

## Is Now the Right Time to Start Your Business?

New businesses are a huge asset for communities. They put a fresh face on familiar surroundings, inspire ingenuity in others, and stimulate the economy along the way. If you're thinking of starting a new business in Orange Township, we'd love to have you. However, we understand if you're a little uncertain right now. Starting a business is always a complicated decision to make, and a pandemic hardly simplifies things.

That's why we've made this guide designed to help you figure out if now is your moment. It might, or it might not be, and that's okay: We hope these questions help you figure it out. Here's what to ask yourself to discover if now is the time to start your new business:

## Do You Still Need to Prepare?

Coming up with a great idea is an amazing feeling. However, it's important to recognize that that spark is just the very beginning of your journey, and it doesn't mean you're ready to get started. Daylight recommends taking an honest look at your own skills and qualifications. Do you have the knowledge necessary to start a business? Or, to look at it another way, would you want to work for someone who had your skills?

If not, it may be wise to bide your time and get a little more experience under your belt. For example, you can look into <u>furthering</u> your education with a business or accounting master's degree. Shoring up your knowledge base is a sure way to give your new business the foundation it needs for success. You can also look into taking on more leadership responsibilities at work or in a skilled volunteer capacity, to get a sense for your management style and strengths.

Finally, check out <u>local business resources</u> to familiarize yourself with practices in your market. Knowledge is power, so these are all valuable ways to prepare yourself for a strong start on the road of success.

## What's Your Funding Situation?

If you feel confident you have the stuff to run a business, then your next step is to figure out funding. Starting a business <u>can be wildly expensive</u>, and you aren't likely to see a huge return on that investment for a while. It's unwise to put your life savings into an idea that may or may not pan out, so only use money you're willing to lose, at least in the short term.

You don't have to have all the funds you need already saved up, however. If you have a strong idea and a good credit score, there are several <u>ways to get funding</u>. You can float your idea to potential backers, who may be willing to invest in your idea early on for a portion of the profits. You can also reach out to your bank to ask about a small business loan. Depending on your <u>credit score</u>, you may be in a good position to get a favorable rate, especially while the overall interest rate is so low.

## Do You Want to Start?

Finally, ask yourself: Do you want to start now? At the end of the day, there's only so much prep work you can do, only so ready you can be when it comes to starting a business. There's always going to be risk, uncertainty, and fear involved. But if you have all your ducks in a row and you want it, Forbes points out that's as good an indicator it's time to start as any. There will never be a perfect time, only the right attitude and a moment you're willing to grab. If you're itching to go, maybe this is that moment.

Starting a business gives you a ton of freedom and the ability to define your own path. We hope these questions have helped you organize your thoughts and determine if now's the time for your business to begin. Good luck: <u>Orange Celebration</u> is rooting for you!

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