



# PARTNERING FOR GROWTH

A Guide to Our Organization,  
Roles, and Impact

## The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation (LCCF), established in 2018 as a non-profit 501(c)3, fosters Louisiana's economic growth by supporting local small business through regional chamber development and technical assistance facilitation. Partnering with public and private sectors, LCCF provides procurement opportunities, chamber networks, technical assistance, and advocacy for small business growth.



## About the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation prides itself on supporting chambers across Louisiana that impact all 64 parishes. Founded in 2018, our organization is a non-profit 501(c)3 committed to fostering economic growth in our state by empowering and sustaining the local business community. Our primary goal is to facilitate the development of local chambers, enabling them to serve as powerful vehicles for economic empowerment.

Through strategic partnerships with both public and private sectors, we provide small, rural and veteran-owned businesses with valuable access to procurement opportunities, a robust network of regional chambers of commerce, vital technical assistance to enhance their capabilities, and dedicated advocacy for their growth and development. We encourage partnership engagement that includes mentor protégé programs, direct presentation, and participation in technical assistance training programs.

### What We Do:

- The Chamber of Commerce Growth Initiatives (CCGI) program provides technical assistance for the creation and development of regional business chambers of commerce and support for the creation and expansion of locally-owned businesses across the state.
- Chamber Affiliate supports for ten local and regional affiliate chambers of commerce across the state include ongoing assessment, training, information, networking, coordinate advocacy, and technical assistance.
- Business Innovation Program (BIP) to promote the involvement of small and local businesses in domestic and international trade by ensuring businesses have the skills, capacity, relationships, and knowledge to increase financing, contract opportunities, and access to new domestic and global markets.
- Establish a vibrant aquaculture/agriculture ecosystem that is inclusive of workforce development. LCCF is establishing farming-based cooperatives in rural regions across Louisiana to ensure farmers and fishermen can secure the funding and supportive services they need to be fully and equitably represented within Louisiana's agricultural system.

With your support, partnership, and collaboration, LCCF will remain a steadfast advocate, resource, and champion for small businesses, driving economic growth, prosperity, and opportunity for all. We hope that you can help support the initiatives that allow us to serve our local small business organizations.

As a trusted partner, the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation strives to drive the economic growth of Louisiana with a focus on Louisiana's local business growth, development and expansion.



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



## DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation (LCCF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2018, drives economic growth in Louisiana by empowering small businesses through local chamber development. Partnering with the public and private sectors, LCCF provides small businesses with procurement opportunities, technical assistance, and advocacy, fostering their growth and sustainability statewide.

### PROJECTS IMPACT

#### LOUISIANA IMPACT

We collaborate with Small Businesses across all 64 parishes, providing essential support, training, and advocacy through partnerships with agencies like Louisiana Economic Development, Office of Community Development, Minority Business Development Agency among others to drive growth and success for small and rural enterprises.

#### NATIONAL IMPACT

Nationally, in partnership with the U.S. Black Chambers Inc. and corporate stakeholders, we create opportunities for local businesses from the White House to the State House. Our legislative focus is supported by collaborations with the Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Economic Development Agency, driving small and rural business growth.

#### GLOBAL IMPACT

LCCF partnered with Côte d'Ivoire to expand our global mission in international economic development. Working with over a dozen organizations, we aim to boost opportunities for minority businesses on both continents. Our key partners include EXIM, the African Development Bank, and CEPICI, focusing on increasing international business participation.

1063 Business Directory Members

913 Louisiana business owners supported

59 Agency Partners

41 Programs classes executed

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

## HOW WE DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## HOW WE DRIVE ENTREPRENEURS

As a statewide economic development leader, LCCF is committed to the establishment, development, growth, expansion, and sustainability of small businesses. We achieve this through strategic partnerships with both public and private sectors, providing technical assistance services, and advocating for opportunities for local, rural, and veteran-owned businesses. For example our revolutionary **Access to Capital and Economic Opportunity** program breaks down barriers for 1st and 2nd stage business owners. We do this work through mentor-protégé programs, technical training, and active participation in our chamber network, we strive to build a thriving business environment that benefits all of Louisiana.



## HOW WE DRIVE OUR CHAMBERS

Our chambers impact all 64 parishes across Louisiana, with a key priority being the development of sustainable, service-oriented chambers that support local entrepreneurs. **The Comprehensive Chamber Growth Initiative (CCGI)** is designed to train, support, and increase the capacity of emerging Chambers of Commerce leaders through a structured scope and sequence for training and leadership development. It provides technical assistance for creating and developing small business chambers, administrative and fundraising support, advocacy that leads to contracts and working capital for local businesses, and both virtual and in-person business education and high-quality networking events for chamber members.



## HOW WE DRIVE OUR ECOSYSTEM

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation is committed to growing small businesses while improving the communities where they live by advancing renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainable urban regeneration. Key initiatives include the **Louisiana Agri-Aquaculture Center of Excellence**, providing technical assistance and workforce training for local businesses in agriculture and aquaculture, and C-BIG's adaptive reuse strategy for transforming abandoned brownfields into vibrant, green community spaces. Together, these efforts aim to drive economic growth and environmental sustainability across the state.



## OUR REGIONAL CHAMBERS IMPACT ALL 64 PARISHES







# LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL EVENTS



## CHAMBER DAY AT THE CAPITAL

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosts its Annual Chamber Day at the Capitol each spring, uniting affiliate chamber leaders from all 64 parishes. Chamber leaders receive key insights and updates on economic conditions, available resources, and growth opportunities from the administration. Representatives from the Office of Economic Development and the Governor's Cabinet provide essential information to support small business growth.



## LOUISIANA LEADS AWARDS

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Annual Louisiana Leads Awards Program celebrates the achievements of LCCF and its affiliate chambers in driving economic development statewide. This distinguished event honors excellence in categories such as City Leaders, Agency Leaders, Chamber of the Year, Large Company of the Year, and Small Company of the Year. As a culminating experience, it highlights the leadership and contributions that have propelled economic growth across Louisiana.



## BUSINESS AT BAYOU CLASSIC

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Annual Business at Bayou Classic transforms the excitement of the historic Southern vs. Grambling rivalry into a premier business showcase. Held the Friday before game day, this dynamic trade show features 100+ businesses, engaging panels, and resource vendors, providing a unique platform for networking, product showcasing, and fostering connections within our vibrant business community.





# LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION OUR PROGRAMS



## CHAMBER GROWTH INITIATIVES

The Chamber Growth Initiative (CCGI) strengthens Chamber of Commerce leaders through structured training, technical assistance, and leadership development. It provides support for chamber creation, administrative and fundraising strategies, advocacy for business funding, and high-quality virtual and in-person education and networking opportunities.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Technical Assistance component of the Business Innovation Program (BIP) provides emerging entrepreneurs with expert guidance and resources to navigate key challenges in business growth. Through statewide cohorts, participants receive specialized training, one-on-one coaching, and peer mentoring to strengthen their financial literacy, secure capital, enhance marketing strategies, and identify procurement opportunities. This support system equips entrepreneurs with the tools needed for long-term success.



## ENERGY AND CONSERVATION

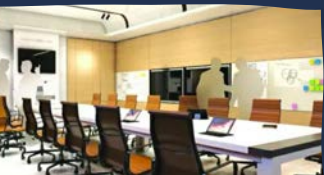
The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation (LCCF) is dedicated to creating clean energy business opportunities for small and rural communities. By fostering partnerships with national, private, and public entities, we help local businesses secure procurement opportunities, receive technical assistance, and participate in industry-focused meetings. Our goal is to drive economic growth, create high-paying jobs, and support business sustainability while preserving Louisiana's natural resources.







# LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENTS



## AGRIQUACULTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

HARVEY, LA - [AACELA.ORG](http://AACELA.ORG)

Established in 2024 with the support of Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (LA-2), the AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence (AACE) is Louisiana's largest closed-loop hydroponic aquaculture facility. Located in Harvey, this 10,000+ sq. ft. center cultivates fresh, locally sourced vegetation while serving as a business incubator and workforce training hub. AACE empowers small businesses in AgriAquaculture, focusing on rural communities, Jefferson Parish, and the greater New Orleans area.

## THE LAUNCH LA CENTER

LAKE CHARLES, LA

The Launch LA Center – Lake Charles opening in winter 2025 is a catalyst for small business growth and economic sustainability in the region. Designed as a Business Innovation Center (BIC), it will offer an incubator program, co-working space, private offices, drop-in desks, conference rooms, and event space. Providing technical assistance across industries such as manufacturing, professional services, technology, agriculture, environmental, and construction, the center focuses on identifying, supporting, and building capacity within the local business community.

## CENTER FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION AND GROWTH

NEW ORLEANS, LA

The Center for Business Innovation & Growth (C-BIG) opening in spring 2027 tackles the global challenge of brownfield redevelopment by promoting adaptive reuse—a sustainable alternative to demolition and new construction. By repurposing existing structures and integrating eco-friendly elements, C-BIG transforms an abandoned and underutilized industrial site into a vibrant, sustainable greenfield, aligning with the demands of modern urban development.





# AGRIAQUACULTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

## ABOUT THE AGRIAQUACULTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Established in 2024 with the support of Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr., who represents Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, the AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence (AACE) is the largest closed-loop aquaponic aquaculture center in Louisiana. Located in Harvey, **the AACE encompasses over 10,000 square feet of operating and greenhouse space dedicated to cultivating fresh, locally sourced vegetation and advancing the AgriAquaculture industry in the region.** This state-of-the-art facility functions as both a business incubator and a workforce training center, aiming to empower small businesses in AgriAquaculture—particularly those owned by residents in rural communities, Jefferson Parish, and the greater New Orleans metropolitan area.

## MISSION & VISION

Our primary mission is to promote economic resilience and job creation within the AgriAquaculture sector by supporting small businesses through comprehensive technical assistance, educational programs, and collaboration opportunities. By creating an empowering a network of industry leaders and partners, the AACE center will foster innovative business solutions that drive economic growth, resilience, and employment opportunities across southern Louisiana.



### VISIT OUR FACILITY:

651 Leson Court,  
Harvey, LA 70058



## HOW WE DRIVE SUSTAINABILITY

### Addressing Food Security and Resilience

- Promotes local farming to reduce food deserts
- Builds sustainable food systems for community stability
- Provides year-round indoor access to food production

### Outreach, Engagement and Technical Assistance Support

- Support for local small business and farm owners
- Facilitate partnerships and outreach engagement
- Expand development, production, and distribution of local items

### Workforce Development and Community Empowerment

- Training in sustainable farming, hydroponics, and aquaponics
- Increase in STEM and agricultural education
- Reduces reliance on distant supply chains

## PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE AGRIAQUACULTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

- **Technical skills:** farming, aquaponics, Agri tech & STEM
- **Business training:** operations, finance, and management
- **Market expansion:** support for small farmers and local producers including marketing and import/export opportunities
- **Workforce readiness:** training, certification, and hands-on experience for job preparation



The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation facility funding for the AgriAquaculture Center for Excellence was provided in part by Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr.



## LEARN MORE:



The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was established in 2018, to help drive the economic growth of Louisiana by empowering and sustaining the small business community through the development of local chambers.

The AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence (AACE) is the **largest** closed-loop aquaponic aquaculture center in Louisiana.





## LOUISIANA Farms



**25,006**  
Total farms



**8 MILLION**  
Acres of farmland

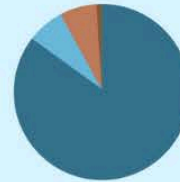


**319 ACRES**  
Average farm size



**14**  
USDA certified  
organic farms

### Who operates Louisiana farms?



- 85% Families/Individuals
- 7% Partnerships
- 7% Corporations
- 1% Other

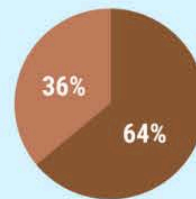


**13,778**  
New or beginning  
farmers



**3,791**  
Farmers with  
military service

**15,160**  
Female  
farmers



**27,391**  
Male  
farmers



**FARM FLAVOR**  
Data & charts provided by Farm Flavor

The USDA Census of Agriculture provides a detailed picture of U.S. farms and ranches every five years. It's the leading source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state. This infographic reflects the most recent census, which shows data released in February 2024.

## Farm Products



**\$4.8 BILLION**

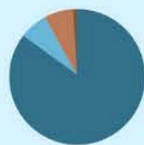
Market value of agricultural products sold

**\$1.4 BILLION**  
Livestock

**\$3.4 BILLION**  
Crops

### LOUISIANA Farmers

#### Who operates Louisiana farms?



- 85% Families/Individuals
- 7% Partnerships
- 7% Corporations
- 1% Other

**AGRICULTURE  
IS A \$7.3 BILLION  
INDUSTRY IN  
LOUISIANA**

LSU AG CENTER

## REVOLUTIONIZING THE INDUSTRY

The AACE aims to position Southeast Louisiana as a national leader in AgriAquaculture by driving economic growth, promoting food security, and expanding opportunities for underrepresented communities through workforce development and business incubation. It supports local farmers, fosters entrepreneurship, and builds a sustainable regional economy while addressing climate change and economic challenges.



## EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

VISIT [LACHAMBERFOUNDATION.ORG](http://LACHAMBERFOUNDATION.ORG)

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation provides comprehensive technical assistance programs to support small businesses, with the AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence offering specialized solutions for this industry.



# Acknowledgements

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to  
drive economic development across Louisiana.



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