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|  | **Contact: Ginny Person**Prince William County, VirginiaDepartment of Development ServicesMain: 703.792.6930 | Direct: 703.792.4630 gperson2@pwcgov.org |

**For Immediate Release**

**384 New Small Businesses Open in 2019 with support from**

**Prince William County’s Small Business Project Management Program**

January 23, 2020 - Prince William County, Va– Prince William County today announced 384 new small businesses opened in 2019, having received dedicated support from the Department of Development Services’ new [Small Business Project Management Program](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/Pages/Small-Business-Projects.aspx). These projects reflect the continued growth and diversification of the County, with 208 new businesses, 143 existing businesses and 33 relocation/expansions. The broad spectrum of entrepreneurs, start-ups and businesses include: restaurants, retail, professional and technology services, residential services, and automobile repair shops, to name a few.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our business ecosystem and help create a sense of place and improved quality of life for our residents,” said Wade Hugh, Director, [Department of Development Services](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/Pages/default.aspx). Prince William County’s business economy is predominantly small- and mid-sized enterprises, with over 95% having 20 or fewer employees. The County also has a growing entrepreneurial sector, particularly in technology services. [Entrepreneurs and start-ups](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/Pages/Entrepreneurs-and-Startups.aspx) that work with our team of experts from the earliest stages of their business are typically better organized, well informed and prepared for the permit requirements ahead, as they launch with better network connections and more viable and agile operations.

“We cannot emphasize enough, that one of the singularly most important thing a small business owner can do first, before signing a lease, is to [contact the County](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/Pages/dds-hours.aspx). There are no fees to provide research to questions and answers are usually provided within two to three days,” added Hugh. “Equipping our residents and businesses with the pertinent permit information needed to successfully open for business, with minimal delay, is a key priority.”

The Small Business Project Management Program is part of a broader County-wide small business initiative aimed at increasing growth of small business jobs to over 1,000 per year and to help people through the permit process of opening their facility of choice, which was launched by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors in 2018.

**About Prince William County Department of Development Services**

The [Department of Development Services](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/Pages/default.aspx) promotes a culture where staff and customers work in partnership to create and sustain a better quality of life and environment in which to live, work, play and retire. Development processes are designed to be effective and efficient, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations. The Department of Development Services supports economic development, public safety, revitalization, infrastructure improvements, and the protection of natural resources. Staff provides customers the highest quality of service and respect. We supply the public with development information through effective communication and education. To learn more visit: [www.pwcgov.org/DDS](http://www.pwcgov.org/DDS), Email: DDS@pwcgov.org or Phone: 703-792-6930.

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