



## Update from Delaware Division of Small Business



» The Division of Small Business has launched several initiatives to help small business owners, including a robust, new website, a series of match-making events and marketing Delaware's 25 Opportunity Zones.

On March 12, the Division, in conjunction with New Castle County, the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, NCCCC Emerging Enterprise Center and YWCA Delaware, held the first in a series of match-making sessions, called Make Me a Match.

Make Me a Match brings together small business owners and purchasing managers from large Delaware companies.

Each event focuses on large companies in a particular industry. The March 12 meeting highlighted the construction field and attracted more than 40 small businesses.

Future events will be held quarterly and will focus on industries such as financial services and biotechnology.

The Division also recently launched its new website, [www.delbiz.com](http://www.delbiz.com).

The website incorporates features developed after receiving feedback from small business owners, including

a statewide calendar of small business-related events and contact information for each of the Division's Regional Business Managers. The RBMs each work one-on-one with people looking to start or expand businesses.

One of the most useful features of the site is the Business Resource Connection, an interactive portal that sorts 300 programs offered by more than 80 organizations in Delaware to find small business owners programs that would be most useful to them, from getting help writing a business plan to finding new sources of access to capital.

"The Business Resource Connection is a direct result of feedback we received from talking with Delaware's small business community," said Damian DeStefano, Director of the Division of Small Business. "Small business owners told us their lives would be easier with a place to go to find the help they needed for specific issues when they needed it. This tool will simplify that search and improve business outcomes."

The Division's website is also the place to learn about the advantages of investing in

one of Delaware's 25 Qualified Opportunity Zones, part of a federal program that offers tax savings for investing in economically distressed Census areas.

Many of the Opportunity Zones are located in areas where additional incentives are available. Twenty contain former Brownfield sites. Eleven are located in Downtown Development Districts which offer rebates on qualified expenses related to real estate construction and renovations.

The Division of Small Business is a champion for Delaware's hardworking small business owners, who are such a key part of the state's economy.

Make use of all the Division of Small Business has to offer by:

- Signing up for an upcoming Make Me a Match event (free to attend)
- Submitting your organization's event to the online calendar.
- Contacting a Regional Business Manager to schedule a one-on-one meeting.

Delaware is a great place to run a small business and the Division of Small Business is working to make it even better.