

# ONE Georgia

Chambers and  
Micro-Enterprises  
Collaborating



## GEORGIA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL CONVENING INAUGURAL REPORT

Covering Thursday, May 28, 2026 Event - 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. EST  
A Virtual Event via Zoom - USA

Contact One Georgia at [onegeorgiacollab.org](http://onegeorgiacollab.org).



GWINNETT COUNTY  
**BLACK CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Thursday, May 28, 2026, chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, business support organizations, nonprofit leaders, economic development professionals, consultants, creatives, and ecosystem partners from across Georgia gathered virtually for the inaugural **ONE GEORGIA: CHAMBERS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES COLLABORATING** statewide convening. The 90-minute collaborative session was designed to begin a series of ongoing statewide conversations focused on strengthening Georgia's microenterprise ecosystem through partnerships, relationship-building, resource-sharing, and strategic collaboration.

With attendance reaching approximately 62 participants at peak participation during the **ONE GEORGIA** live webinar, the convening successfully created an engaging and solutions-oriented environment where participants openly discussed the evolving needs of micro-enterprises and very small businesses throughout Georgia. The convening highlighted a growing statewide recognition that chambers, entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, lenders, educators, economic development agencies, and ecosystem support organizations must collaborate more intentionally to address the rapidly changing entrepreneurial landscape.

The conversation also reinforced that micro-enterprises – businesses often operating with 10 or fewer employees – represent a significant and essential part of Georgia's economy and entrepreneurial future.

**Contact** Cheryle with **ONE GEORGIA** at [cheryle@blackchambergwinnett.com](mailto:cheryle@blackchambergwinnett.com) or 404.861.8187 for more information.

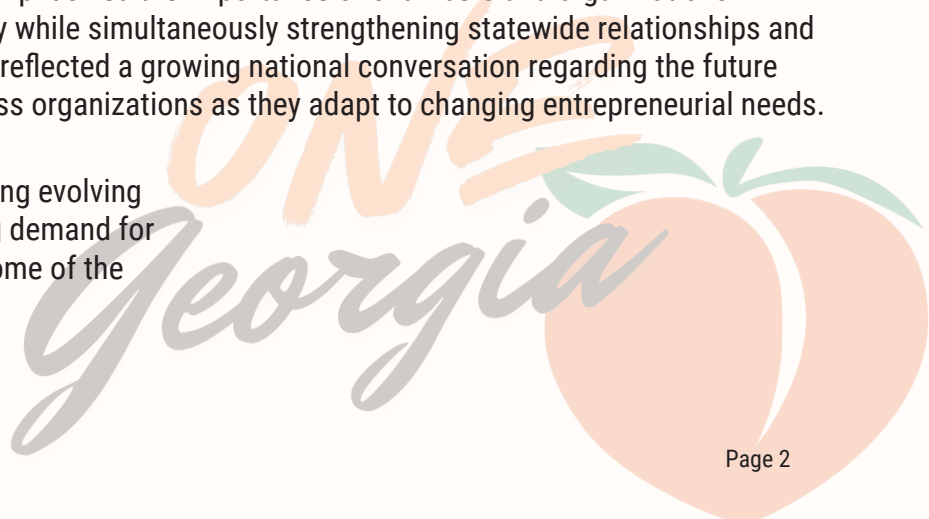
## ABOUT THE CONVENING

**ONE GEORGIA: CHAMBERS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES COLLABORATING** was created to serve as a statewide collaborative platform bringing together chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, nonprofit organizations, ecosystem builders, and community stakeholders to discuss the future of Georgia's entrepreneurial support ecosystem. The initiative was developed by the **Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce** and presented in collaboration with the **Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)**. Our understanding is that many micro-enterprises and very small businesses often operate with limited access to visibility, partnerships, resources, strategic relationships, capital readiness support, and ecosystem connectivity.

**ONE GEORGIA** initiative brought collaboration of chambers, micro-enterprises and statewide resources.

The **ONE GEORGIA** convening intentionally focused on collaboration rather than competition. Throughout the session, speakers and participants repeatedly emphasized the importance of chambers and organizations maintaining their unique missions and autonomy while simultaneously strengthening statewide relationships and collaborative opportunities. The convening also reflected a growing national conversation regarding the future evolution of chambers of commerce and business organizations as they adapt to changing entrepreneurial needs.

We know that technology is shifting, we are seeing evolving networking behaviors, and there is an increasing demand for practical value-driven engagement. These are some of the topics One Georgia will be addressing.



## FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The inaugural **ONE GEORGIA** convening included participation and remarks from leaders representing chambers of commerce, entrepreneurial organizations, ecosystem support organizations, and community development entities throughout Georgia. Featured speakers were:

- **Elizabeth Wilson**, Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)
- **Adam Smith**, Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)
- **Alejandro Coss**, President and CEO, Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia
- **Michael Syphoe**, Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- **Yvette Zapata**, Spanish Welcome and Interpretation Support
- **Cheryle Renee Moses**, President, Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce

Represented chambers, businesses and organizations included:

- **Arise Renewed Counseling**
- **Atlanta Black Chambers**
- **Black Gwinnett Magazine**
- **Camrose Creative Services**
- **Clutch Boss Services**
- **Crumb Get Some Bakery**
- **Embassy International Chamber of Commerce Network**
- **Empowering Men and Women on the Move for Re-Entry Inc.**
- **Family Legacy Network, Inc.**
- **Georgia ACT**
- **Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)**
- **Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce**
- **ICMOR AI Strategic Solutions**
- **International Rescue Committee Atlanta**
- **Johnson TOD Group LLC**
- **Ladies In Full Effect Inc.**
- **Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia**
- **Mary Kay**
- **Paper Luxe Studios**
- **RHJ Consulting Group**
- **SerKy Consulting**
- **Stonecrest Chamber of Commerce**
- **Systems To Success**
- **Uplifting People**
- **Urban Mediamakers Film Festival**
- **Veteran Arts Society**
- **West Central Georgia Chamber of Commerce**



**ONE GEORGIA** participants joined from communities throughout metro Atlanta and across Georgia, including Lawrenceville, Stonecrest, Greenville, Macon, Albany, Duluth, Fitzgerald, Conyers, Loganville, Cobb County, and additional Georgia communities. The diversity of organizations and geographic representation reinforced the growing statewide interest in strengthening collaboration, ecosystem connectivity, and entrepreneurial support systems for Georgia's micro-enterprises and very small businesses.

# KEY THEMES EMERGING FROM THE CONVENING

## 1. The Need for Stronger Ecosystem Collaboration

One of the strongest themes emerging throughout the **ONE GEORGIA** convening was the growing need for stronger statewide collaboration among chambers, ecosystem support organizations, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders. Participants consistently emphasized that no single organization can independently address the evolving needs of entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises. Instead, the future of entrepreneurial support in Georgia will require intentional partnerships, relationship-building, and coordinated resource-sharing efforts across sectors and regions. The convening demonstrated significant interest in creating a more connected entrepreneurial ecosystem that bridges urban, suburban, rural, and coastal communities throughout Georgia.

## 2. Chambers of Commerce Are Evolving

**ONE GEORGIA** participants acknowledged that chambers of commerce and business organizations are operating within a rapidly changing entrepreneurial environment. Several conversations focused on how entrepreneurs increasingly seek practical support systems, relationship-driven opportunities, visibility, strategic partnerships, mentorship, and ecosystem connectivity in addition to traditional networking opportunities. The discussion reinforced that chambers and ecosystem organizations across Georgia have an opportunity to evolve their engagement strategies to remain collaborative, relevant, and valuable to micro-enterprises and very small businesses.

## 3. Visibility and Relationship-Building Are Critical

Entrepreneurs participating in the **ONE GEORGIA** convening repeatedly emphasized the importance of visibility, strategic networking, and relationship-building. The session's live chat organically evolved into a collaborative networking environment where participants actively exchanged services, partnerships, referrals, and support opportunities in real time. This level of engagement reinforced the growing importance of relationship-centered entrepreneurial ecosystems where collaboration, trust, and community connectivity serve as foundational components of business sustainability and growth.

One participant summarized this concept powerfully during the convening by stating: ***"Community is Currency."*** That statement quickly became one of the defining themes of the conversation.

## 4. Technology and AI Readiness Are Growing Priorities

Technology adaptation and AI readiness emerged as major themes throughout both the **ONE GEORGIA** discussion and participant chat engagement. Several participants represented AI-focused businesses, technology consulting firms, and digital support organizations, highlighting the growing importance of helping entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises understand how emerging technologies can improve efficiency, operations, customer engagement, and long-term sustainability. The convening reinforced that AI education, digital transformation, and technology readiness will likely become major future priorities within Georgia's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

## 5. Access to Capital Requires Capital Readiness

While access to capital remained an important topic throughout the convening, participants also emphasized the importance of capital readiness. Capital readiness is having all of your documents ready for submission to loan or grant applications. Several **ONE GEORGIA** attendees discussed the reality that many entrepreneurs seek funding only during moments of financial stress rather than preparing proactively through strategic financial planning, business structuring, and operational readiness. This discussion highlighted the need for more education and ecosystem support surrounding financial literacy, funding preparation, and sustainable growth planning for

micro-enterprises.

## POLL INSIGHTS AND PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Live polling conducted during the **ONE GEORGIA** convening revealed several recurring priorities among participants. Key areas identified as major concerns and opportunities included:

- Access to capital and funding readiness
- Marketing and business visibility
- Technology and AI adaptation
- Chamber engagement and entrepreneur support
- Strategic partnerships and collaboration
- Scaling beyond the startup phase
- Networking and ecosystem connectivity
- Business sustainability and growth support



The poll results reinforced many of the same themes that emerged organically throughout the open discussions and participant chat interactions. **ONE GEORGIA** has heard from our participants and have developed virtual and in-person session to address all major concerns identified from the polls.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION

The **ONE GEORGIA** convening successfully brought together voices representing multiple regions and communities throughout Georgia. Participants represented chambers of commerce, entrepreneurial organizations, nonprofit organizations, consultants, creatives, technology providers, and ecosystem leaders from metro-Atlanta, Macon, Albany, Stonecrest, Duluth, Greenville, Lawrenceville, Cobb County, Fitzgerald, and additional Georgia communities. This statewide participation reinforced the initiative's broader mission to create a more connected entrepreneurial support ecosystem that reflects the diverse realities of businesses operating across Georgia.

## MOVING FORWARD: BUILDING THIS INITIATIVE

**ONE GEORGIA: CHAMBERS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES COLLABORATING** was intentionally designed to serve as the beginning of an ongoing statewide initiative rather than a one-time event. The convening demonstrated strong interest in continued statewide collaboration conversations focused on strengthening Georgia's microenterprise ecosystem through practical partnerships, ecosystem connectivity, relationship-building, education, technology readiness, and strategic support systems.

Future convenings of **ONE GEORGIA** will explore topics including:

- AI and technology readiness for entrepreneurs
- Chamber evolution and engagement strategies
- Access to capital and funding readiness
- Entrepreneurial collaboration models
- Bartering is the entrepreneur's secret weapon
- Rural and coastal business support
- Procurement and contracting opportunities

- Business sustainability and scaling
- Relationship economies and collaborative ecosystems

The success of the inaugural convening reinforced the importance of continuing to create spaces where entrepreneurs, chambers, organizations, and ecosystem leaders can collaborate intentionally to support Georgia's entrepreneurial future.

## CONCLUSION

The inaugural **ONE GEORGIA** convening successfully established a strong foundation for future statewide collaboration efforts focused on supporting Georgia's micro-enterprise ecosystem. More importantly, the convening demonstrated that entrepreneurs, chambers, and organizations throughout Georgia are actively seeking meaningful opportunities to connect, collaborate, and build stronger support systems together.

As Georgia's entrepreneurial landscape continues evolving, **ONE GEORGIA** has the potential to serve as an important statewide platform for relationship-building, ecosystem development, collaboration, and innovation. Together, Georgia's chambers, entrepreneurs, organizations, and ecosystem partners can continue building stronger pathways for micro-enterprises and small businesses throughout the state.

## NEXT CONVENING - JUNE 25, 2026 - VIRTUAL EVENT - REGISTER NOW!

### **ONE GEORGIA: WHY BUSINESSES GET DENIED FUNDING — AND HOW TO GET APPROVED | 11:30AM - 1:00 P.M.**

Register for the June 25, 2026 virtual event at <https://why-businesses-get-denied-and-approved.eventbrite.com>. Please share this event registration link with any person or organization who would benefit from this initiative.

#### **This report was prepared by:**

Cheryle Renee Moses, Founder, Host and Facilitator

**ONE GEORGIA: CHAMBERS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES COLLABORATING**

President of Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce - <https://blackchambergwinnett.com>

