

# Atlanta, GA

## Mayor Bill Campbell

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### ***Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop (AOSCS)***

In the City of Atlanta's ongoing commitment to the small business entrepreneurial and economic development, they are particularly proud of an initiative known as Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop.

The Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop program took shape in 1995 as a resource to be used to support and stimulate economic development within the City of Atlanta's Empowerment Zone. The mission of the Atlanta One Stop Capital Shop is to leverage public and private, federal, state, and local resources to provide centralized, comprehensive financial and business technical assistance to emerging and expanding small businesses in the City of Atlanta with an emphasis on businesses in the Atlanta Empowerment Zone.

The City of Atlanta's Business Assistance Center, the US Small Business Administration (SBA), U.S. General Store, Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop (AOSCS), and Business Information Center (BIC) are together located at City Hall East in the heart of Midtown Atlanta. The One Stop Shop is affiliated with dozens of other government, public and private organizations, business education, and service providers.

Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop is a formal partnership between the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Empowerment Zone Corporation, SBA and the US General Store. It was designed to provide small business assistance from an easily accessed, retail location all under one roof. The Atlanta One Stop Shop's most unique feature is the added value of the U.S. General Store. The AOSCS is the only One Stop Capital Shop nationwide that has this additional component.

The U.S. General Store provides a single source for clients to receive one-stop shopping for government services and information. Clients have free access to a full-time staff that assists clients with their questions. In addition, other resources include: job search kiosk, Social Security applications, Job Corps recruiting, resume review, tax forms, student loan information, government research, etc.

Atlanta's One Stop Shop realizes small business entrepreneurs require a vast range of assistance. The available services run the

gamut from the simple: accessing the Internet or applying for a city permit, to the complex: compiling basic information on developing a business plan and financial proposal or learning how to compete for federal contracts. Whether a small business entrepreneur needs to research information, complete a transaction, apply for a loan, seek a government contract, access training, counseling, or technical assistance, Atlanta's One Stop Shop is prepared to facilitate all those needs from one single location.

Atlanta's One Stop Shop houses a Business Information Center (BIC) that is managed by the SBA. The BIC offers an extensive resource library, journals and publications, state-of-the-art computer technology, small business software, and Internet access. Additionally, extensive training services are provided by local Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), as well as counseling through the nationwide organization Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).

The One Stop also makes available a range of products including micro enterprise loans, technical assistance, and private sector lending partners. These are critical elements for small business success.

The cornerstone of the Atlanta One Stop Capital Shop program is a strong alliance with the local community. The One Stop Shop links vast resources with the unique insight of a local community. No other program or federal agency plays a more vital or prominent role in small business entrepreneurship, economic development and revitalization in Atlanta's communities than the Atlanta One Stop Capital Shop. Since its opening, the Atlanta One Stop Capital Shop has assisted in creating or retaining over 6,000 jobs and provided business technical assistance to over 25,000 individuals who are in business or planning to start a small business.



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***"We are excited about the success of Atlanta's One Stop Capital Shop and its future. The One Stop Capital Shop, in conjunction with our community technology initiative will develop an electronic mall that will allow small businesses - starting with 300 that are part of our Empowerment Zone - to participate in e-commerce. This one project alone will not only enable small businesses to grow in ways they haven't been able to before, but will also help us get that much closer to closing the digital divide."***

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Program has been running six years

CONTACT:  
Melvin T. Solomon  
Executive Director  
City Hall East, First Floor  
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 852-7671  
FAX: (404) 853-7677  
E-MAIL: msolomon@oscs.org