



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

ENTREPRENEURIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

1 MODERNIZE, FUND AND LEVERAGE THE WBC PROGRAM AT SBA TO CARRY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

- Re-authorize the WBC Program for the first time in 20 years.
- Significantly increase the appropriations funding for the WBC program.
- Prioritize WBCs as a technical assistance provider in future legislation.

2 CREATE ACCESS TO CAPITAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.

- Leverage the Community Reinvestment Act to increase lending to women.
- Reform SBA lending programs to ensure utility for women entrepreneurs.
- Increase funding, and designate funding for WOSBs, to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.
- Incentivize early-stage investment in women-owned companies through additional federal programs.
- Ensure standardization and equitable deployment for Department of Treasury's (DOT) State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funding allocations.

3 EXPAND OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH OPEN GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN MARKETS.

- Simplify the SBA's WOSB certification process and allow WBCs to certify businesses.
- Adopt a trade policy agenda that prioritizes small and, by extension, women-owned small businesses.

4 LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD BY ADDRESSING LONGSTANDING BARRIERS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPERIENCE.

- Make affordable healthcare options for small businesses to increase competitiveness in the marketplace and retain talent.
- Expand women-oriented healthcare options to support women entrepreneurs.
- Increase opportunities for women business owners to utilize federal assistance in childcare and caretaking.
- Recognize solopreneur as a "job" under the Department of Labor (DoL) and IRS.
- Ensure correct mechanisms are in place for women reentering the workforce after incarceration.

5 PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND VIABILITY.

- Provide opportunities for youth to learn about entrepreneurship and business.
- Enable entrepreneurs to save for retirement.

6 IDENTIFY AND ESTABLISH GENDER PARITY IN UNDERREPRESENTED INDUSTRIES.

- Establish solutions for known industries where women are underrepresented will help bridge the gender divide.
- To comprehensively understand the industries where women are underrepresented, implement a GAO study to identify which industries have the most disparate representation and potential avenues to increase WOSB presence.
- Create and deploy a national broadband plan to ensure that entrepreneurs in low income and rural communities have the same opportunity to fast and reliable internet.