

Small Business Policy Task Force (SBPTF)



Entrepreneurship is the cornerstone of the American economy, but the dynamism of our small business climate is steadily declining. A report released by the NC Rural Center in 2019 found that there was a seven percent decline in small-business establishments in rural North Carolina from 2005 to 2015. Every corner of our state relies on the success of our entrepreneurs, and if they are suffering, our economy will suffer too.

CHARGE

Using equity-based, asset-focused, and data-driven approaches, the SBPTF will develop an actionable policy agenda to advance the interests and goals of small-business owners across North Carolina.

APPROACH

To address the changing needs of small business owners, the NC Rural Center is spearheading an initiative, with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, to convene a statewide task force comprised of key stakeholders to secure more supportive state policy for emerging entrepreneurs and to create an engagement process that consistently links entrepreneurs and small-business owners to policy leaders. The SBPTF will utilize the [Kauffman Foundation's America's New Business Plan](#) as a guidepost to tailor to North Carolina's specific needs.

The task force will focus on tailoring these four pillars highlighted in the Kauffman Foundation's New Business Plan to fit a North Carolina context:

- **Opportunity:** A level playing field with less red tape.
- **Funding:** Equal access to the right kind of capital everywhere.
- **Knowledge:** The know-how to start a business.
- **Support:** The ability for all to take risks.

GOALS

The goals of the task force include:

- Developing a set of policy recommendations.
- Cultivating a network of advocates for entrepreneurship.
- Organizing opportunities to engage advocates and entrepreneurs.

MEMBERSHIP

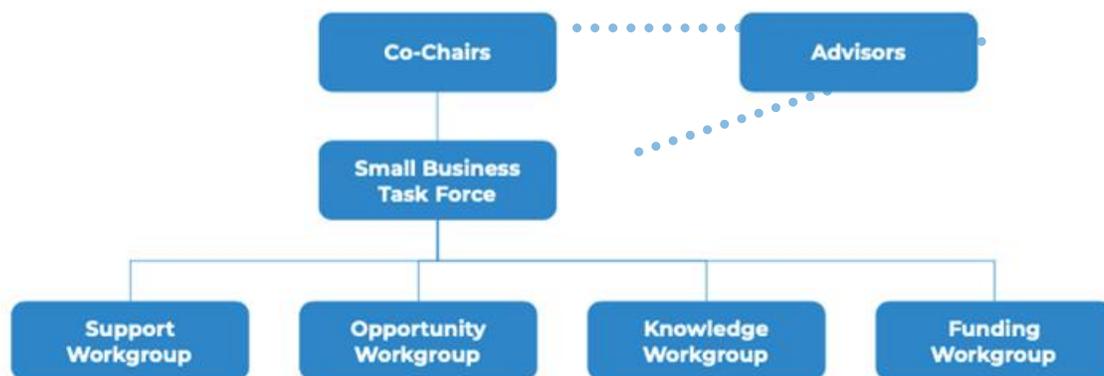
The Small Business Policy Task Force will consist of 17-21 members. To ensure the voices of all of our state's communities are heard, task force members represent a diverse range of race, gender, age, political affiliation, and geographic location. Sectors represented include corporate, nonprofit, academia, government, small business, philanthropy, and private individuals.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the work of the SBPTF:

- Ensure that equity is at the center of our work, across all levels, policies, and systems.
- Active participation in all activities.
- Commit to working in a collaborative manner.
- Commit to the planning and collaboration the task force will undertake.
- Acknowledge contributions and expectations of all members.

TASK FORCE STRUCTURE



ABOUT THE NC RURAL CENTER

Since 1987, the Rural Center has worked to improve the quality of life for the state's rural people and places. We operate with the core belief that our rural communities have inherent cultural value and are vital to the overall economic health of our state. The NC Rural Center's mission is to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. We serve the state's 80 rural counties, with a special focus on individuals with low-to-moderate incomes and communities with limited resources.

PLEASE NOTE

No Kauffman Foundation funds or budgeted matching funds will be used for lobbying or political purposes, or to support events, meetings, or travel that also involve lobbying or political activities