



**Burnsville**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIRST STEPS SEMINAR FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS KICKS OFF JAN. 15, 2020**

Business belongs in Burnsville! Since 2013, the City of Burnsville has offered free business consulting services to entrepreneurs and small businesses through the “Open To Business” program.

This program – in partnership with the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA), the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce, and other Dakota County cities – has helped dozens of small businesses and startups over the past seven years. In 2018 alone, the program served 19 business start-ups in Burnsville, and 107 throughout Dakota County.

### **Open To Business Small Business Seminar Series**

Starting in January 2020, the program will begin hosting a monthly Small Business Seminar Series. The **First Steps Seminar** is scheduled for Wednesday Jan. 15. Additional seminars will be scheduled throughout the year.

**What:** Open To Business First Steps Seminar  
**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 15 | 6 – 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Dakota County Community Development Agency  
1228 Town Center Drive, Eagan, Minn.

**Registration:** Register online <https://o2bfirststepsdakotacounty.eventbrite.com>

The seminar is open to any current or aspiring entrepreneurs or small business owners. Karen Schaffhausen, Business Advisor for Open To Business, will lead the First Steps Seminar. She has more than 10 years of experience working with small businesses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The seminar will focus on the key issues to consider for people looking to either start or grow a small business.

“The goal of this program is to be a ‘first step’ for our residents looking to start or grow a business,” said Burnsville Community Development Director Jenni Faulkner. “We have seen a lot of success with this partnership over the years, and we are excited to help even more aspiring businesses through this new seminar series.”

### **About Open to Business**

The Open to Business program offers free, confidential business counseling to current and prospective entrepreneurs, as well as help for small business owners to access the technical assistance and financing options they need to succeed.

For more information visit [www.OpenToBusinessMN.org](http://www.OpenToBusinessMN.org).