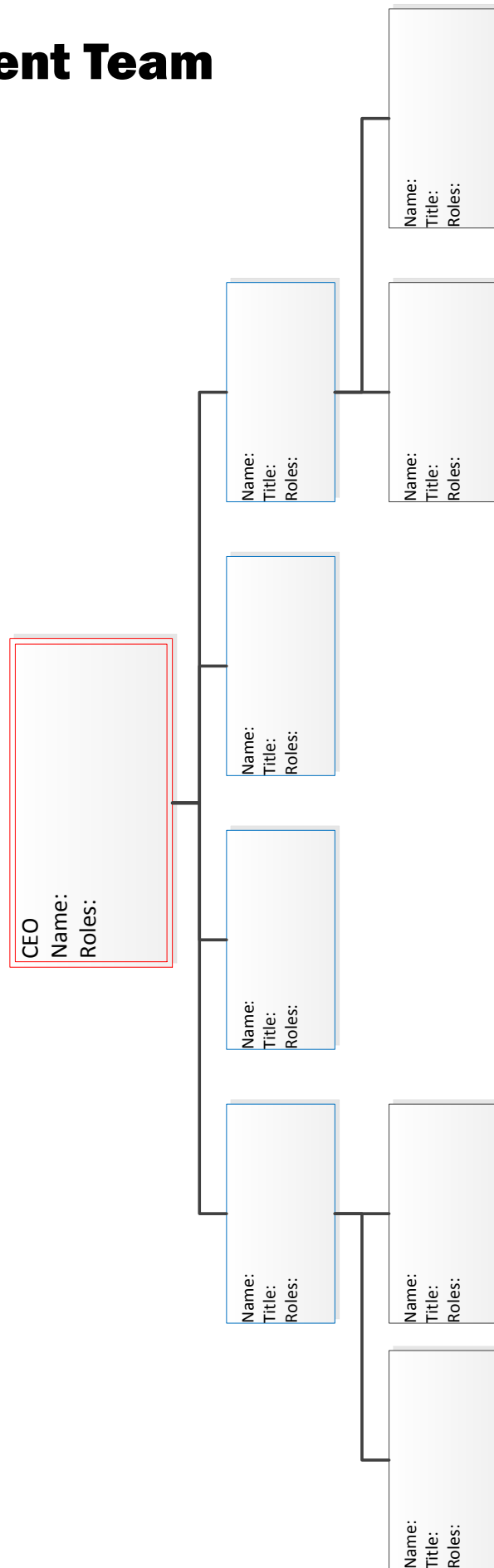
Also,

These roles may be filled by outside resources and advisors. Include them, too.

Tip:

You will need to include a resume of each manager in the appendix of your plan.

If you're using this plan to apply for a loan, you'll also need to attach personal financial statements of each person who owns more than 18% of the business.



Products and Services

Directions:

List major categories of products/services, and describe each. Include features and benefits.

Product/Service 1: _____

Product/Service 2: _____

Product/Service 3: _____

Product/Service 4: _____

Marketing Plan

Pricing Strategy

How will you determine what prices to charge?

Tip:

Optimum pricing takes into consideration:

- Competitors' prices
- Your costs
- How much customers will value your product, compared to other choices.

Will your price be higher than, the same as, or lower than your competitors' prices? Explain why?:

Use this chart to compare price structure of your 4 top products.	Competitor 1	Competitor 2	Competitor 3
Product/service 1			
Product/service 2			
Product/service 3			
Product/service 4			
Product/service 5			
Product/service 6			

Promotion:

How and where are you going to advertise your products/service?

Will you use online marketing, and if so, what is your strategy?

Do you have a plan for public relations and media releases? Describe it.

What promotions and discounts will you offer, and what is your strategy?

Marketing Plan (continued)

Place/Distribution

Where are you going to sell your products/perform your services?

How will your customers receive your products/services, and what options will you offer?

Describe the locations where your products/services will be sold.

Describe the way you will use your website. What will be the primary purpose of the website?

Will everything in your location plan be done simultaneously, or is your plan in phases?

Tip:

Marketing plans usually cover the 4 P's:

- Product
- Price
- Place
- Promotion

Competition

What research have you done on your direct and indirect competitors?

What similar products/services do your competitors offer, and how will yours be different?

	Similar Products/Services	Your Differentiation
Competitor 1		
Competitor 2		
Competitor 3		
Competitor 4		

Are there enough customers in your target markets to go around?

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This *Business Plan Workbook* covers the narrative portion of the business plan. The financial portion of the business plan is covered in *Financial Projection Workbook*.

The Georgia Small Business Development Center Network offers no-cost, confidential consulting services to small business owners. Our consultants provide assistance in many areas of business, including marketing, management, strategic planning, and financial analysis. Please contact us if you need assistance preparing financial projections or finding financing for your business. For the SBDC near you, visit

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