

Overview of the Louisiana Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Mandi D. Mitchell, CEcD
Assistant Secretary, LED



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The LSBEC was established in 2018 (Act 327)

Pursuant to Act 327 of the 2018 Regular Session (La. R.S. 51:2375 et seq)

The Louisiana Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council (LSBEC or the council) was established to identify issues pertinent to the operations of small businesses and advise Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the governor on issues affecting the competitiveness of small businesses in Louisiana.

The council will advise the department on strategies to cultivate small business competitiveness and strengthen entrepreneurship throughout the state. The council in conjunction with the department will also work to ensure coordination of small business support between federal, state, and local agencies so as to decrease duplicative regulations, rules, and requirements.

LSBEC Membership

The LSBEC membership is diverse in many ways

Mandi Mitchell, CEcD – Assistant Secretary, LED

LED Secretary's Designee

Allison Clarke – Deputy Secretary, Office of GeauxBiz at Louisiana Department of State

Louisiana Secretary of State's Designee

Kelisha Garrett – Executive Director, Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Louisiana Alliance for Economic Inclusion

Bryan Greenwood – Associate Director, Louisiana Small Business Development Center

Louisiana Small Business Development Center

Kenny Anderson – Executive Director, Stephenson Entrepreneurship Institute

Louisiana Business Incubation Association

John Everett – Executive Vice President and Market President, Iberia Bank Baton Rouge

Louisiana Bankers Association

Edward “EJ” Krampe III – President & CEO, MacLaff, Inc.

Louisiana Venture Capital/Angel Investor Community

Courtney Davis – CEO, Bart's Office Moving

National Federation of Independent Business

LSBEC Membership continued...

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Cassie Felder – Corporate Counsel, Swamp Dragon Hot Sauce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Alta Baker – President & CEO, Safe Haven Enterprises, LLC
Governor's Appointee

Zzell “Zell” Dudley – Dudley Worldwide, LLC
Governor's Appointee

Richard Vince Hayward – CEO, L.H. Hayward & Company, LLC
Governor's Appointee

Angelica Rivera – President, Colmex Construction
Governor's Appointee

Bill Sawyer – President & CEO, Sawyer Industrial Plastics, Inc.
Governor's Appointee

E. René Soulé – Owner, E. René Soulé & Associates
Governor's Appointee

Iam Tucker – President & CEO, ILSI Engineering
Governor's Appointee

LSBEC Inaugural Report & Recommendations

The inaugural report set a baseline for where we are and where we'd like to go.

Where we are: While we do an excellent job of serving the small businesses and entrepreneurs that we reach, we have room for improvement in certain areas.

No. 1 in Small Business Services, *International Economic Development Council Gold Award, 2019*

PROGRAM	2020 IMPACT
Strategic Research Engagements	67
CEO Roundtables Graduates	72
Companies Certified through the Hudson Initiative and Veterans Initiative	2,612
Companies Certified through the SEBD Programs	892
Louisiana Contracting Accreditation Institute Graduates	199
Businesses Counseled by the SBDCs	3,452
Individual Trained by the SBDCs	9,781
Dollar Value of Secured Contracts Supported by the Bonding Assistance Programs	\$2,454,086

LSBEC Inaugural Report & Recommendations

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Where we'd like to go:

Access to capital

- Identify potential funding sources and structures for enhanced debt and equity capital in the State
- Identify additional education services for small business owners and entrepreneurs
- Research options to improve Louisiana's entrepreneurial culture

Occupational licensing

- Perform a comprehensive review of all the occupational licenses in Louisiana in comparison to other states
- Evaluate opportunities to change laws and processes which will enable greater ease in making changes to occupational licensing requirements in the future; model after best practices implemented in other states over recent years

Regulatory

- Conduct further research on improvement opportunities related to workers compensation insurance and support incremental, bi-partisan, proven tort reform proposals that would result in more competition and lower costs for consumers and small businesses

LSBEC Inaugural Report & Recommendations

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Where we'd like to go (continued):

Other identified recommendations include improvements to the **Hudson and Veterans Initiatives** and **providing support for Small Businesses Before, During, and After Natural and Man-made Disasters:**

- **Hudson/Veterans Initiatives**
 - Expand outreach and education efforts to potential Hudson/Veterans-certified vendors
 - LED and the Office of State Procurement (OSP) will continue to work together to increase awareness of Hudson Veterans (H/V) Initiative programs and goals within agency purchasing or procurement offices
 - Strengthen accountability among prime contractors on following through with hiring/sub-contracting with Hudson- and Veteran-certified businesses when partnered with for added bid scoring points
- **Small Business Recovery Recommendations**
 - Implement a comprehensive business resiliency education and training program for small businesses
 - Research limitations on access to capital for certain small business types (e.g. 1099 independent contractors, sole proprietors that use IRS Schedule C, Gig Economy workers and others that aren't W-2 employees)
 - Develop outreach and educational programs around digital storefront and eCommerce opportunities
 - Ensure there are procurement opportunities for Louisiana-based small businesses and DBEs during declared emergencies

LED CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information on LED resources for small businesses can be found at OpportunityLouisiana.com/SmallBusiness

For more information, contact LED:

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