

## PROCLAMATION

California is the fifth largest economy in the world and has more than 4.2 million small businesses – more than any other state. Small businesses and entrepreneurs accelerate economic growth and mobility in California, creating two-thirds of net new jobs, building wealth, innovating to solve global problems, launching future growth industries, and defining main streets across our local communities. California's small businesses account for over 99 percent of total businesses in the state and employ more than 7 million people, nearly half of the state's private sector workforce. Our small businesses are global leaders in innovation and economic competitiveness and embody the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the economy of the Golden State.

As California's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic forges ahead, we continue to see our small businesses dig in and press toward their dreams. California leads the nation in business startups, growing 20 percent year-over-year from 2019 to 2020, despite the pandemic. Our businesses receive more than 50 percent of the nation's venture capital. They produce more patents per capita and conduct more research and development than any other state in the nation. Our small businesses are adapting to an evolving marketplace, integrating technology at higher rates than ever before, developing creative ways to connect with clients, and building on innovations.

California is committed to helping all its diverse small businesses become more resilient and thrive. For our economy to continue on the path to recovery and maintain global leadership, we must ensure that all Californians – no matter who they are or where they come from – can pursue their dreams to start, manage, and grow resilient businesses in California.

The state's commitment to serving our diverse small business community can be seen in a variety of initiatives, including the \$4 billion COVID-19 Relief Grant Program for small businesses; the California Dream Fund, which is designed to create opportunities for Californians to launch their own businesses; and the Inclusive Innovation Hub (iHub2) program aimed at business and job creation through accelerated commercialization of innovation, a vital component of California's long-term economic strength. These efforts are grounded in the many partnerships established across the state with small business centers and a vast network of community-based organizations, chambers of commerce, and federal, state, and local government partners working to provide technical assistance and guidance in underserved communities.

Throughout the month of May, we recognize the immense contributions of our small businesses to the California economy. We affirm our commitment to helping California's small businesses thrive and, above all, we commit to ensuring that the California Dream remains accessible to all.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 2022, as "Small Business Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State