

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, diverse entrepreneurship encourages progress toward innovative solutions to the problem of economic growth and stability, and supports the promise of thriving communities that embrace inclusion and a better life for all families; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes minority-owned businesses as key drivers of economic success at the national, state, and local level; according to the United States Census Bureau, there are more than 183,000 minority owned businesses in North Carolina which realize more than \$16.1 billion in annual sales; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina honors and acknowledges historically underutilized businesses as key components to strengthening diversity in the private and public sector; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Administration's Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) has yielded more than 4,500 certified HUB firms, with over 2,500 new certifications; and

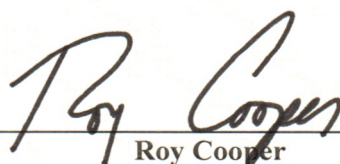
WHEREAS, according to the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, the impacts of COVID-19 have contributed to a staggering 41 percent drop in African American business owners, 32 percent decline in Latinx business owners, 26 percent decrease in Asian business owners, and a 25 percent reduction in women-owned businesses nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force was established under Executive Order No. 143 to address the social, environmental, economic, and health disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in North Carolina; the HUB office will operate the first North Carolina Small Business Enterprise program to promote the usage of and support of small contractors and minority owned businesses to competitively participate in procurement opportunities with the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes and celebrates the achievements of minority-owned businesses, and encourages participation in programs that honor the contributions of minority-owned businesses and impact the expansion of access to economic opportunity statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2020, as "**MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.