



# Small Business United

## Minority-owned Small Business Scholarship Program

**CHAMBER  
of COMMERCE**  
*Sumter, South Carolina*



*Objective: To provide an opportunity to Minority Owned Small Businesses to grow through membership, education, mentorship, and relationship building by participating in a comprehensive and custom scholarship program.*

For the purpose of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Small Business United program, minority owned businesses must be at least 51% minority-owned operated and controlled. To be considered a minority owned business the owner or primary individual must be Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Female and/or a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces. In addition, the business must have 25 employees or less.

### **Guidelines & Benefits for SBU Scholarship Program:**

- All applicants must complete an application
- Applicant must be a registered business in Sumter, Lee or Clarendon County
- Applicants agree to participate in all aspects of the SBU program consisting of mentoring, education, and community involvement.
- A registration fee of \$250 will be required upon acceptance into the SBU Program. This fee will be matched with a \$1650 scholarship that includes a two-year Chamber membership along with the following benefits (*asterisk indicates a program/event you must attend at least once during the two-year program*):
  - **\*\*Entrance into our FUEL Program\*\***
    - 7-week program that begins in late September lasting through early November.
  - **\*\*Leadership Sumter\*\***
    - 9-month long leadership program that begins in September with a weekend seminar and meets monthly after that and ends in May of the following year.
  - **\*\*Chamber Retreat\*\***
    - You will receive one complimentary registration to our annual Chamber Retreat. A weekend-long retreat that takes place at the end of January.
  - Assigned mentor throughout the two-year program.
  - 1 complimentary ticket to our First Friday Breakfast Series.
  - 1 complimentary ticket to the Chamber Annual Gala (April).
  - 1 complimentary Ribbon Cutting to be scheduled within the first 6 months upon entrance to the program.
  - Access to Chamber Small Business Insurance Program
  - Social Media Marketing Consultation
  - Use of Chamber logo on marketing materials
  - Access to the Young Professionals of Sumter
  - Use of Chamber conference rooms when available
  - Ability to advertise in Life is Good Magazine & Guide to Sumter
  - Access to Small Business Development Center programs.
  - Access to all Chamber programs/events.
  - Recognition in Chamber communications as program participant.

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## APPLICATION



**Applications are due by August 20, 2021**

Submit completed application to [chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com](mailto:chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com) or drop off at the Chamber at 32 East Calhoun Street.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the minority description that best fits your ownership demographic:

☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic ☐ Woman-Owned ☐ LGBTQ

☐ Black ☐ Native American ☐ Veteran ☐ Other

If 'other', please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Below, please tell us more about your business:



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☐ Yes, I have a license to do business in Sumter/Lee/Clarendon County

Number of years in business: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your expectations for participating in this program?

I understand that the Small Business United program requires a commitment of time to attend educational and mentoring sessions and that I will be listed as a member of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce receiving the benefits associated with the organization. Upon acceptance I will complete an application for my business listing and will submit a \$250 application fee. In return I will receive a value of well over \$1,650 worth of training, benefits, and resources.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your completed application to [chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com](mailto:chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com) no later than August 20, 2021

Completion of this application does not guarantee placement in program.