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 - 9:15 a.m.
Registration, Continental Breakfast

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.
Opening Remarks, Introductions
Gaynelle Jackson, President, Alabama Microenterprise Network

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Running in Place: Why the Racial Wealth Divide Keeps Blacks and Latino Families From Achieving Economic Security
Serving as a follow up to the Ever-Growing Gap and Road to Zero Wealth reports, Prosperity Now's Running in Place examines data from the Federal Reserve System's 2016 Survey of Consumer Finances to understand how the wealth of median Black, Latino and White families have changed since the findings of its previous survey were released in 2013. In exploring economic data on the balance sheets of Black, Latino and White households, we look at what the changes between 2013-2016 mean for the racial wealth divide today and into the future, when it is predicted that the United States will be comprised of more people of color than White people.

Introduction: Jason M. Sparks, Small Business Specialist, BB&T Bank
Presenter: Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Senior Fellow, Racial Wealth Divide Initiative, Prosperity NOW

10:35 – 11:20 a.m.
Small Business and The Racial Wealth Gap
This issue paper combines research about the racial wealth gap and about small business ownership to explore the relationship between the two. The paper starts by defining wealth, and establishing its connection to home ownership in the US. Wealth is a crucial source of capital for small business owners, and the racial wealth gap has influenced the development of minority-owned businesses.

Introduction: Shirley Sessions, Vice President, Community Affairs Manager, Central AL/South AL/Northwest Florida, Regions Bank
Presenter: Nancy Lee, Senior Manager of Research and Evaluation, Interise

11:25 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
The Megaphone on Main Street: Small Business Jobs Report
This report delves into the story behind the changing face of U.S. small business hiring and employment. This report covers three critical aspects of small business hiring:
- Small Businesses and Employment
- The Impact of the ‘Gig’ Economy
- Small Business Owner Sentiments Are Overwhelmingly Positive

Introduction: L.D. Ralph, Deputy District Director, SBA, Alabama District Office
Presenter: Betsy Dougert, Director of Communication, SCORE

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Lunch | Microbusiness Success Story
Introduction: Andrea Rogers Mosley, SBDC Director, Alabama SBDC Network, Alabama State University
Presenter: Charles Underwood, Owner, C&R Movers, Montgomery, Alabama

1:30 – 2 p.m.
2017 Small Business Credit Survey: Report on Employer Firms – Federal Reserve Bank
The Small Business Credit Survey provides timely information on small business financing needs, decisions, and outcomes to policy makers, researchers, lenders, and service providers.

Introduction: John Olsen, Community Affairs Specialist, Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection, FDIC
Presenter: Karen Leone de Nie, Assistant Vice President Community and Economic Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

2:05 – 2:35 p.m.
Report on the State of Microbusiness in Alabama
Introduction: Tracey Morant Adams, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Community Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer, Renasant Bank
Presenter: Sam Addy, Associate Dean for Economic Development Outreach, Culverhouse College of Business, Senior Research Economist, Center for Business and Economic Research, The University of Alabama

2:35 – 3 p.m.
Wrap Up | Closing Remarks