

Toplines:

- Entrepreneurship is a self-sufficiency strategy for many, especially women with young children or dependents.
- We know that 82% of Latinos engaging in commercial activity are foreign born⁹. For many, unable to secure consistent employment, entrepreneurship is the way they provide for their families.
- Latinos own in general small businesses, providing self-employment and ensuring community needs are met within their neighborhoods and ecosystem.

Sources:

- ¹ <https://lcfga.info/444ldyA>
- ² <https://lcfga.info/3xxmX7l>
- ³ <https://lcfga.info/3W6GXaO>
- ⁴ <https://lcfga.info/3VXs9LH>
- ⁵ <https://lcfga.info/3VVZC9e>
- ⁶ <https://lcfga.info/4cWOLBY>
- ⁷ <https://lcfga.info/3Jf3DOu>
- ⁸ <https://lcfga.info/3PY5ZFe>
- ⁹ <https://lcfga.info/3TOCxmc>

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Policy Priority:

Expanding Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Georgia's Immigrants



Key Message:

If Georgia is to remain the #1 state in which to do business, it needs to include all those interested in entrepreneurship, especially those currently living in the state.

Development, retention and support of homegrown businesses is part of a smart economic development agenda re-investing in those who are already part of self-sufficiency and wealth building efforts and strategies.

Georgia's immigrant community starts businesses at a higher rate than the average population. Supporting these local entrepreneurs means removing barriers that hinder their full potential to contribute with taxes, secure business licenses and develop employment opportunities.



Toplines:

The state of Georgia recognizes and values the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of Georgia's small businesses that keep the state and America's economies growing strong.

- Georgia is home to 81,849 immigrant entrepreneurs¹
- Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Georgia make up \$1.9 billion in business income
17.4% of Georgia's entrepreneurs are immigrants



- Immigrants in Atlanta² are 41% more likely to be entrepreneurs than U.S. born residents
- 43% of Fortune 500³ companies were founded by first or second generation immigrants.
- 28% of Main Street businesses⁴ throughout the United States were founded by immigrants.

Local startup leaders are concerned that federal and state immigration policies are hurting entrepreneurs and making economic success difficult for key industries.

- The current policy is negatively impacting local economies and there are concerns this is a "Brain drain"⁵ of losing top entrepreneurial talent to other welcoming states and countries.
- Since 2018, immigrant workers have compromised 13% of the labor force⁶ in Georgia in key industries such as manufacturing, construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and agribusiness.
- 80% of Georgia's construction sector⁷ found that the labor shortage is the most hindering factor for their businesses.
- Immigrant entrepreneurs are more likely to seek forms for financial support—expansion of lines of credit, new investors, loans—and are 80% more often rejected⁸ than native-born business owners.
- About half of immigrant business owners⁸ in the U.S. feel no support from their federal, state, or local government.