

426 Chambers and Associations Join U.S. Chamber's Equality of Opportunity Initiative

More than 400 state and local chambers of commerce and national industry associations have stepped up to formally join the U.S. Chamber's Equality of Opportunity Initiative, powering a nationwide effort to advance economic inclusion across our society through business leadership. The U.S. Chamber announced the [national initiative to address inequality of opportunity](#) last week, building on the organization's work and expertise with a focus on reform in four issue areas: education, employment, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice.

"As our nation undertakes a necessary conversation about systemic racism, we will listen thoughtfully and lead solutions to help ensure Black Americans and people of color have greater opportunities to succeed in the American enterprise system," said Suzanne P. Clark, president of the U.S. Chamber. "We know what a job means to an individual, to a family, and to a community. It means personal dignity, financial security, better health outcomes, opportunities to advance and grow, and hope for the future."

[The 426 organizations representing 47 states](#) will join the U.S. Chamber's Equality of Opportunity National Summit on June 25, which will explore some of the underlying challenges driving inequality of opportunity and chart a path to actionable, data-driven solutions. In addition, these state and local partners and industry associations have committed to hosting similar dialogues and taking action in their own communities and across their sectors to address inequality of opportunity.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., the National Business League, the Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (USPAACC) are among the initiative's partners ([view full list](#)).

"Working together with our federation of state and local chambers and association partners, we can better understand the challenges facing specific communities and help drive lasting solutions across the nation," Clark added. "We will use our influence, expertise, and convening power to serve our country at a time when the leadership of the business community is needed more than ever. And we commit to ensuring that the impact of our work reaches more people."

Clark concluded, "We are proud of the partnerships, the relationships, and the work we have done over the years to address barriers to opportunity. But much more work needs to be done. The business community must work together to advance equality of opportunity with greater emphasis and urgency than ever before."

Read the release [here](#).