



## **State programs aim to help small-business growth**

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By Anna Rumer

**ZANESVILLE** — Small businesses can deduct 50 percent of the first \$250,000 of net business income on their individual tax returns as part of a new tax cut.

The cut, which already has saved businesses \$6.2 million and is expected to save \$1.6 billion over three years, will allow for business owners to expand their businesses, according to state officials say.

It was highlighted by Ohio Department of Taxation Tax Commissioner Joseph Testa on Tuesday during a visit to Zanesville to meet with small-business owners and local government figures. They discussed the ways that Ohio has helped small-business owners and ways that it can continue to do so.

“The idea is that small business people get to keep more of the money that they need to help grow their businesses, maybe expanding their marketing or helping to buy new equipment,” Testa said.

Ohio Development Services Agency Director David Goodman said his agency is working to make a more comprehensive and navigable service for business owners. With more than 70 programs available to small-business owners, he said that getting help to the right people in a way they understand has been something the department has been focusing on, especially in the past few years.

“We’re trying to make ourself more accessible, more understandable,” he said. “It has been tough to understand (the programs) as they’re described, as they work. It’s tough to understand how they would work for you.”

Goodman advised small-business owners to simply call the agency to get in touch with a staff that he thinks is becoming increasingly helpful.

**Article continued here:**

[http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20140225/NEWS01/302250036/State-programs-aim-help-small-business-growth?gcheck=1&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20140225/NEWS01/302250036/State-programs-aim-help-small-business-growth?gcheck=1&nclick_check=1)

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