

May 25, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201



Dear Governor Haley:

The South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED) has joined forces with the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs (SCMA) and CommunityWorks (CW) to celebrate Microbusiness Development Month in June. Scheduled events are designed to recognize the significant impact of microbusinesses on building wealth at the community level. We will also celebrate the passage of the SC Microenterprise Development Act and the Department of Commerce's funding the program in 2014.

Microbusinesses, which are businesses with five or fewer employees, represent the overwhelming majority of businesses in the United States and South Carolina. Microbusinesses account for approximately 92% of all businesses and 26 million jobs in the United States. "In South Carolina, 87% of all businesses are classified as microbusinesses, which are playing a crucial role in the Palmetto State's economic vitality", said Bernie Mazyck, President & CEO of SCACED. This year's theme for South Carolina Microbusiness Month is *"Entrepreneurship, a Path to Economic Recovery"*.

The celebration will kick-off in Charleston on June 2nd with a Microbusiness Lending Workshop hosted by the SC Association for CED (SCACED), Charleston LDC, TD Bank and Increasing HOPE. Two additional events are scheduled, which include the following:

- June 13-15, 2016 – The SCMA will host their Microbusiness Conference, Columbia
- June 21, 2016 – CW will host an Excellence in Entrepreneurship reception, Greenville

As you know, in the two years the Microenterprise Development Act has been law the Legislature has not appropriated any funding for this program. We encourage you to include funding in Commerce's 2017 budget because the economic impact of microbusinesses would be greater in South Carolina if the Microenterprise Partnership Program were funded.

We hope you will join us at any or all of the above listed events to witness the impact of microbusinesses in South Carolina. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (843) 579-9855. Thank you for your leadership in helping South Carolinians build wealth for the future.

All the best,

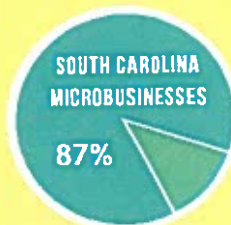


Bernie Mazyck
President & CEO



Microbusiness plays a crucial role in the development of economically sustainable communities in South Carolina...

Please join SCACED, the SC Commission for Minority Affairs, CommunityWorks Carolina and other champions of the microenterprise community as they support and celebrate small businesses with major economic potential.



87% of all SC businesses are classified as micro-businesses with less than 5 employees.

MICROBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 2nd | 10:00am – 4:00pm
Trident United Way
6296 Rivers Ave. Charleston, SC 29406

TD Bank, the Local Development Corporation and Increasing HOPE are offering a one-day training session to entrepreneurs who are striving to start or expand a small business. New and existing business owners will receive practical strategies for navigating an increasingly competitive business climate.

Entrepreneur Registration - \$20

Nonprofit Registration - \$100

(Nonprofits can bring two entrepreneurs/guests.)

Learn More

SCACED.org

Lowell@SCACED.org

843-579-9855

2016 SOUTH CAROLINA MICROBUSINESS CONFERENCE

June 13th – 15th
DoubleTree

2100 Bush River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

Celebrate Microbusiness Month with the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity and the South Carolina Microenterprise Network. The conference will provide training to startups, small business owners and the organizations that support them. Training will cover financing, marketing, business planning, nonprofit compliance, government contracting, human resources and much more.

Early Registration (before May 23, 2016) - \$75

Standard Registration - \$99

Learn More

SCMBCConference.com

RNelson@cfma.sc.gov | 803-832-8166

EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

Tuesday, June 21st | Greenville, SC

Learn More

Celebrate excellence in entrepreneurship, and learn more about the economic power of microbusiness. This year's event will be sponsored by Wells Fargo and will feature Greenville Chamber of Commerce President Carlos Phillips and 7 Upstate entrepreneurs.

CommunityWorksCarolina.org/News/
Molly@smoakpr.com
864-235-8330



The South Carolina
Commission For Minority Affairs



CommunityWorks
Building People & Places