MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

Your business in the United States

A practical guide to understanding the process, opportunities and costs of forming an LLC in Florida.

A structure for your business

An LLC is a business entity formed under state law. It can help organize commercial activity, enter into contracts and separate business finances. Its usefulness depends on what you will sell, where you will operate and who its owners will be. [1, 2]

Who might benefit from it?

Professional and digital services

Consulting, technology, design or training with international clients.

Trade and business expansion

Selling products or services and developing relationships with partners.

Projects with partners

Contributions, ownership shares and responsibilities defined from the start.

Investment in assets

Individual assessment of risks, taxes and ownership structure.

The first decision: define a specific business objective. Having an LLC can support a strategy; customers and revenue come from carrying out that strategy.

Scope: an LLC formed in Florida. General information, not a substitute for individual legal, tax or immigration advice. Sources and data dates on page 7.

PROCESS INFOGRAPHIC

From idea to operation

Eight reference steps. Some can move forward in parallel; state registration is only one part of the journey.

01 Define the business

Activity, customers, countries, owners and actual place of operation. Assess whether Florida and an LLC are suitable. [1, 2]

02 Choose a name and structure

Check availability on Sunbiz; define members and management. Registering the name does not establish a trademark. [3]

03 Prepare details and agent

Gather addresses, responsible parties and email. The Registered Agent must have a physical address in Florida and accept the role. [3]

04 Form the LLC on Sunbiz

File the Articles of Organization, pay the fees and verify acceptance. Keep the approved documents. [3, 4]

05 Document the agreements

Prepare the Operating Agreement: ownership, contributions, management and decisions. Recommended even with a single member. [1]

06 Apply for the EIN

Obtain the IRS tax identification number. Applying is free; the method depends on the applicant’s eligibility. [5]

07 Enable operations

Apply for a business account and payment services; review licenses, tax registrations and contracts. Each provider assesses the application.

08 Maintain and manage

Separate funds, keep records and schedule the Annual Report and applicable tax obligations. [6, 7, 8]

Follow the arrows from 1 to 8. State, IRS and bank timelines are independent; there is no joint approval or single guaranteed timeframe.

ADVANTAGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond registering an LLC

A business structure can provide organization and room to expand when supported by processes and real activity.

Separation and organization

Distinguish business income, expenses, contracts and obligations. Limited liability has exceptions and requires consistent business practices. [1]

Clear rules between partners

Document contributions, authority and decisions. This helps anticipate departures or disagreements and organize project management. [1]

Strategic factors that are often overlooked

01 **Get ready to sell to businesses**

Consistent entity records, contracts and invoicing can facilitate assessment as a supplier. Each buyer sets its own requirements.

02 **Organize digital assets**

Identify who owns the domain, software, content and accounts. Documenting licenses and assignments helps reduce disputes.

03 **Build a transferable business**

Financial records and documented processes make it easier to review the business when bringing in partners or negotiating a potential sale.

04 **Design an international operation**

Plan currencies, suppliers and markets. An entity can support cross-border contracts; review taxes and obligations in each country.

The four strategic factors are applications proposed by BUDECO360, not automatic legal benefits. An LLC also does not guarantee accounts, credit, sales, tax savings or immigration authorization.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Florida in numbers

A broad business base and significant international connections. These figures describe the market; they do not predict sales for a new business.

3.5 million

small businesses

SBA profile published in 2025. [9]

99.8 %

of businesses are small

SBA profile published in 2025. [9]

3.8 million

small-business employees

39.6% of employment reported by SBA. [9]

52,004

small goods exporters

94% of exporting firms in 2023. [10]

USD 78.9 billion

Florida goods exports in 2025. Brazil was the leading destination; Mexico, Canada, Germany and Colombia were also among its main markets. [10]

How to use these figures for your project

The size of the business base invites study of B2B services and partnerships. Foreign trade suggests exploring coordination, distribution and international support needs. These are business hypotheses: validate demand, competition and costs before investing.

SBA uses a fewer-than-500-employees definition in this profile; it includes businesses with no employees. Its figures are not a count of LLCs or a real-time total. The 2025 profile combines data from different years. USTR: exporters in 2023 and goods exports in 2025; not all service sales are included.

COSTS AND MAINTENANCE

Budget for the first year

Separate official fees, professional services and operating expenses. Official amounts checked on October 26, 2026.

Mandatory state formation — **USD 125**

USD 100 filing fee + USD 25 agent designation fee. [4]

Optional documents — **USD 35**

Certified copy USD 30 + Certificate of Status USD 5. [4]

EIN from the IRS — **USD 0**

The IRS does not charge; a third party may charge to handle the application. [5]

LLC Annual Report — **USD 138.75**

Current annual fee; it is not a tax return. [6, 7]

Other items to budget for

Registered Agent services, a business address or mail service if applicable, bookkeeping, tax preparation, licenses, insurance, banking and payment processing. The USD 25 state fee does not pay for an agent’s annual service.

Calendar: the first Annual Report is due the year after formation or the applicable effective date. Plan for January-May: after May 1, a USD 400 late fee applies. [3, 6]

Example of fees: USD 125 at formation; USD 160 if you request both optional documents. This is not the total price of a BUDECO360 package. Tax obligations require an independent assessment.

BEFORE TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Your getting-started checklist

Answer these questions to define a service scope and a budget suited to your project.

- ☐ What will you sell, and who would be your first customer?
- ☐ Where will the owners live, and where will the business operate?
- ☐ Who will the members be, and what percentage will each hold?
- ☐ Who will manage, and who may sign or move funds?
- ☐ What banking, payments, licenses and insurance will you need to assess?
- ☐ Who will handle bookkeeping and the compliance calendar?

Four clarifications that prevent mistakes

An LLC is not a visa. Ownership does not grant residency or authorization to work in the United States. [11]

Legal form does not determine all taxes. Members, tax elections, activity and tax residency matter. Having no sales does not, by itself, eliminate every obligation. [2, 8]

Some foreign owners have specific reporting requirements. A U.S. single-member LLC with a foreign owner may need Form 5472 and a pro forma 1120 for reportable transactions. [8]

BOI is not the same as the Annual Report. According to FinCEN, U.S.-created entities are exempt from BOI as of this edition. Confirm the rules when engaging services. [12]

Let’s discuss your project
Request information at budeco360.com and share your activity, country and number of owners to define the next steps.

BUDECO360 · Business Development Ecosystem 360. This guide does not guarantee results or approvals. Services and their terms must be set out in an explicit proposal.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Explore and learn more

References checked on October 26, 2026. The links are clickable. Check current rules before submitting applications.

01 **SBA · Business structure and organization**
Open official source · www.sba.gov

02 **IRS · Limited Liability Company and tax classification**
Open official source · www.irs.gov

03 **Sunbiz · Instructions for forming a Florida LLC**
Open official source · dos.fl.gov

04 **Sunbiz · Registration and formation fees**
Open official source · dos.fl.gov

05 **IRS · EIN application and eligibility**
Open official source · www.irs.gov

06 **Sunbiz · Annual Report and deadlines**
Open official source · dos.fl.gov

07 **Sunbiz · LLC fees**
Open official source · dos.fl.gov

08 **IRS · Form 5472 instructions**
Open official source · www.irs.gov

09 **SBA Office of Advocacy · Florida Small Business Profile 2025**
Open official source · advocacy.sba.gov

10 **USTR · Florida Exports and Foreign Investment**
Open official source · ustr.gov

11 **SelectUSA · Investor Guide 2025**
Open official source · www.trade.gov

12 **FinCEN · Beneficial Ownership Information**
Open official source · www.fincen.gov

The strategic application ideas and business interpretation are editorial proposals by BUDECO360. Market data have their own reference years, listed on page 4.