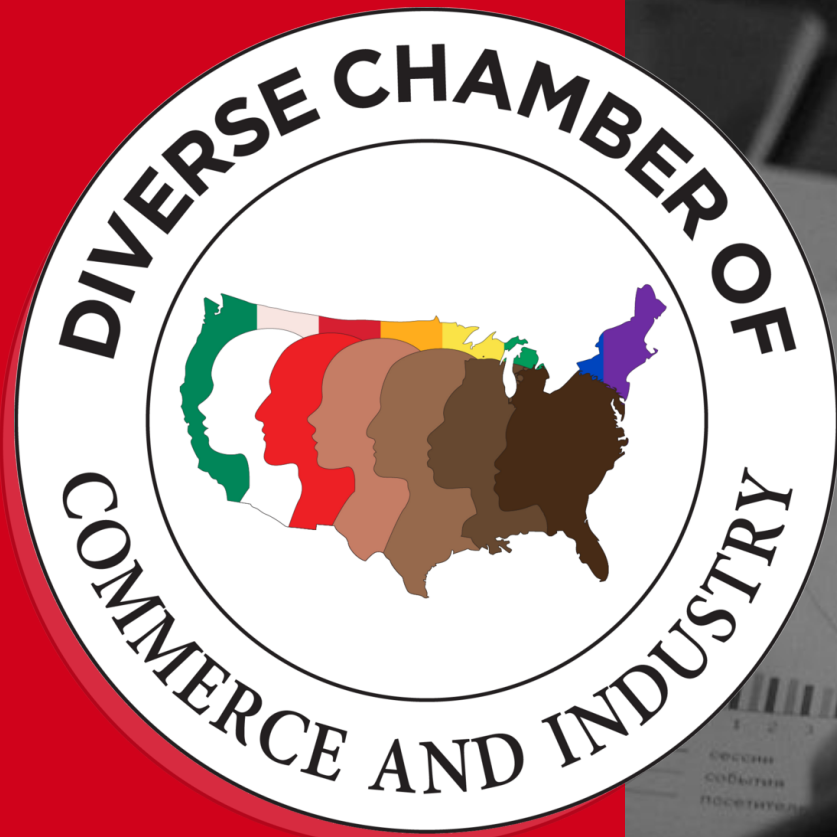


2025 Year-End Impact Report





As we conclude an extraordinary year, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce (DCC&I) celebrates our remarkable growth from 10 founding members in January 2022 to a vibrant community of 3,552 globally members by December 2025.

This year has been a testament to our mission of empowering diverse businesses across the nation and beyond. This report highlights our key accomplishments in 2025 transitioning to a national chamber of commerce and outlines our vision for an even more impactful 2026.

Our Mission

The Diverse Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to promoting the growth and sustainability of all small businesses, fostering an inclusive economic environment that supports entrepreneurship, innovation, and community engagement for small women businesses regardless of background, nationality, ethnicity, religion, age, neurodiversity, gender, or orientation..

Membership Growth

January 2022 Chamber Launched

- 10 inaugural members

December 2025

- 3,552 members

Geographic Reach

Our members and Ambassadors represent states including California, Illinois, Rhode Island, Alabama, Florida, New York, Texas, Maryland, Washington, DC, Oklahoma, Milwaukee, Virginia, North Carolina, Africa and Jamaica enriching our collaborative efforts.

New Member Initiatives

- Targeted outreach efforts led to a calculate percentage increase in membership.
- Inclusion of new members identify as small diverse-owned businesses.

Community Engagement

Networking Events

- Hosted over 10 networking events, connecting members with local and national business leaders.

Workshops & Training

- Conducted 20 professional development workshops, accessed by over 300 members.

Signature Initiatives

Small Business Parade Walk Celebration

- Hosted three vibrant parades celebrating the contributions of women and diverse entrepreneurs attracted over 300 participants, promoting small business visibility and community spirit.
- Included award presentations to small-business owners, large corporations and community stakeholders.

National Roanoke Community Beautification Day

Recognized by **Governor Glenn Youngkin** and Roanoke **Mayor-elect Sherman Lea Sr.**, this initiative brought together members and community leaders to enhance local public spaces and residential properties in underserved and fostering community pride and engagement. Small businesses partner for networking and business opportunities.



Entrepreneur Virtual Training Programs and Biz Pitch Competitions

8-Week Training Programs

- Successfully hosted two comprehensive training programs, engaging 64 participants. Of these, 42 graduates completed business plans, positioning them for success in the competitive marketplace.
- Spring 2025 Entrepreneur 8 Week Training Program and Biz Pitch Competition Sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank.
- Fall 2025 Global Connect Entrepreneur 11 Week Training Program and Biz Pitch Competition Sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank

CDFI Financing Streamlining

- Facilitated streamlined access to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) financing for graduates, enabling them to secure funding for their business ventures.



National Global Virtual Biz Pitch Competitions



Biz Competitions

- Conducted two virtual business pitch competitions featuring 20 participants, culminating in 6 winners who each received grants totaling \$10,000. This initiative provided critical funding and exposure for emerging entrepreneurs, fostering innovation and creativity in our business community.
- Judges were global reach industry experts.

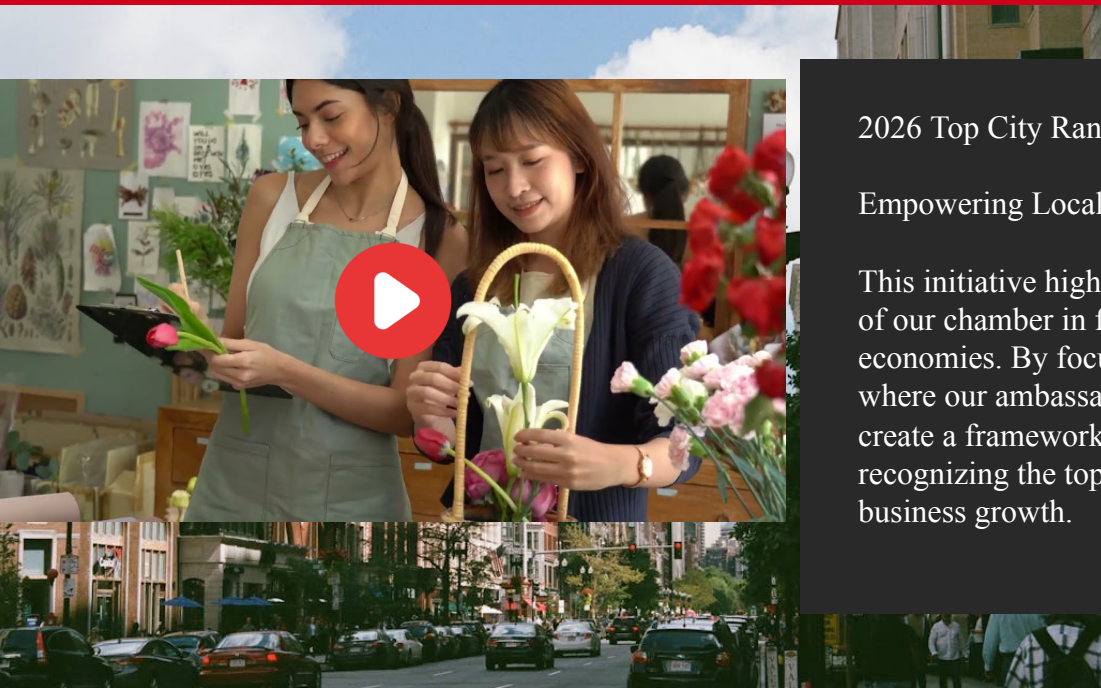
DBE Dispatch Newsletter



The official free newsletter of the **Diverse Diverse Chamber of Commerce**, now with over 15,000 subscribers.

Each edition featured diverse small businesses and covered topics that educate, inform, and inspire our community, reinforcing our commitment to keeping members connected and informed.

Advocacy & Representation



2026 Top City Ranking for Small Business

Empowering Local Communities

This initiative highlights the essential role of our chamber in fostering vibrant local economies. By focusing on the cities where our ambassadors are located, we create a framework for evaluating and recognizing the top cities for small business growth.

Survey Period: Survey was open 12 months closing on December 31st 2025 at noon CT.

Our Leadership, Executives, Regional Ambassadors and Chamber Members played a vital role in championing this initiative.

By leveraging their insights and networks, they effectively engaged community stakeholders, gathered valuable feedback, and promoted participation in the voting process.

- Policy Initiatives

Engaged with local and state lawmakers and influencers to advocate for policies supporting small businesses and equitable access to resources to include City of Virginia Beach Mayor Robert Bobby Dyer, and 79th District Delegate Rae Cousins and others who are small-business advocates.

- Partnerships

Donated furnishings to Sheriff Office, City of Roanoke Community Training Center. The Sheriff's Office dedicated the name of the conference room to the Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Virginia Beach Sheriff Office participated in Small Business Parade Walk Celebration marching alongside of small-business owners.

Economic Impact

Business Growth

- Members reported an average revenue growth of 27% in 2025, attributed to the resources and connections made through the Chamber.

Job Creation

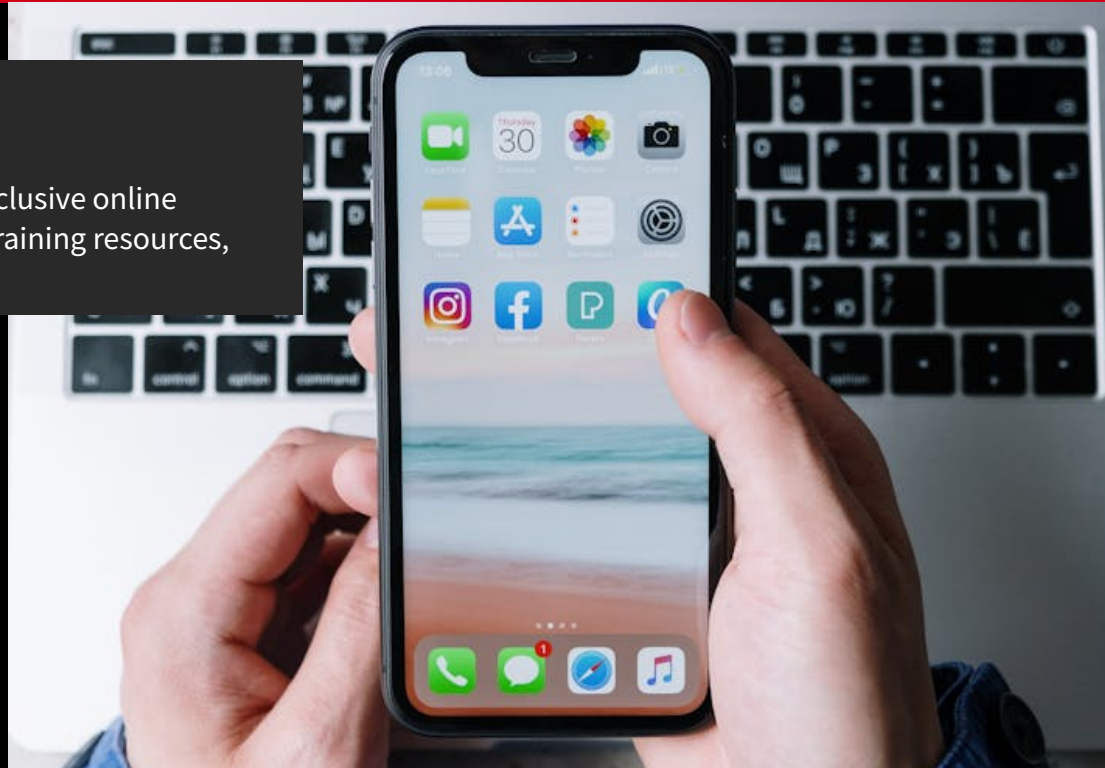
- Members collectively created over 187 new jobs, contributing significantly to local economies.



Technology & Innovation

Digital Platforms:

Launched a member-exclusive online portal providing video training resources,



Business Mixers, Supporting Small Business



In 2025, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce successfully hosted 10 Business Mixers, providing a platform for entrepreneurs to network, pitch their business ideas, and compete for valuable prizes. These mixers were instrumental in fostering community engagement and supporting small business development.

Event Highlights - Pitch Opportunities

Each mixer featured dedicated time for businesses to present their innovative ideas to a panel of judges and an audience of supportive peers.

Prizes for Growth


Participants competed for essential business tools, including:

- Laptops to enhance productivity
- Notebooks for effective planning and organization
- Printers for marketing and administrative needs
- Business Accessories to elevate their professional presence

Impact

These mixers not only provided entrepreneurs with the chance to showcase their ventures but also facilitated meaningful connections with potential partners and investors. By creating an engaging environment, we empowered small businesses to thrive and grow, further solidifying our commitment to economic empowerment and diversity in the business landscape.

Ambassador Committee Program



In 2025, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce launched the Ambassador Committee Program, designed to cultivate leadership skills among our members while enhancing their visibility and influence within the business community.

Program Highlights

- Leadership Development

Ambassadors participated in meeting sessions focused on developing essential leadership skills and public speaking abilities.

- Networking Opportunities

Members engaged with leaders and executives across the political, federal, and corporate arenas, building vital connections that can open doors for collaboration and growth.

- Community Impact

By serving as representatives of the Chamber, Ambassadors played a crucial role in advocating for small businesses and fostering an inclusive economic environment.

The Ambassador Committee Program not only empowered participants to grow personally and professionally but also strengthened the Chamber's mission to support and advocate for small businesses. We look forward to continuing this initiative, expanding our reach and impact in the community!

Community Engagement



In 2025, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce significantly enhanced its commitment to community engagement by actively collaborating with a diverse array of stakeholders, including economic development agencies, law enforcement agencies, mayors, city managers, delegates, college students, and university presidents.

Engagement Highlights

- Strategic Meetings

Our leadership engaged in discussions with local and state officials, as well as law enforcement, to advocate for policies that benefit small-businesses and promote community safety and economic growth.

- Collaborative Initiatives

By partnering with economic development agencies and educational institutions, we identified opportunities for resources, internships, and workforce development programs that support small businesses and empower students.

- Impactful Advocacy

These engagements allowed us to amplify the voices of our members and young entrepreneurs, ensuring their needs and challenges are recognized at municipal, state, and educational levels.



Through these efforts, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce strengthened its role as a vital advocate for our business community, fostering relationships that drive positive change and economic empowerment across the country.

We look forward to continuing these initiatives and enhancing our collaborative impact in the future!



Commonwealth Coffee Honoring Black History Month

Click Here 

Commonwealth Coffee honoring Black History Month, held on February 27, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at the Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902, in Washington, DC. This event provided a valuable opportunity for community engagement, bringing together faith leaders, government officials, community organizers, civic engagement groups, and community service organizations.

On January 15, 2025, Diverse Chamber Ambassadors Attend Key Legislative Gathering with Virginia Movers and Shakers

[Click Here](#) ←

Regional Ambassadors from Richmond, Virginia, participated in an impactful event that underscored the Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry's commitment to economic development and inclusivity. Chamber Day at the Capitol & Old Dominion Assembly Legislative Reception. The day commenced with Chamber Day at the Capitol, organized by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This pivotal gathering united state, local, and regional chamber members alongside business leaders from across the Commonwealth.



Diverse Chamber of Commerce Business Mixer Connecticut

[Click Here](#) ←

“Plant Your Contract” Workshop Hosted by Regional Ambassador Latoya Brown-Clayton. On May 3rd, 2025, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce, led by Regional Ambassador Northeast Latoya Brown-Clayton, hosted an inspiring and impactful workshop titled “Plant Your Contract” in Plainville, Connecticut. The event was designed to empower small business owners and entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools necessary to succeed in government contracting—a critical pathway to wealth building and economic growth within minority communities.





Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry African Cultural Diaspora Business Mixer & Spring/Summer 2025 Cookout

[Click Here](#) ←

On Saturday, May 24th, 2025, the Christiansburg community gathered for an intimate celebration of African culture, community, and entrepreneurship at the African Cultural Diaspora Business Mixer & Spring Cookout, hosted by Regional Ambassador Jacob Mayiani of Southeast.



Diverse Chamber of Commerce Hosted the Richmond Tasting Menu Business Mixer at Fuzzy Lounge

[Click Here](#) ←

On June 9th, Richmond's vibrant business community gathered at Fuzzy Lounge for an unforgettable evening of networking, delicious food, and new partnerships. Hosted by the Diverse Chamber of Commerce, the Exclusive Tasting Menu Business Mixer was a fantastic opportunity for local entrepreneurs, chamber members, and community leaders to connect and celebrate growth. Guests enjoyed a curated tasting menu featuring crab cake egg rolls, fried fish, honey garlic salmon, chicken wings, mac and cheese, and sliders. The flavorful menu was perfect for mingling and discussing business opportunities in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

**June 24th 2025,
Building Bridges in Pensacola, Florida
A Night of Connection at the Diverse
Chamber Mixer**

Click Here 

The venue at Cadence Bank created an inviting atmosphere that encouraged open dialogue. Attendees arrived eager to connect, share insights, and explore new opportunities. The environment was intentionally warm and inclusive, fostering genuine conversations rather than transactional networking.



**July 24 2025,
Bon Secours Grand Opening
Virginia Beach**

On Thursday, July 24, 2025, the Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry was honored to be invited to attend the grand opening celebration of Bon Secours Imaging and Bon Secours Urgent Care at Town Center, Virginia Beach. The event featured a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the expansion of healthcare services in the community.



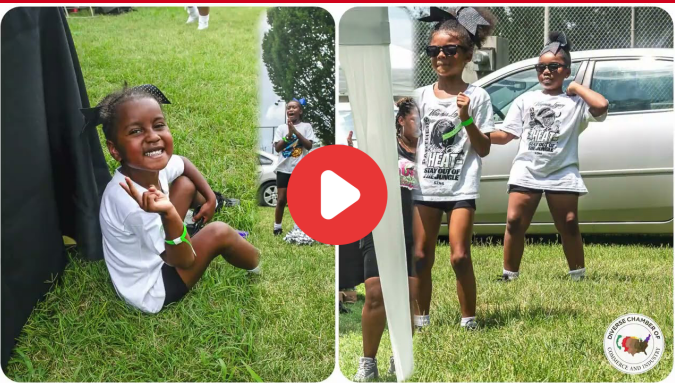
July 25 2025, Monje's Day Spa Grand Reopening Celebration



On July 25, 2025, Monje's Day Spa expanded reopening its doors at 445 N. Battlefield Blvd, Suite O, Chesapeake, VA 23320, in a morning-long event hosted by the Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

2025 6th Annual National Roanoke Community Beautification Day

[Click Here](#) ←



The 2025 6th Annual National Roanoke Community Beautification Day was a five-hour, community-driven effort that revitalized four local homes. Four teams—Lowe's managers, Roanoke Police Cadets, Roanoke Sheriff Deputies, and Food Lion leaders—worked alongside homeowners, local businesses, families, and friends, with over 200 participants contributing to landscaping improvements. The day emphasized collaboration, pride, and neighborhood renewal, even as a rain-delayed parade highlighted the event's resilience and safety priorities.

September 17th 2025, Rhode Island AI & Creativity Business Mixer

[Click Here](#)

Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Mixer hosted by Regional Ambassadors Jessica Flood and Peter Flood, featured an engaging evening dedicated to human-centered conversations at the intersection of AI and creativity.

The event united business owners, artists, designers, and curious professionals to explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping work, culture, and creative practice. Peter Flood delivered the Welcome Address, setting the tone for a thoughtful, purpose-driven evening, while Jessica Flood closed with reflections that highlighted human values, collaboration, and forward momentum.



2nd Annual Small Business Parade Walk Celebration Virginia Beach

Welcome to a detailed recap of a sunny, spirited day on Virginia Beach's Boardwalk—the 2nd Annual Diverse Chamber of Commerce Parade Walk Celebration. Held on Saturday September 13, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, this event brought together diverse small businesses, community leaders, and residents for a celebration of entrepreneurship, collaboration, and service. The Boardwalk setting provided the perfect backdrop: sun, sea breeze, and a festival atmosphere that highlighted the strength of diversity in our local economy.





Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry | Richmond/Henrico Region | November 1, 2025

When the 2nd Annual Small Business Parade Walk Celebration kicked off, an unexpected hurdle emerged, the venue was pulled just a week before the event. In the face of disruption, the Richmond/Henrico community demonstrated the core strengths of small business life—resilience, advocacy, and collaboration. This day wasn't defined by the setback but by the collective energy of local entrepreneurs, supporters, and partners who proved that perseverance turns challenges into opportunity.

2025 Global Connect Entrepreneur Training Program Graduation Ceremony November 12, 2025

The Diverse Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Global Connect Entrepreneur Training Program unfolded over 11 weeks, with two-hour sessions each week designed to turn ideas into action and challenges into opportunities. The fall cohort brought together aspiring entrepreneurs from the United States, Jamaica, and Ghana, illustrating a powerful blend of perspectives, markets, and cultural insights.



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