



## Alabama MicroEnterprise Network (AMEN) Fact Sheet

**WHAT:** Alabama MicroEnterprise Network (AMEN) is a 501(c)(3) organization that speaks with one voice to serve, educate and empower Alabama's microbusiness development organizations and the entrepreneurs they represent.

Our goal is to:

- Help microenterprise service providers expand their resources and build capacity
- Provide entrepreneurs with business assistance and access to micro-lending opportunities
- Advocate to build the public's awareness of the impact of microbusiness development in Alabama

**WHY:** Microenterprises are those businesses with five or fewer employees that are small enough to benefit from loans under \$50,000. They are both urban and rural, start-up and seasoned and range from sole proprietor to "mom and pop" businesses to larger enterprises that hire other members of the community.

There are a total of 355,000 microenterprises in Alabama that make up 88% of all the businesses in the state. Microenterprises also account for 21.2% of all employment in Alabama, providing jobs for an estimated 2,177,238 people.

**WHO:** AMEN is a member organization comprised of people and organizations that advocate for and support the growth and development of Alabama's microbusiness community.

**WHY JOIN:** AMEN provides the following member benefits:

- Opportunities to get your organization's contact information in front of statewide referral points (i.e. legislators, microenterprises, lenders)
- Information that can assist in:
  - Professional development
  - Capacity building
  - Program development
- National and statewide microenterprise news
- Opportunities for face-to-face interaction at meetings and special events
- Information to help you increase your political clout
- Annual Statewide Alabama MicroEnterprise Leader's Summit