

Black Business Month Action and Resources

By Danielle Fallon-O'Leary

Editor's note: August is National Black Business Month, founded in 2004 by Black entrepreneurs Frederick E. Jordan, an engineer, and John William Templeton, a publisher and historian, to highlight and support Black-owned businesses.

Black entrepreneurs play a valuable role in our nation's economy. According to the United States Census Bureau's recent estimates, the United States has more than 161,000 Black-owned businesses, bringing in over \$183 billion annually. Yet, Black Americans remain underrepresented among United States entrepreneurs and are often less likely to receive funding from lenders than their white counterparts.

In an effort to help close this opportunity gap, here is an extensive list of resources geared toward supporting Black entrepreneurs.

The Black Business Alliance

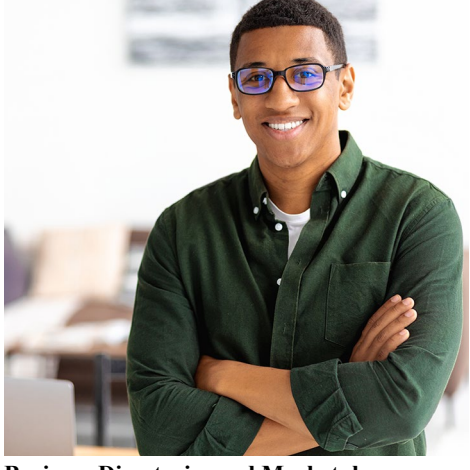
The Connecticut-based Black Business Alliance (BBA) works with Black business owners

both in the state and nationwide to promote and grow small and medium-sized Black- and minority-owned businesses. Since 2014, the BBA has worked with over 600 business owners and professionals to provide economic development, business workshops, networking opportunities, and access to capital.

Additionally, minority small business owners in Connecticut can apply for the Minority Business Revolving Loan Fund (MBRLF), facilitated by BBA in partnership with the state and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The MBRLF program offers loans up to \$100,000 to eligible applicants. Those interested in applying must first complete an intake form and meet with a representative from BBA.

Black Business Association

The Los Angeles-based Black Business Association advocates for policies to increase access to contract and procurement opportunities in both the public and private sectors. Members can access networking events, training and resources, and funding opportunities designed for Black business owners and professionals.



Business Directories and Marketplaces

Several websites and organizations have started Black-owned business directories, including well-sourced sites such as Official Black Wall Street, Support Black Owned, and Naspora. These

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984

Click to read more

Opportunities

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Public notices and participation activities

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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

LAGNIAPPE BAKEHOUSE

Lagniappe Baking is a neighborhood bakehouse owned by pastry chef Kaitlin Guerin, a 2025 James Beard Award nominee. The one-of-a-kind assorted pastry boxes highlight the local, seasonal bounty of the Crescent City's agriculture. Each box challenges your taste buds with flavor combinations and leaves you anticipating the next.

www.lagniappebaking.com

Learn More

NMSDC

National Minority Supplier Development Council

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2026

SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/80673>

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 11:00 am–12:30 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for

small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1986914049408>

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