

Home Occupations

Rowan County classifies home occupations into two (2) categories:

1. **Home Occupation** means a business, profession, occupation, or trade for the economic gain or support of a resident of the dwelling which is completely contained within the dwelling. The use is operated by the resident of the dwelling, incidental and secondary to the residential use of the lot, and which does not adversely affect the character of the lot or surrounding area. Home occupations are permitted in all residential zoning districts.
2. **Rural Home Occupation (RHO)** means a non-residential use owned and operated by the resident of the dwelling, which is located on the same or an adjacent parcel of land. In general, RHOs are more intensive land uses than home occupations and are therefore subject to the requirements of Article III. Based on the use and occupancy classification, a RHO is subject to the North Carolina Building Code for non-residential use unless otherwise determined by the Rowan County Building Inspection Department.

Section 21-113 of the Rowan County Zoning Ordinance provides a list of the uses allowed with special requirements subject to meeting the standards found in sections 21-51 through 56. In general, these sections provide limitations on the building size, minimum lot size, setback from property lines, and specific operational standards necessary for compatibility with adjoining properties.

Citizens interested in establishing a new business permitted with special requirements must submit a detailed site plan containing all information referenced in the above sections of the Zoning Ordinance along with compliance from other applicable departments. See Commercial Plan Review <https://www.rowancountync.gov/1306/How-do-I-FAQ> .

Applications that do not meet either of the above types require rezoning to an appropriate district that permit the requested use.