

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of CHICAGO



GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1) What is the name of your business? _____
- 2) What is the primary location of your business?
ZIP code: _____ Neighborhood (e.g. Midtown, East Jefferson, etc.): _____
- 3) In what year did you become the owner of your current business? _____
- 4) What products or services does your business provide (e.g., retail, auto parts, accounting services, etc.)? _____

- 5) About what percent of your customers live or work near the neighborhood where your business is located? ____%
- 6) What is your age? 18 – 24 25 – 34 35 – 44 45 – 54 55 and over
- 7) What is your race? Black White Asian Other
- 8) Are you of Hispanic origin? Yes No
- 9) What is your gender? Male Female

10) Is your business any of the following? (check all that apply)

- Home based A franchise
 Sole proprietorship Partnership Incorporated

11) Does your business have employees other than you (and your business partners)?

- Yes No

12) What is your level of education?

- Less than high school Some college
 High school or GED Four years of college or more

13) Roughly, what are your business' annual sales?

- Less than \$100,000 \$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000
 \$100,000 - \$999,999 Over \$3,000,000

14) What are the most important needs of your business?

	Very Important	Less Important	Not a Current Need
Sales			
Marketing			
Technology			
Procurement contracts			
Safety and security of neighborhood where business is located			
Supplier credit			
Human resources			
Capital			
Networking (building relationships that will help my business)			
Technical assistance/training (writing a business plan, preparing financial statements, etc.)			
Support from family and friends			
Other (please explain):			

RESOURCE NETWORKS FOR BUSINESSES

15) Have you used any of these resources in the past 12 months to share and receive information for your business?

Chambers of commerce or trade associations	Yes	No
Service clubs (Rotary, etc)	Yes	No
Online social media	Yes	No
Expos, business festivals, trade shows	Yes	No
Directories/online resources that target ethnic or minority businesses	Yes	No
General advertising	Yes	No
Technical assistance/training programs	Yes	No
Courses at community colleges/universities	Yes	No
Business incubators	Yes	No
Paid professionals (accountant, lawyer, etc.)	Yes	No
Informal networks (friends, family, neighbors)	Yes	No
I have used no resources to get or share information	Yes	No

16) Have you gone to any activities or seminars in the past 12 months to share and receive information for your business, sponsored by any the following organizations?

Banks or credit unions	Yes	No
Small Business Administration (SBA)	Yes	No
Faith-based or non-profit organizations	Yes	No
Philanthropic institutions or corporations	Yes	No
Local or state government agencies	Yes	No
Unknown	Yes	No

17) In general, what have been the most important benefits of using local business resources?

	Check all that apply
No benefits	
Networking/Relationship Building	()
o To help me meet and socialize with other business people	()
o To provide me with new customers or suppliers	()
o To enable me to gain access to private and public leaders	()
o To match me with a business mentor	()
Capital/Business Funding	
o To develop relationships with banks and other financial institutions	()
o To help me compete for minority supplier contracts	()
o To get and use information on alternative sources of capital for my business (non-profit lenders, crowd funding, etc.)	()
Training/Technical Assistance	
o To develop a business plan	()
o To get advice on marketing	()
o To create and understand my financial statements	()
o To get legal advice	()
Other (please explain):	

18) What do you consider to be the barriers to using local resources for your business?

	Check all that apply
No barriers	()
<u>Networking/Relationship Building</u>	
o Not enough opportunities to network	()
o Networking does not connect me to people who can help my business	()
o I don't know what is available	()
o Lack of support from family or friends	()
<u>Capital/Business Funding</u>	
o Places I go to for assistance do not connect me to the funding needed for my business	()
o Banks and other financing sources are not located in the vicinity of my business	()
o I don't know about appropriate sources of capital for my business	()
<u>Technical Assistance/Training</u>	
o Information is not useful to help me start or expand my business	()
o I don't know what training is available	()
o Inconvenient locations	()
o Inconvenient times	()
o Too costly	()
Other (please explain):	

Thank you for completing the survey.