



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

**WHEREAS, the idea of the “American Dream” is firmly rooted in our country’s history and is a core belief that each individual has the right and freedom to seek prosperity and happiness; and**

**WHEREAS, the idea of the American Dream is strong in Florida, where more than 2.9 million new business formations occurred since January 2019 (more than any other state in the nation during the same time period); and**

**WHEREAS, Florida recognizes the integral role that our state’s small businesses play and the need for robust programs, resources, and partnerships to support their growth, and as such, prioritizes a culture of collaboration; and**

**WHEREAS, small businesses are the backbone of Florida’s economy, making up 99.7 percent of Florida’s businesses; and**

**WHEREAS, in Florida, small businesses employ 4.9 million people, 57.1 percent of the state’s workforce, and serve as the engine of our economy; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Commerce promotes economic prosperity for Florida’s small businesses, administering programs that promote access to capital, technical assistance and business management training, as well as invaluable resources to the state’s 521,000 small business employers; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2023, FloridaCommerce created an Office of Small Business Innovation which promotes prosperity for Florida’s small businesses through a variety of economic development programs that further diversify Florida’s economy and create future resiliency; and**

**WHEREAS, FloridaCommerce promotes economic prosperity for Florida’s small businesses, administering programs that promote access to capital, technical assistance, and business management training, including awarding nearly \$130 million to small businesses since January 2023 through the SSBCI 2.0 program; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Small Business Development Centers Network (which serves as the state’s principal provider of small business assistance), delivered more than 117,750 hours of consulting to more than 14,750 small businesses in 2022, resulting in business owners securing over \$446 million in capital, securing more than \$445 million in government contracts, impacting nearly 24,000 jobs, increasing sales by over \$4.5 billion, and creating 822 new businesses in Florida; and**

**WHEREAS, February 28, 2024, marks Florida Small Business Day at the Capitol, an annual event to celebrate and highlight the important role small businesses play in Florida’s economy.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 28, 2024, as *Florida Small Business Day at the Capitol*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-four.**

  
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Governor