Alabama Microenterprise Network is a 501(c)3 organization formed in 2002 to speak with one voice to serve, educate and empower microenterprise service providers in Alabama and the entrepreneurs they represent.

PO Box 1882  |  Birmingham, Alabama 35201

microenterprisealabama.org
8:30 – 9 a.m. | Registration, Continental Breakfast
Gaynelle Jackson, President, Alabama MicroEnterprise Network

9 – 9:30 a.m. | Opening Remarks, Introductions
Gaynelle Jackson, President, Alabama MicroEnterprise Network

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | Bridging the Wealth Gap Through Small Business Growth
At the 2018 U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Annual Conference, USCM and Interise presented a joint paper entitled Bridging the Wealth Gap, which analyzed one of the most challenging situations facing America today. The paper highlighted the need for more focused and systemic approaches to closing the wealth gap, particularly by encouraging and supporting small business entrepreneurship and ownership.

Introduction: Don Burback, Vice President, Community Development Specialist, BB&T Bank
Presenter: Nancy Lee, Director, Research and Evaluation, Interise

10:25 – 11:25 a.m. | Panel Presentation: The Importance of Financial Literacy to Small Business Success

Introduction: Shirley Session, Vice President, Community Development Manager, Regions Bank
Moderator: John Olsen, Acting Community Affairs Manager, FDIC Atlanta Region, FDIC
Panelists: Damian Carson, Small Business Program Manager, Operation HOPE
D’Undray Peterson, Business Development Officer - Delta Region, LiftFund
Reginald Smith, Business Development Officer, TruFund

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Microbusiness Success Story

Introduction: Donald Mills, Director, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Supportive Services Program, University of West Alabama
Presenters: Aggie Scott & Barbara Raymond, Owners, The Garage Event Center, Demopolis, Alabama
The Garage Event Center is a unique venue for small gatherings of up to 100 people. The event center opened on January 1, 2017 and provides rental space along with table cloth, chair cover and food warmer rental. They also provide satellite and internet service. They specialize in birthday parties, wedding and baby showers, class reunions and social club parties. They also target church, counseling and outreach groups.

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. | Panel Presentation: The Importance of Access to Capital to Small Business Success
Moderator: Donald Mills, Director, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Supportive Services Program, University of West Alabama
Panelists: Jeff Goff, Senior Vice President of Lending, Pathway Lending
Grover Brown, Director of Lending, Community Enterprise Investments, Inc.
Corey Green, Commercial Relationship Manager/Vice President, Regions Bank

2 – 2:30 p.m. | Report on the State of Microbusiness in Alabama
Introduction: Eddie Postell, Manager, Office of Small Business Advocacy, Alabama Department of Commerce
Presenter: Tom Todt, District Director, Alabama District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration

2:30 – 3 p.m. | Wrap Up, Closing Remarks