

STARTING A FOOD SERVICE BUSINESS IN WYOMING

Here are 5 helpful steps you need to follow to ensure your new food business meet both state and local requirements.



The **Wyoming Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** collaborates with the **UW Extension** and other resources to offer no-cost advising for business planning, financial projections and more!



FOOD VENTURES IN WYOMING
A RESOURCE & REGULATORY GUIDE

Provided by the UW Extension

1. CHOOSE YOUR BUSINESS CONCEPT

RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT

Traditional Restaurants, Cafes, or Bars

MOBILE FOOD VENDOR

Food trucks or carts.

[See Food Truck Requirements Here!](#)

COTTAGE FOOD BUSINESS

Homemade foods directly to consumers

Wyoming Food Freedom Act:

No licenses, inspections, or certifications are required for non-TCS (time/temperature control for safety) foods sold directly to consumers, such as produce, baked goods, and jams.

- ✓ **Non-potentially hazardous foods** don't require time or temperature control for safety.
- ✓ **Potentially hazardous foods and frozen foods**, excluding any meat or meat-containing products
- ✓ **Eggs and dairy products**, including raw dairy products
- ✓ **Some meat** such as rabbit, farm-raised fish (excluding catfish), poultry and poultry products and cooked poultry. Most other meats are not covered by the WFFA.

Allows sale of some homemade foods directly to consumers without a commercial kitchen license, up to \$250,000 in annual gross sales.

SCAN HERE TO READ MORE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT'S ALLOWED UNDER THE WYOMING FOOD FREEDOM ACT.



Marketing at the Market?

Prepare for selling at a farmers market.



2. REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS ENTITY

- ☐ **Business Name:** Search the Wyoming Secretary of State database to ensure your desired name is available.
- ☐ **Legal Formation:** Register as an LLC, Corporation, or Partnership. Filing fees start at \$100 for an LLC.
- ☐ **Tax IDs:** Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS.
- ☐ **Sales Tax License:** Register with the Wyoming Department of Revenue for a sales and use tax license, which is mandatory for selling food and beverages.

Seek out advising from local **WY SBDC** for information on different business structures

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3. OBTAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY PERMITS



Food License: Most establishments must apply for a license through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's Consumer Health Services (CHS).

Plan Review: If building new or remodeling, you must submit kitchen blueprints for a Plan Review to ensure compliance with health standards.

Food Handler Training: Many Wyoming counties require staff to have a Food Handlers Card.

Alcohol License: If serving alcohol, apply through your local municipal or county clerk's office, as state liquor laws are administered locally.



4. LOCAL LICENSING AND ZONING

- **City Business License:** Check with your specific city (e.g., Cheyenne, Casper, or Laramie) for local business license requirements. Fees range from \$50 to \$250+ depending on the city.
- **Zoning Approval:** Verify with the local planning department that your chosen location is zoned for food service.

Reach out to the SBDC [Market Research Center](#) for a complete report of your target market & region

Special note for mobile food units: check with the county you plan to do business in for local permitting requirements.



5. OPERATIONAL SETUP

- **Business Bank Account:** Use your Articles of Organization, Certificate of Good Standing, and EIN to open a dedicated business account.
 - Operating Agreement if more than one owner/member
- **Insurance:** Secure general liability and workers' compensation insurance.
- **Business Support:** The [Wyoming Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#) offers no-cost advising for business planning and financial projections.



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AND WAIT, THERE'S MORE!
YOUR LOCAL SBDC ADVISOR CAN HELP!

Timeline Quick Reference

These timelines are estimates. Actual turnarounds and first sales will vary.

Phase	Food Freedom Act	Commercial Production
Concept Development	1 - 2 Weeks	2 - 6 Months
Legal Setup	1 - 3 Days	2 - 4 Weeks
Facility	Home Kitchen	3 - 12 Months
Regulatory Approval	None Required	2 - 6 Months
Label Development	1 Week	1 - 3 Months
Testing & Validation	Optional	2 - 4 Months
First Sales	2 - 3 Weeks	9 - 18 Months