

## THE HIVE BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

# May 2026 Newsletter

The HIVE e-newsletter brings you the latest updates, resources, and success stories from Virginia Beach's dynamic center for entrepreneurs and small business growth.

For the latest, check out our website, and follow us on social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)).

## UPCOMING EVENTS @ THE HIVE

**JUNE**  
**16**

**Government Contracting - To be a Subcontractor or Prime**

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

**JULY**  
**2**

**AI and the Future of Work**

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

**JULY**  
**7**

**Military Business Network SBDC**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

[Check Out More HIVE Events](#)

**Featured Event: Hampton Roads Small Business Symposium**

Tuesday, May 19 • 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Small businesses across Hampton Roads are invited to the 2026 Hampton Roads Small Business Symposium: Contracting for Success.

The event will connect entrepreneurs with resource partners and procurement professionals for practical guidance on local, state and federal contracting opportunities.

Whether you're just getting started or looking to grow, this symposium offers the tools, connections and insight to help move your business forward.

Don't miss this opportunity—register today and secure your spot.

**Hosted By:**



**Presenting Sponsor:**



[Register Now](#)

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## **Featured Program: Book Writing & Publishing Accelerator**

**Wednesdays, June 17 & 24 and July 1 & 8 • 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

Have a book idea but aren't sure where to start? This June, The HIVE will host a four-week Book Accelerator Program to help aspiring authors, entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders and creatives move from idea to action.

Led by award-winning author and publisher Pearl Alimo, the program will guide participants through the early stages of book development and help them take the next step with confidence.

Each session builds on the last, so participants are encouraged to attend the full series.

[Register Now](#)



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH  
**Finance**

Looking to do business with the City? [Explore](#) supplier registration, active solicitations, and resources to help you get started.

## FEATURED NEWS

### Virginia Beach Named No. 3 Among Top Cities for Small Business

Virginia Beach has been recognized as the No. 3 Top City for Small Business in 2026 by the Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighting the city's strong support for entrepreneurs, innovation and small business growth.

The ranking reflects strengths across the city's business ecosystem, including technology adoption, local government support and access to resources for businesses at every stage.

Through programs like The HIVE, the SWaM Business Office, and the Minority Business Council, Virginia Beach continues to create an environment where small businesses can start, grow and succeed.

[Learn More](#)



### Celebrating Small Business Success at the SWaMmy Awards

Virginia Beach Economic Development was proud to attend the 4th annual SWaMmy Awards, celebrating small, women-owned and minority-owned businesses across the Commonwealth.

Among this year's 10 honorees was Executive Decision LLC, a Virginia Beach-based, SWaM-certified consulting firm and valued member of The HIVE community. The firm helps organizations improve operations, support growth, manage change and leverage technology, automation and AI to make better use of internal data.

Congratulations to Executive Decision LLC and all of this year's honorees. For Virginia Beach's small business ecosystem, this is a moment worth celebrating.

## FEATURED PARTNER



### **The AI Collective: Hampton Roads**

As AI reshapes the way businesses work, build, and compete, The HIVE is helping local entrepreneurs answer a critical question: where do I start?

Through a new partnership with The AI Collective Hampton Roads, The HIVE will bring practical, accessible AI programming to Virginia Beach. Sessions will help business owners, startups, and residents explore how AI can support real-world needs, from streamlining workflows and testing ideas to building no-code tools and identifying new growth opportunities.

The goal is to make AI feel less overwhelming and more actionable for the Hampton Roads business community. Stay tuned for upcoming session announcements from The HIVE and The AI Collective Hampton Roads.

[Learn More](#)

## FEATURED GRANT

# verizon

small business  
digital ready

## Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grants

*Please note: This grant is independently offered and administered by Verizon and is not endorsed, sponsored, or affiliated with Virginia Beach Economic Development (VBED) or The HIVE. The HIVE assumes no responsibility for the administration or distribution of funds.*

Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, in partnership with LISC, is offering \$10,000 grants to small businesses throughout 2026.

Eligible for-profit small business owners can apply by registering, completing two eligible courses or events, and submitting a free application. Selected applicants can use funding for growth, operations, digital tools, marketing, equipment, training, and other long-term investments.

[Learn More](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES

**Workspace**

**Business Development  
Initiatives**

**1:1 Consultations**

**Grants & Loans**



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