



pick
Oak
Park

The logo features the word "pick" in a light blue script font above the words "Oak" and "Park" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a green graphic of stylized human figures with their arms raised, resembling a sunburst or a group of people celebrating. A blue shopping bag icon is integrated into the letter "O" of "Oak".

Resource Guide
Helping Businesses Thrive



Let's talk BUSINESS

The Office of Economic Vitality

focuses on strengthening the local economy by supporting business growth, expansion and retention. It serves as a key resource for businesses looking to expand within Oak Park, offering strategic assistance, data insights and access to resources that help businesses thrive.



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The Business Services Division

serves as a one-stop-shop for businesses. This centralized resource provides comprehensive support, navigating business owners through the municipal process of obtaining the necessary licenses, permits and zoning requirements. While also administering the Village's business assistance grant programs.

Noemy Diaz

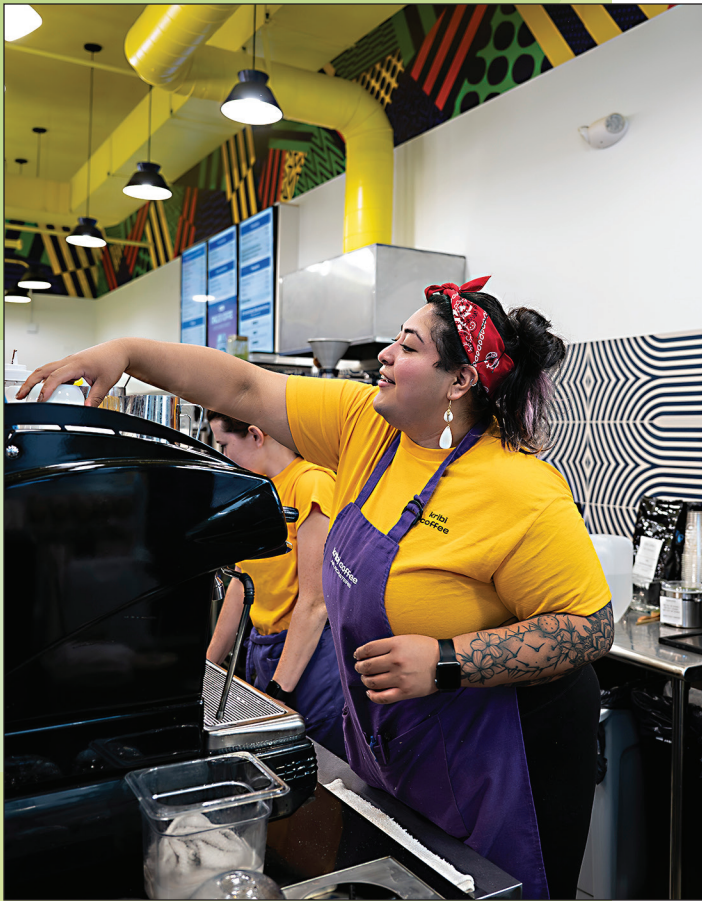
Business Services Manager/
Administrative Officer
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The Village of Oak Park and its economic development partners offer numerous free and low-cost ways for businesses to reinvest in themselves. The following is a list of organizations and a quick summary of resources that they provide. We highly recommend reaching out to these entities if any of the resources that they provide are of interest. These organizations are eager to share their services to help your business grow and thrive in Oak Park.

Additional resources can be found at oak-park.us/business or by contacting us at [business@ oak-park.us](mailto:business@oak-park.us).



Oak Park–River Forest Chamber of Commerce

- Free six-month membership for new businesses, including helping you host a ribbon cutting
- Opportunity to network with fellow business owners and promote your business
- Educational programs to help you utilize the Chamber's full benefits
- **Contact:** Melissa Mallinson
(mmallinson@oprchamber.org)

Explore Oak Park and Beyond

- Promotion on website, social pages, newsletters, and opportunity for inclusion in blogs
- Access to public relations firm for pitches on events and inclusion in campaigns
- Additional advertising opportunities
- **Contact:** Annie Coakley
(info@oakparkandbeyond.org)



Cook County Small Business Source

- Free business advising including creation of a business plan and potential financing options
- Virtual and in-person educational and networking events
- Contact with organizations such as the Chicago Urban League and IL Restaurant Association
- **Contact:** info@cookcountysmallbiz.org

Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Joseph Center

- No cost 1-on-1 consultation including business plans, marketing, finance, and operations
- Free or low-cost programs on digital marketing, financial management, and AI for business
- Assistance with government contracting, socio-economic certifications, and export readiness
- **Contact:** Andy Pham (apham@jbs.edu)

Triton College Center for Business and Professional Development (CBPD)

- Customized training that suits your business and employee needs
- Technical education such as workplace safety, project management, and computer basics
- Workforce development including ESL, customer service, and leadership training
- **Contact:** Laura Fisher (laurafisher@triton.edu)

Oak Park Public Library Business Resources

- Library card for business owners, NFPs, and workers with full access to services & resources
- Room reservations for meetings and events, including virtual meeting spaces
- Free access to the Creative Studio including 3D printers, laser cutters, and an audio booth
- **Contact:** Bridget Optholt (bridgeto@oppl.org)

Park District of Oak Park

- Community event sponsorships that engage directly with Oak Park residents
- On-site advertising at parks and facilities, and in program guides that reach 25,000 homes
- Affordable meeting and event spaces at historic properties
- **Contact:** Ann Marie Buczek (annmarie.buczek@pdop.org)

Oak Park and River Forest High School

- Resource for finding potential interns, part-time employees, and seasonal workers
- Flexible volunteer and paid-work opportunities for students with disabilities
- Opportunity to speak with local students about your profession as a career path
- **Contact:** Brian Dubina (bdubina@oprfs.org)





SCORE

- Non-profit dedicated to helping small businesses through mentoring and education
- Former industry professionals volunteer their time to offer expertise and experience
- All services are free of charge and confidential
- **Connect:** score.org/Chicago

Small Business Administration (SBA)

- Funded by the federal government to support small businesses
- Small business loans and free seminars/webinars
- Federal contracting certifications and business counseling
- **Connect:** sba.gov/district/Illinois





Helping your business thrive

Business Services

- One-stop support service for new and existing Oak Park businesses
- Walk-through site visits to provide guidance on zoning requirements and building permits
- Guidance on signage options and regulations to help draw attention to your business
- Parking permits to ensure there are spaces available for you and your employees
- Business Assistance Grants available
- **Contact:** Noemy Diaz, Administrative Officer (noemy.diaz@oak-park.us)

Office of Economic Vitality

- Available sites in Oak Park to start up, expand, or relocate your business
- Financial assistance programs to help reinvest in and enhance your business
- Business retention programs
- Guidance in real estate development and investment attraction
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