

# Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network Guide to Business Ideas

This guide shows how to use AERN books to cultivate a business idea.

Choosing a business is a personal decision. The business you choose to start should reflect your work experience, your life history and your preferred interests. You can use these resources at your AERN center to help with your decision.

- **101 BEST BUSINESS TO START** – Businesses are covered across a wide range of categories such as Business Services, Computers, Food & Drink, Healthcare & Fitness, Household Services, Personal Services Retailing, etc. Each business profile includes estimates on start-up costs, potential, first year earnings, and years to recoup initial investment. Designed for thumb-through browsing.
- **BUSINESS PLANS HANDBOOKS** – Multi-volume set of real b-plans. Use these to see what businesses others have started. Most latter volumes include a comprehensive business index to previous volumes. Also included in the appendix are such things as a general business template and lists of organizations that can help with business information needs.
- **ARE YOU READY TO START A BUSINESS?** Assess your own ability to succeed. Explore the Small Business Readiness Assessment Tool @ the SBA.gov website.
- **EXPLORE OTHER SOURCES FOR IDEAS** – Read publications like the Wall Street Journal, Inc., Fortune, Forbes, Business Week, Business 2.0, etc. Consider your background and past experiences. Choose a business that matches your interests. Ideas for business can come from just about anywhere.
- **WEBSITES** – These three websites are excellent places to find further, in depth information on loans, lenders and how to fund your business proposal.

<http://www.sba.gov>   <http://aern.cba.ua.edu>   <http://business.gov>

For additional help with these and other sources please contact your local AERN center.

