



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Women's Entrepreneurship Day recognizes women-owned businesses across the nation, which are vital to the recovery and growth of the economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, women-owned businesses comprise more than 20 percent of all firms nationwide, employing 10.8 million people, and generating \$1.9 trillion in sales in 2018; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, women make up nearly 72 percent of the workforce, and own approximately 44.2 percent of businesses across North Carolina, according to the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Black women entrepreneurs are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S., accounting for approximately 2.7 million businesses; however, these businesses and those owned by Latinx women are some of the hardest hit by funding inequities; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2022-23, women-owned businesses comprised approximately 37 percent of the North Carolina Minority Business Development Agency Business Center's (MBDA) clientele; operated by the North Carolina Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, MBDA created over 500 jobs and generated 6.7 million in revenue last fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, eradicating extreme poverty across our nation and throughout the world depends on ensuring inclusive economic growth that reaches typically excluded populations, particularly women; and

WHEREAS, Women's Entrepreneurship Day is a movement to bring awareness and support women in business globally by encouraging women leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs to initiate startups, drive economic expansion, and advance communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes and promotes the advancement of women's entrepreneurship throughout our state, nation, and the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2023, as "**WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY**" 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 sixteenth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.