

## FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

TOWNEPOST NETWORK INC. An Indiana Corporation

8800 North Street, Suite 117 Fishers, IN 46038 317-810-0011 www.townepost.com

As a TownePost Network, Inc. franchisee, you will own and operate a monthly magazine within a defined exclusive Territory. Your primary responsibility as a franchisee will be to manage the day-to-day operations of publishing the magazine, including, but not limited to, selling advertising, participating in social media and digital advertising, soliciting newsworthy stories, overseeing editorial and the final design of your magazine.

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a TownePost Network, Inc. franchise is between \$41,175 to \$59,043, including \$35,000 that will be paid to the Franchisor as an Initial Franchise Fee.

The estimated initial investment necessary to operate multiple TownePost franchises or to recruit other people to operate TownePost franchises and to provide day to day support to such franchisees under our form of Area Development Agreement depends on the number of franchises that you we grant you to operate or the agreed number of franchisees you will refer to us and to whom you will provide day to day support. By way of example, the estimated initial investment associated with referring and providing the day to day support to two (2) franchisees pursuant to an Area Development Agreement ranges from \$118,350 to \$153,086, which includes a development fee equal to \$35,000 payable to us upon signing the agreement.

This Disclosure Document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this Disclosure Document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this Disclosure Document at least fourteen (14) calendar days before you can sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. Note, however, that no government agency has verified the information contained in this document.

You may wish to receive your Disclosure Document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Jeanne Britt at 8800 North Street, Suite 117, Fishers, IN 46038, or by telephone at 317-810-0011.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Do not rely on the Disclosure Document alone to understand your contract. Read your entire contract carefully. Show your contract and this Disclosure Document to an advisor, like a lawyer or accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this Disclosure Document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "Buying a Franchise, A Consumer Guide," which can help you understand how to use this Disclosure Document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). You can contact the FTC at (877) FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at <a href="www.ftc.gov">www.ftc.gov</a> for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising. There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

ISSUANCE DATE: March 14, 2020



## **How to Use This Franchise Disclosure Document**

Here are some questions you may be asking about buying a franchise and tips on how to find more information:

QUESTION	WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION
How much can I earn?	Item 19 may give you information about
	outlet sales, costs, profits or losses. You
	should also try to obtain this information
	from others, like current and former
	franchisees. You can find their names
	and contact information in Item 20 or
	Exhibits D and E.
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How much will I need to invest?	Items 5 and 6 list fees you will be paying to the franchisor or at the franchisor's
	direction. Item 7 lists the initial
	investment to open. Item 8 describes the
	suppliers you must use.
Does the franchisor have the financial	Item 21 or Exhibit G includes financial
ability to provide support to my	statements. Review these statements
business?	carefully.
Is the franchise system stable, growing,	Item 20 summarizes the recent history of
or shrinking?	the number of company-owned and
	franchised outlets.
Will my business be the only	Item 12 and the "territory" provisions in
TownePost business in my area?	the franchise agreement describe whether
	the franchisor and other franchisees can
Dear the formalization have a translated	compete with you.
Does the franchisor have a troubled	Items 3 and 4 tell you whether the
legal history?	franchisor or its management have been involved in material litigation or
	bankruptcy proceedings.
What is it like to be a TownePost	Item 20 or Exhibits D and E lists current
franchisee?	and former franchisees. You can contact
	them to ask about their experiences.
What else should I know?	These questions are only a few things you
	should look for. Review all 23 Items and
	all Exhibits in this disclosure document to
	better understand this franchise
	opportunity. See the table of contents.



## What You Need To Know About Franchising Generally

<u>Continuing responsibility to pay fees.</u> You may have to pay royalties and other fees even if you are losing money.

Business model can change. The franchise agreement may allow the franchisor to change its manuals and business model without your consent. These changes may require you to make additional investments in your franchise business or may harm your franchise business.

<u>Supplier restrictions</u>. You may have to buy or lease items from the franchisor or a limited group of suppliers the franchisor designates. These items may be more expensive than similar items you could buy on your own.

<u>Operating restrictions</u>. The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business during the term of the franchise. There are usually other restrictions. Some examples may include controlling your location, your access to customers, what you sell, how you market, and your hours of operation.

<u>Competition from franchisor</u>. Even if the franchise agreement grants you a territory, the franchisor may have the right to compete with you in your territory.

**Renewal.** Your franchise agreement may not permit you to renew. Even if it does, you may have to sign a new agreement with different terms and conditions in order to continue to operate your franchise business.

When your franchise ends. The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business after your franchise ends even if you still have obligations to your landlord or other creditors.

## **Some States Require Registration**

Your state may have a franchise law, or other law, that requires franchisors to register before offering or selling franchises in the state. Registration does not mean that the state recommends the franchise or has verified the information in this document. To find out if your state has a registration requirement, or to contact your state, use the agency information in Exhibit A.

Your state also may have laws that require special disclosures or amendments be made to your franchise agreement. If so, you should check the State Specific Addenda. See the Table of Contents for the location of the State Specific Addenda.

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