

BE A LICENSED BUSINESS

DEMONSTRATE LEGITIMACY AND CREDIBILITY

Holding a license assures customers, investors, and regulators that the business operates legally.

ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Proper licensing confirms that a business meets local, state, and federal requirements.

PROMOTE CONSUMER TRUST

Customers are more likely to trust and engage with businesses that are properly licensed.



ENCOURAGE FAIR COMPETITION

Helps ensure all businesses operate under the same legal framework, preventing unfair or illegal advantages.

PREVENT LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES

Operating without a proper license can result in fines, business closure, or other legal action.

PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION

A valid license reflects the business's commitment to responsibility, professionalism, and accountability.

BENEFITS BEYOND COMPLIANCE

ACCESS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Licensed businesses are eligible to apply for government contracts, funding programs, and certain business partnerships.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

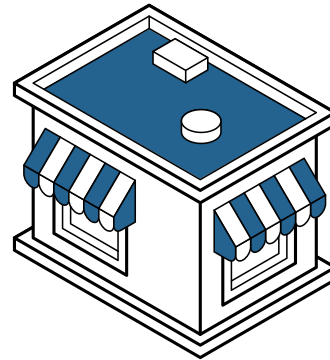
Properly licensed businesses are more likely to qualify for loans, grants, and insurance coverage.

- Economic Development Programs
- Outreach
- Advertisements
- Local Events

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE

Grants official permission to operate a business within jurisdiction.

LAND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS



APPLY TODAY



(909) 395-2022 | 303 East B Street, Ontario, CA 91764

[ONTARIOCA.GOV/BUSINESSLICENSE](https://ontario.ca.gov/businesslicense)



WHY LICENSED BUSINESSES MATTER

Ensuring Safety, Trust, and Compliance for Businesses and Consumers

Revised: February 2026

SHOP LICENSED, SUPPORT LOCAL



SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Money spent on licensed local businesses stays within the community, helping to create jobs and boost local development.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Licensed businesses must meet legal and safety requirements, helping protect customers from fraud, unsafe products, or poor-quality services.

KEEP PROPERTY VALUE STRONG

Licensed local businesses make neighborhoods more attractive and can help increase property values.

SHARED BENEFITS

PROMOTES COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Licensed local businesses often invest back into the community through sponsorships, donations, and participation in community events.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Legally licensed businesses, such as restaurants, coffee shops, and snack shops, are inspected to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations and must obtain an Environmental Health Services San Bernardino County Health Permit.

TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Licensed businesses are easier to regulate and hold accountable if problems arise, ensuring fair and honest practices. All licensed businesses must display a Business License Certificate at all times.

PUBLIC REVENUE

Licensed businesses pay local taxes that fund essential services, including:

- Parks, community events, street cleaning, emergency services, and public safety.

DISCOURAGES ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL BUSINESS

Helps reduce unregistered operations that may exploit workers, evade taxes, or ignore safety rules.

BOOST COMMUNITY PRIDE

Seeing local businesses succeed gives pride to the community.



KEEP AN EYE OUT

Look for Business License Certificates and Health Permits (if applicable) — they must be displayed and visible to the public.



REPORTING

You may notify the following departments for any businesses operating illegally or unsafely:

Business License Department (909) 395-2022

Community Improvement (909) 395-2007

San Bernardino Environmental Health Services (800) 442-2283

Better Business Bureau [BBB.org/File-a-Complaint](https://www.bbb.org/File-a-Complaint)