Business Plan Format for Small Businesses

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Mission Statement

A clear statement of your company's long-term mission. Try to use words that will help direct the growth of your company, but be as concise as possible.



The Team

- List CEO and key management by name
- Include previous accomplishments to show these are people with a record of success
- Summarize number of years of experience in this field



Market Summary

- Market: past, present, & future:
 - Review those changes in market share, leadership, players, market shifts, costs, pricing, or competition that provide the opportunity for your company's success.



Opportunities

- Problems and opportunities:
 - State consumer problems, and define nature of product/service opportunities created by those problems.



Business Concept

 Summarize key technology, concept or strategy on which your business is based



Competition

- Summarize competition
- Outline your company's competitive advantage



Goals & Objectives

- Five-year goals
 - State specific measurable objectives
 - State market share objectives
 - State revenue/profitability objectives



Financial Plan

- High-level financial plan that defines financial model, pricing assumptions, and reviews yearly expected sales and profits for the next three years.
- Use several slides to cover this material appropriately.



Resource Requirements

- Technology requirements
- Personnel requirements
- Resource requirements
 - Financial, distribution, promotion, etc.
- External requirements
 - Products/services/technology required to be purchased outside company



Risks & Rewards

- Risks
 - Summarize risks of proposed project
- Addressing risk
 - Summarize how risks will be addressed
- Rewards
 - Estimate expected pay-off, particularly if seeking funding



Key Issues

- Near term
 - Isolate key decisions and issues that need immediate or near-term resolution
- Long term
 - Isolate issues needing long-term resolution
 - State consequences of decision postponement
- If you are seeking funding, state specifics

