

5 Things to Know When Going From Corporate Executive or Employee to Entrepreneur



Let's talk numbers! As of 2019, women of color account for 50% of all women-owned businesses. Meanwhile, only 37 out of Fortune 500 companies are led by women. Catch this—just 3 of those CEOs are women of color. So, it's time we shatter the glass ceiling and forge our **Odyssey** to entrepreneurship...or “sidepreneurship” as Corporate America catches up!

We invite you to join the Keys to Success Community, where 100% of the CEOs are Black and Brown. Whether you seek entrepreneurship out of necessity, flexibility, or opportunity—check out our 5 tips for successfully transitioning from corporate to entrepreneur, or balancing both!



1 Write a business plan and have a short and long-term vision for your business.

Check out [LivePlan.com](https://www.liveplan.com) for an online resource to help you get started - this platform walks you through creating a plan for your business. You can also create a vision board to help you keep your dreams present in your mind's eye - check out [Oprah magazine's tips for creating one that works](#).



2 Remember, if it doesn't make any \$, it's a hobby!

Determine the moves needed to turn your hobby into a business. Going from passion to paycheck is an entrepreneur's dream, and despite popular belief, it can actually happen! [Entrepreneur.com](https://www.entrepreneur.com) has a fantastic article detailing how to go from hobby to business venture.



3 Women are master jugglers, but not everything needs to be done alone.

Squad up! A team of like-minded and goal-oriented people can assist you in leveling up, plus we are a sisterhood of highly-skilled women within your reach. [Inc.com](https://www.inc.com) offers some essential steps in building a startup team for less. Like John Maxwell said, **“Teamwork makes the dream work!”**



4 Level up and put a trademark on it!

It will never really belong to you until you set it on paper. Trademarking your business' name, logo, and slogan will add an extra layer of credibility and authenticity to your business. Here's a guide from the [US Patent and Trademark Office](#) on how to get started with the process.



5 Keep the three p's in your heart, and let them guide your way: plan, prepare, and proceed!

Enjoyed these tips? Are you in need of more advice or guidance? [Join our Keys to Success Community on Facebook!](#)