

# DBE DISPATCH

## NEWSLETTER

*The VOICE, The Pulse and What's Happening with Virginia Diverse Small Businesses*

## Black Business Access to Capital Resources

**We're celebrating Black History Month by sharing resources, tools and events to help Black business owners access relevant information to help you start, grow and maintain your small business.**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: FUNDING AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

Small business owners know that one of the greatest barriers to success is a lack of access to capital. For Black business owners, this challenge is heightened, with large banks approving [just 29% of loans sought by Black-owned small businesses](#) compared to 60% of loans sought by white-owned small businesses.

This is why it is critical that Black-owned small businesses are supported in order to build an equitable economy. In honor of Black History Month, we have compiled a list of funding and business assistance opportunities geared toward Black entrepreneurs.



# Black Business Access to Capital Resources



## Amazon's Black Business Accelerator

*Accepting applications on a rolling basis*

Amazon's Black Business Accelerator is a grant program aimed to address historical, manifest imbalances by growing and advancing equity for Black-owned businesses. The program offers financial assistance, business education & mentorship, and marketing & promotional support.

[Apply now >>](#)

## Boss Impact Fund

*Accepting applications through February 24*

The BOSS Network is partnering with [Sage](#) to support Black women entrepreneurs through funding and mentorship. This three-year program will help Black women achieve their goals and successfully start their new business.

[Learn more >>](#)

## Fedex Small Business Grant Contest

*Accepting applications through February 21*

By entering the 2023 FedEx Small Business Grant Contest, you have a chance to do even more and set your sights on even bigger goals. Fedex is awarding 10 grand prizes and support for you to discover what's next for your business.

[Learn more >>](#)

## SoGal's Black Founder Startup Grant

*Accepting applications on a rolling basis*

SoGal Foundation has teamed up with Winky Lux, bluemercury, twelveNYC, and other sponsors to make a small step towards progress by providing several \$10K and \$5K cash grants to Black women or nonbinary entrepreneurs. Awardees will also receive tactical help navigating the fundraising environment at large so that they will have a more equitable opportunity at scaling the next billion dollar idea. They will also receive lifetime "ask-me-anything" access to the SoGal Foundation and SoGal Ventures teams.

[Apply now >>](#)

## USBC/Grubhub Restaurant Grant Program

*Accepting applications beginning February 6; available in select cities*

The U.S. Black Chambers and Grubhub are partnering to offer grants to Black-owned restaurants and culinary-based businesses so they can seize business opportunities and address current challenges.

[Learn more >>](#)



## Tech for Black Founders

*Accepting applications through February 19*

Braze is partnering with Amplitude, Branch, mParticle and Radar to help Black founders accelerate growth and build sustainable businesses. Grant awardees will receive free access to Braze's customer engagement platform.

[Learn more >>](#)

## Southern Smoke Foundation

*Accepting applications on a rolling basis*

Southern Smoke is a nonprofit organization working to put dollars into the pockets of food and beverage workers. Funding is available to those employed by or owning a restaurant or bar and facing unforeseen circumstances that can't be covered by insurance.

[Learn more >>](#)

## Fast Break for Small Business

*Accepting applications through February 17*

Legal Zoom has teamed up with the NBA, WNBA and NBA G league to assist communities by helping small business owners. \$10k grants and free Legal Zoom products are available to Black-owned small businesses.

[Learn more >>](#)

## Virginia to help more employers offer retirement savings

Next year, the Commonwealth of Virginia will open a new program designed to expand access to retirement savings. **RetirePath Virginia** will give employers across the state a simple, cost-free way to help their employees save for retirement at work. Employee participation will be voluntary.

Under Virginia legislation, private-sector Virginia businesses meeting certain criteria—25 or more eligible employees, operating for more than two years, and not currently offering a qualified retirement savings option—will be required to register with RetirePath Virginia.

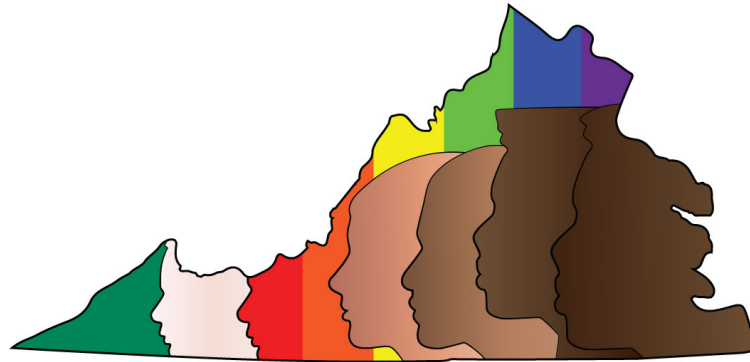
**The pilot program is scheduled to begin in early 2023 and phased employer registration will start by July 1, 2023.**

Learn more and subscribe to program updates at [RetirePathVA.com](https://RetirePathVA.com).

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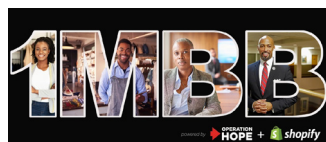
## VIRGINIA DIVERSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Behind every thriving community are small diverse businesses fueling opportunity and prosperity. Together, with our partners, we're spreading the message on why small diverse businesses matter and what they need to be successful and have the greatest impact on our communities and our society overall.



**ALDRICA LATTIMORE**  
Founder, Publisher

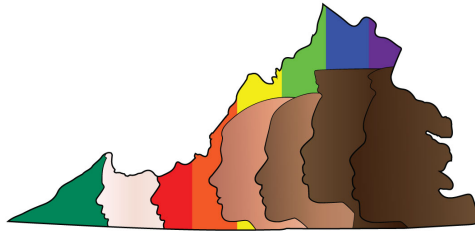
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Bistra Griveva



*Limited Time*

**FREE  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SMALL BUSINESS  
INDIVIDUALS  
STUDENTS**



**VIRGINIA DIVERSE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

## **Virginia Diverse Chamber of Commerce is Here for You!**

Virginia Diverse Chamber of Commerce is a Social Enterprise uniting the community, merchants, and Virginia legislators across the state in driving socioeconomic growth and social equity.

### **Small Diverse Businesses**

- Women
- African American
- Latino
- Asian
- Native American
- LGBTQ

**JOIN HERE**

