

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FUND



The OneSpartanburg report identified eight stories relative to Spartanburg County's community and economic development. Story Eight cited the need to be more inclusive. Of 3,180 countywide survey respondents, 54% of white respondents said they felt "included" in their community while only 28% of non-white respondents shared the same response. Furthermore, while the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce's membership has grown since 2014, membership does not reflect the business community's diversity.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FUND

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FUND OVERVIEW, CRITERIA, & APPLICATION FORM

Structure

\$200 grants will be awarded quarterly to qualifying businesses. The grant is available on an annual basis and can be applied toward any membership level. The remaining membership balance must be paid in full to activate the membership. Existing members are eligible but must submit documentation detailing the reason(s) why they are currently unable to renew membership.

Criteria

- Must be a small business (less than 10 full-time equivalents) operating no less than six months
- Must be located in Spartanburg County
- Must identify as a Minority-, Women- or Veteran-Owned Business
- Must complete Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce EEF and membership applications
- Must have a Federal Tax ID Number

Requirements

The awarded business must:

1. Attend Chamber 101 or schedule a one-on-one member orientation with a member of the Chamber staff
2. Participate in the Small Business Development Center access service
3. Conduct a ribbon cutting at your business (if appropriate)
4. Attend or participate in three of the following programs or events:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Provide a Member to Member Discount | Participate in Leadership Spartanburg |
| Attend Doing Business Better Series | Participate in a Leads Group |
| Attend FYI Friday | Become a member of SYP |
| Attend The Exchange | Host a "Drop-In Video" |

Selection Process

A selection committee made up of three Small Business Council members, three Inclusion Council members and the Executive Board's Vice Chair of Membership will meet four times a year on the first week after the application deadline. The deadlines for FY 2017-2018 are **September 30, 2017, December 31, 2017, March 31, 2018** and **June 30, 2018**. A maximum of \$5,000 will be available each cycle.

GRANT APPLICATION

To be considered for an Economic Empowerment Fund Grant please complete the information below along with a Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce Membership application and submit by **September 30, 2017; December 31, 2017; March 31, 2018** or **June 30, 2018**. You will be notified 30 days after the deadline of your grant status.

Federal ID Number: _____

Business Name: _____

1. How do you identify your business?

- Woman Owned
- African American Owned
- Asian Owned
- Hispanic Owned
- Veteran Owned
- Other _____

2. What has prevented you from joining the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce in the past?

3. Why are you interested in joining the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce now?

4. Other comments/suggestions for the selection committee to consider. (mandatory for renewing members)

Complete and return to the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce:
Mail: 105 N. Pine Street Spartanburg, SC 29302
Email: jkimbrell@spartanburgchamber.com
Questions: Call John Kimbrell at 864-594-5023