



JAMES J. HILL CENTER GUIDE TO USING BPLANS

80 West Fourth Street | Saint Paul, MN 55102
PH: (651) 265-5500 | EMAIL: info@jjhill.org
www.jjhill.org

"Guide to Using Bplans" is a proprietary product of the James J. Hill Center. Updated November 2016. © Copyright 2016. All rights are reserved.

INTRODUCTION

Bplans is a freely available website that allows users to create accounts in order to access a wealth of information about business plans. Users can download business plan templates, sample business plans in a variety of industries, utilize business planning calculators, and access step-by-step guides for writing business plans.

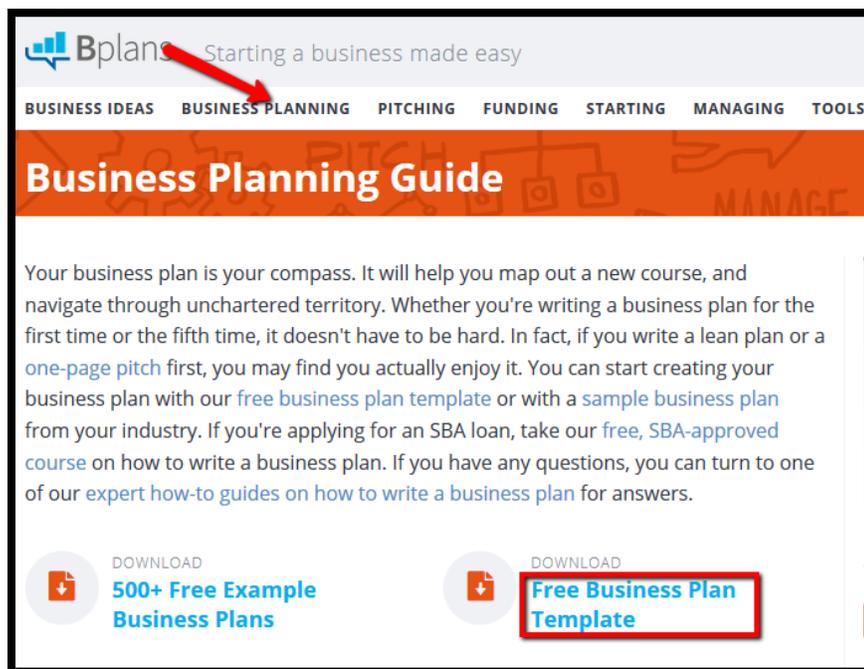
For further information call 651-265-5500 or email info@jjhill.org.

GETTING STARTED

Access the database through the *Database Access* page.

BUSINESS PLAN TEMPLATES

Access the sample business plans by clicking on the “Business Planning” menu at the top of the page, then clicking on “Free Business Plan Template.”



Follow the instructions on the right-hand side of the page to create a free account and download your template.

Business Plan Template

Should you use a customized business plan template?

There are many ways to approach writing a business plan, and some are better than others. Can you find a completed business plan that matches your business, change the names, and call that your own? Well, you *could*, but a business plan template might be a better idea.

Let's take a quick look at the pros and cons of using a business plan template to start your planning process. Or, if you want to jump right in, fill out the form on the right to download our free business plan template and get started.

The pros of business plan templates

A good business plan template can really help you get your thoughts organized. It can provide a guideline, so that you're not stuck looking at a blank page trying to figure out where to start. And it can show you the general layout of a standard

3.0 Services

4.0 Market Analysis Summary

5.0 Strategy and Implementation Summary

Table Market Analysis		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	1000	1200	1500	1800	2200	2500	3000	3500
Expenses	800	950	1100	1300	1500	1800	2000	2200
Profit	200	250	400	500	700	700	1000	1300

FIRST NAME *

LAST NAME *

EMAIL *

MY BUSINESS IS... *

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDING FOR YOUR BUSINESS? *

I AM A... (IF NEITHER OPTION IS APPLICABLE, LEAVE BLANK)

DOWNLOAD YOUR TEMPLATE

SAMPLE BUSINESS PLANS

Access the sample business plans by clicking on the “Business Planning” menu at the top of the page, then clicking on “500+ Free Example Business Plans.”

BUSINESS IDEAS
BUSINESS PLANNING
PITCHING
FUNDING
STARTING
MANAGING
TOOLS

Business Planning Guide

Your business plan is your compass. It will help you map out a new course, and navigate through uncharted territory. Whether you're writing a business plan for the first time or the fifth time, it doesn't have to be hard. In fact, if you write a lean plan or a [one-page pitch](#) first, you may find you actually enjoy it. You can start creating your business plan with our [free business plan template](#) or with a [sample business plan](#) from your industry. If you're applying for an SBA loan, take our [free, SBA-approved course](#) on how to write a business plan. If you have any questions, you can turn to one of our [expert how-to guides](#) on how to write a business plan for answers.

DOWNLOAD

500+ Free Example Business Plans

DOWNLOAD

Free Business Plan Template

TRAINING

Free Course on Writing a Business Plan

ARTICLE

How to Write a Business Plan

Locate the search box approximately halfway down the page and type in the type of business you're planning on starting (for example: restaurant, boutique, garage, etc.). Click "Go," and select the sample plan you need from the results that come up.

Retail and Online Store (116)
116 free business plans for clothing stores, online stores, e-businesses, gift shops, eBay and more.

Services (216)
216 free business plans for accountants, insurance agents, self storage businesses, cleaning services and much more.

FIND THE SAMPLE PLAN YOU NEED

restaurant **GO**

OTHER CATEGORIES

[Bar and Nightclub \(10\)](#) [Medical and Health Care \(26\)](#)

About halfway down the page, follow the "Learn More" prompt to create an account and download your plan.

Don't bother with copy & paste.
You can download this complete sample plan as a text document for FREE.

LEARN MORE!

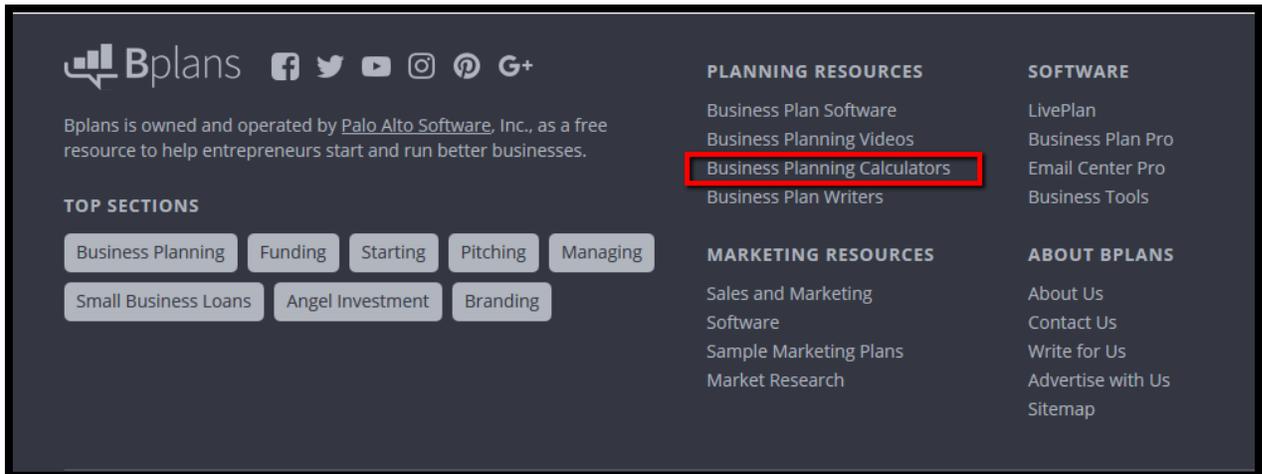
RATE THIS PLAN ★★★★★

Highlights

Year	Sales	Gross Margin	Net Profit
Year 1	\$400,000	\$350,000	\$50,000
Year 2	\$600,000	\$500,000	\$100,000
Year 3	\$750,000	\$650,000	\$150,000

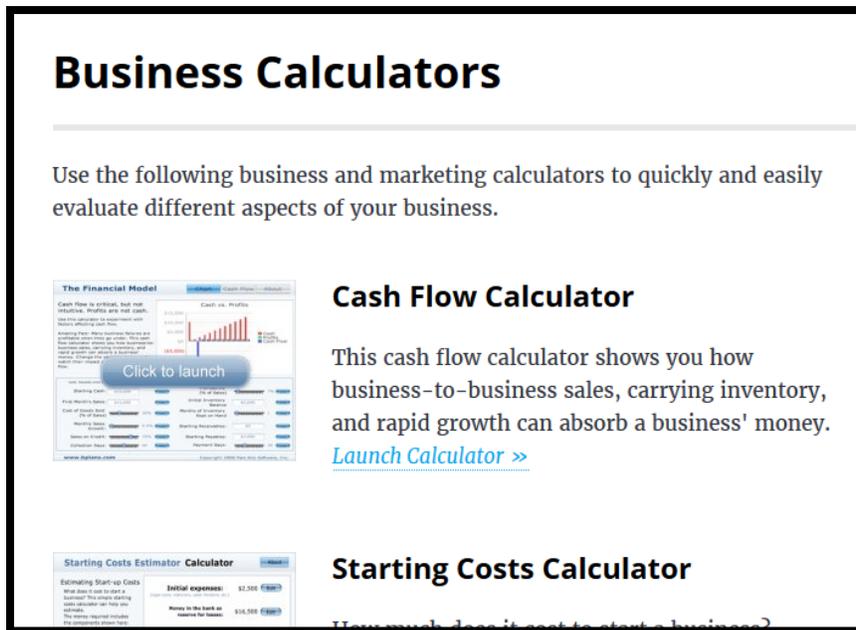
Need actual charts? We recommend using LivePlan as the easiest way to create graphs for your own business plan. [Create your own business plan »](#)

BUSINESS PLANNING CALCULATORS



Access the business planning calculators by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on “Business Planning Calculators.”

A number of different business calculators will appear, including a startup cost calculator, a cash flow calculator, and a break-even calculator. Click on any of these to launch the calculator tool, and follow its prompts to make your calculations.



This is only a small sampling of what Bplans has to offer. By browsing the site, you can find many useful articles about various aspects of starting and running a small business.

Questions?

651-265-5500 / www.jjhill.org / info@jjhill.org