



## THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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January 20, 2022

Dear Fellow Presidents,

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce to you a rare economic development opportunity that we believe will empower a historic number of Florida entrepreneurs like nothing we've seen before.

Like you, I rely on my exceptional team to identify best practices and programs that may improve the excellence of our services to our stakeholders. Our team found such an opportunity in a bold and innovative small business support and development program created by our colleagues in NC, called Startup North Carolina. The Startup NC program was designed by intrepid community college presidents who believed there was a better way to advance economic development through entrepreneurship within their communities and statewide.

We immediately saw the potential of delivering similar benefits to Florida stakeholders. Most notably is the opportunity to improve the success rate of rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs and small business owners. This realization led to multiple conversations with our friends in NC about extending the program to Florida, and ultimately the enclosed proposal.

The Pasco Hernando team enthusiastically supports this effort, and we hope you will join forces with us to launch Startup Florida here in our home state.

Very truly yours,

Timothy L. Beard, Ph.D.

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 10, 2022

Dear Florida Colleagues,

It gives me great satisfaction to know that you are considering joining Catawba Valley (and our multiple NC college partners) in our ongoing efforts to bring economic prosperity to rural, underserved, and historically marginalized business owners.

My effort began over a decade ago when I became convinced that the best way our college could drive local economic development was to support entrepreneurship in bold new ways. It was clear that the change we wanted required us to do more than colleges like ours typically provided. We needed to become more entrepreneurial in our efforts, be bold and experiment with new approaches, and take significant risks if we hoped to truly make a difference for our communities.

Many thought we were crazy at the time. Still, I'm proud to say that these unconventional efforts, programs, and initiatives have been transformative for thousands of NC entrepreneurs, the communities that benefit from their successes, and the state itself.

Most notable of our entrepreneurship development efforts is creating the digital entrepreneurship support network, Startup North Carolina. Together with nine like-minded college presidents, we partnered with an outstanding organization, Supportedly, to help more of our local businesses succeed by improving the equity of access to available support and developmental programs.

Startup NC brings the best support programs, training, inspiration, and opportunities to connect with key resources directly to entrepreneurs wherever they live. In the most basic terms, Startup NC levels the playing field for those who don't live in developed startup communities where resources and support are abundant.

Now almost four years later, and with over a million dollars invested, the Startup NC program has provided support and development to more than 16,000 NC entrepreneurs, most of them female, first-time business owners. We are now building on this success by expanding the digital support network so every entrepreneur in North Carolina and beyond can have equal access to training and support that can improve their odds of success.

Thanks to the foresight of your peers at Pasco-Hernando State College, you have the opportunity to join us in this landmark effort by extending the digital entrepreneurship support network to Florida. Doing so will create the largest interconnected network dedicated to serving rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs in the world, and the following proposal from our partners at Supportedly describes the full benefits of the Startup Florida program.

By joining our forces, I'm confident that we will be able to deliver even a higher level of entrepreneurial support and enablement to the communities we serve.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Garrett D. Hinshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Dr. Garrett Hinshaw  
President, Catawba Valley Community College

# STARTUP | FLORIDA

2022 Program Proposal Executive Summary

*Presented to the Florida Council of Presidents*



## THE WHY

Florida state college leaders have a historic opportunity to improve small business success rates by creating critical new pathways to opportunity in rural, underserved, and historically marginalized communities.

More successful small businesses equal a stronger Florida economy. While Florida outpaces the nation in the new entrepreneur growth and the jobs they create, Florida also experiences a higher average rate of business failures after the first year than most other states<sup>1</sup>.

Access to the right support, training, and resources in a business' first year is often the difference between success and failure. Unfortunately, entrepreneurs in rural, underserved, and historically marginalized communities are critically disadvantaged because they do not have equal access to available support.

### How many businesses survive their first year?

In recent years, the share of startups that survive at least one year has been lower in Florida compared to the national level.



In 2020, **75.8% of startups in Florida** survived at least one year, compared to 78.1% of startups at the national level.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Level the playing field for rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs by providing equal access to critical small business support, training, and resources. Improving equity of access to entrepreneurial support and development will enable Florida's entrepreneurs to maximize their odds of success.

## THE STAKES

According to the Kauffman Foundation, Florida entrepreneurs create over 136,000 jobs annually- more than most other states. However, Florida loses a higher portion of these jobs (over 25%) each year because of its higher-than-average startup failure rate. Almost 33,000 jobs are lost annually in Florida that don't have to be.

There were **6.2 jobs created by startups per 1,000 people in Florida in 2020**, compared to 5.0 jobs created by startups at the national level.

## THE SOLUTION

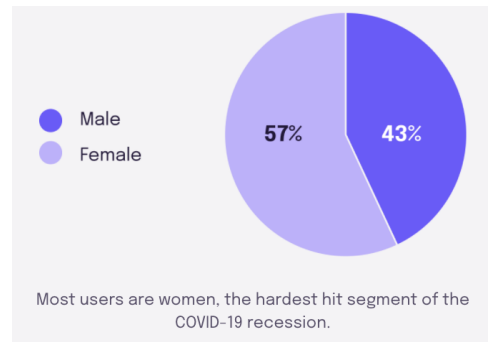
Create, launch, and maintain a digital entrepreneurship support network (DESN) serving rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs in all 67 Florida counties. DESNs provides convenient online access to free entrepreneurial training, support, and developmental resources designed to help entrepreneurs and small

businesses owners improve their odds of success. Crucially, DESN's provide equal access to support for entrepreneurs not living in resource-rich communities.

DESNs are mobile-enabled, meaning that they are fully accessible via a smartphone, tablet, etc., which 87% of adults with household incomes of between \$30K and \$99K own according to the PEW Research Center<sup>2</sup>.

## THE SCOPE

Florida's digital entrepreneurship support network, called Startup Florida, will be an extension of North Carolina's successful network that has served over 16,000 entrepreneurs since the launch of the network in 2019. Startup Florida will be connected to Startup North Carolina and all future networks added. Combined, it will be the largest interconnected network dedicated to empowering rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs in the world.



Florida and North Carolina entrepreneurs will have direct, 24/7 access to thousands of support programs, actionable on-demand training, extensive “how-to” and inspirational content, one-on-one coaching and mentoring opportunities, and more - all at no cost to them. Entrepreneurs will access the support and resources available through the Startup Florida network via one of 28 hyper-local web portals matching the market footprints of the state colleges.

## THE TIMELINE

The Startup Florida rollout consists of three phases, development, launch, and ongoing support and maintenance. The first two phases (development and launch) will take approximately 2-years to complete. The third phase (ongoing support and maintenance) will continue as long as the program provides value.

The **development phase** generally includes creating the web portals, branded assets, mapping, profiling, and adding Florida's available support programs to the network and producing local content (such as entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur best practices and advice).

The **launch phase** generally includes creating awareness of Startup Florida through various direct outreach efforts and promotional campaigns designed to “get the word out” to Florida entrepreneurs and drive new user registrations.

The **ongoing support** and maintenance phase generally includes ensuring Startup Florida users are maximizing the value of the support and services available to them, as well as continuing to acquire and onboard new users.

## THE DELIVERABLES

Including but not limited to: Nearly one-thousand new local support videos and clips, video profiles of hundreds of entrepreneurs, 29 web portals, 28 online community calendars, up to 560 new support programs profiled, 31 program presentations and updates, 28 ecosystem mapping workshops, 672 subscriber emails, and new quarterly mastermind sessions.

## THE IMPACT

Over 1 million Florida entrepreneurs will be invited to join Startup Florida in the first two years of the program. Startup Florida is estimated to provide equal access to entrepreneurial support and development to over 100,000 entrepreneurs over the same period. An increase in new entrepreneurs and business success rate are the expected major impacts of the program.

## THE INVESTMENT

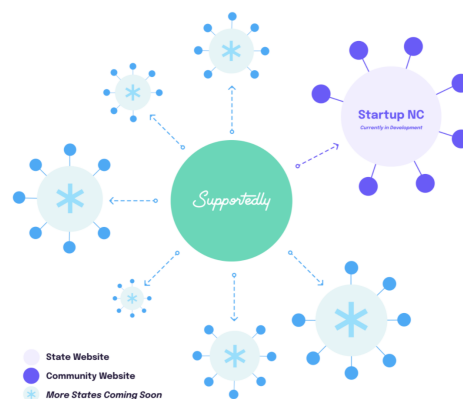
Rolling out Startup Florida statewide requires an investment of \$2.52 million over two years to develop and launch the DESN. This equates to a total investment of only \$90,000 per state college, or \$45,000 annually.

Following the initial two years, the investment drops to only \$504,000 annually or \$18,000 per state college. By comparison to traditional economic development incentives that average \$658,000 per job created<sup>3</sup> and do little to support entrepreneurs or address the inequities cited, Startup Florida is a superior investment.

## THE TEAM

Startup Florida will be developed, operated, and managed by **Supportedly**, a leading entrepreneurship enablement organization and creators of the DESN.

Supportedly was founded to make it easier for entrepreneurs to access critical business training and development opportunities regardless of location, status, or means. Supportedly successfully developed, launched, and continues to manage and expand the Startup North Carolina program and its DESN in partnership with North Carolina community college partners.



3. Money for Something: Job Creation and Job Quality Standards in State Economic Development Subsidy Programs, Good Jobs First, 2011

## THE COMMITMENT

In addition to the financial investment, the success of the Startup Florida program is enabled by the combined commitment and support of Florida's State Colleges. Fortunately, the scope of this commitment is minimal by comparison to other strategic priorities and major initiatives.

Each college is asked to provide a designated Program Lead who shall collaborate with the Supportedly team as the primary point of contact. The Program Lead will provide assistance in various ways, including facilitating introductions to local entrepreneurs, ecosystem mapping and support program profiling, introduction to key stakeholders, planning events and assisting with promotion, and ensuring that local information (such as events) is current on the web portal.

In addition to the Program Lead, college Presidents are asked to promote Startup Florida as much as possible, participate in occasional program update meetings, and make crucial introductions to key stakeholders as needed.

## THE NEXT STEPS

Thank you for considering leveling the playing field for Florida's rural, underserved, and historically marginalized entrepreneurs by helping bring the Startup Florida program to life.

On January 20, 2022, Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, President of Catawba Valley Community College and Supportedly Founder and CEO, Tom Ryan will present Startup Florida to the Florida Council of Presidents. If the Council agrees in principle to support the statewide effort, a full program proposal will be submitted for the Council's consideration and approval.

# COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Acceleration Program for North Carolina

Improving Equity of Access to Support and Connection  
for COVID-19 Affected Entrepreneurs Statewide

Created By:

**The North Carolina Community College  
Rural Entrepreneurship Alliance**

**Startup NC** is a statewide economic development program that connects NC entrepreneurs to the largest, single source of digital entrepreneurial support, information, and local assistance.

## Program Mission

- Deliver Training and Support to **8,000 COVID-Impacted NC Entrepreneurs**
- Build the Largest Community of **Rural, Underserved, and COVID-19 Impacted Entrepreneurs**
- Open-source the Largest Repository of **Entrepreneur-to-Entrepreneur Best Practices, Advice, and Inspiration**

## In Partnership With

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CREATING SUCCESS

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Supported by*



## Problem

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the majority of NC small businesses. Accessing **qualified support** and **local resources** is harder for entrepreneurs in rural and underserved communities where economic recovery is needed most.



## Solution

Create a **statewide digital network** of interconnected, hyper-local web portals that connect all NC entrepreneurs to the largest single-source of entrepreneurial support information and local small business assistance.

## Purpose

Our purpose is to accelerate the COVID-19 small business recovery efforts by providing equitable access to **free entrepreneur support** and local business assistance statewide. Currently, our focus is on harnessing the power of **peer-to-peer learning** in rural, under-served, and COVID-impacted communities.

**66%**  
of NC small  
businesses have  
had revenues  
decrease due to  
COVID-19

Source: COVID-19 Impacts on North Carolina  
Small Businesses: 2020 Survey Results  
December 2020

## Deliverables

- Statewide Digital Network Consisting of **58 Hyper-Local** Web Portals Serving Every NC County
- E2E Advice from **300+** NC Entrepreneurs
- Largest Digital Repository of Training Content, Resources, and Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESO)
- Statewide and Hyper-Local Marketing Effort to Raise Awareness and Foster Connection to **Local, Regional, and Statewide Resources**

## Scope

- Extend SYE Network to Cover all **100 NC Counties**
- Create the Largest Digital Entrepreneur Support Network
- Create the Largest Repository of Entrepreneur-to-Entrepreneur (E2E) Advice
- Unite all **58 NC Community Colleges** Around a Shared Purpose
- Generate more than **1,500 Peer-to-Peer Instructional Videos** from 300+ NC Entrepreneurs

## Startup NC

Startup NC is a comprehensive entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem acceleration program designed to drive economic, environmental, and social development of rural NC communities by improving the quality of support and connection available to local entrepreneurs and small business owners.

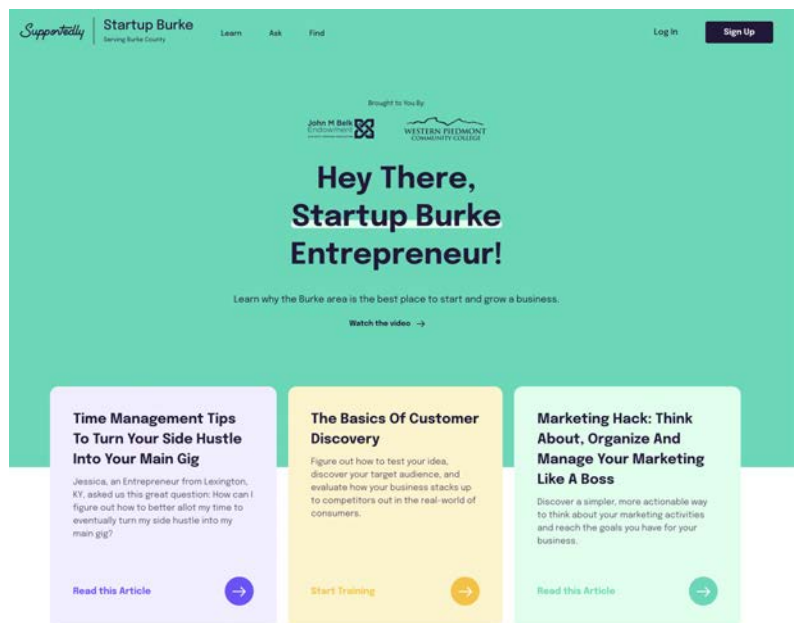
## Program Partners:



## COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Acceleration Program for North Carolina

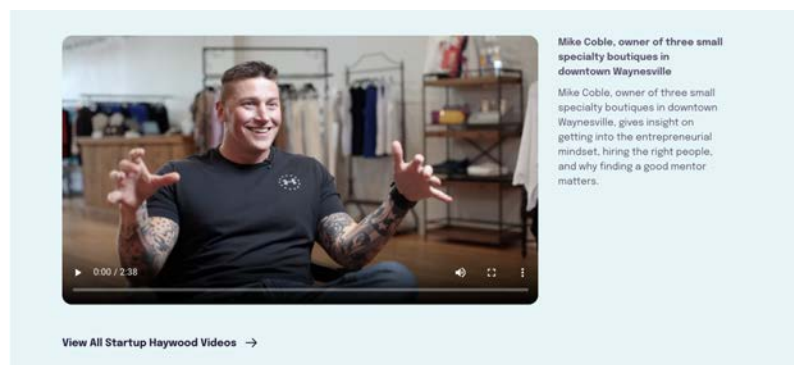
### Hyper-Local Portals →

Entrepreneurs across NC will easily access and plug into one of our **58 Supportedly Local websites** to access all our entrepreneur focused programs, events, spotlights, and more.



### E2E Advice →

Challenges, triumphs, and everything in between – our site will house **1,500+ videos** from real entrepreneurs.



### Local 1:1 Support →

Seasoned mentors from **58 NC Small Business Centers** are always standing by, and it's easy for those looking for business help and advice to get connected with their local SBC on our sites.

### Looking For Local Support? Haywood Community College Has It!

Did you know your local Small Business Center provides personalized support, training, and assistance—all for free? Seasoned mentors are standing by and can help you start or grow your business today!



#### Connect With Haywood Community College Small Business Center

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

We won't share your email, but we can't wait to share our newsletter with you. By clicking the button below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the [terms and conditions](#) and [privacy policy](#).

☐ I'm not a robot



Contact Your SBC

## COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Acceleration Program for North Carolina

### Community Events →

Our event calendar has all the can't-miss **networking opportunities** near you.

#### Plug In At One Of These Local Events

[See the Full Calendar →](#)

**How To Price Your Product Or Service**

Apr 29 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Digital

[Learn More](#)

**Sales And Use Tax**

May 04 @ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Digital

[Learn More](#)

**Sales And Use Tax**

May 04 @ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Digital

[Learn More](#)

### Training Courses →

Self-starters will find how-to courses on **essential business topics** every small business owner needs to know.

**Sales 102: How To Build Your First Sales Team**

Sales 102: How To Build Your First Sales Team

Free [Get Enrolled](#)

**Grant Writing for Your Small Business**

Webinar | Grant Writing For Your Small Business

Free [Get Enrolled](#)


**Using Squarespace to Build a Website**

Webinar | Using Squarespace To Build A Website

Free [Get Enrolled](#)

### Support Directory →


With the **largest entrepreneur resource directory** in the state, it's a breeze for entrepreneurs to find the support they need to boost their small business success.



**The Hurt Hub @ Davidson Coworking Community**  
Davidson, NC

The Hurt Hub @ Davidson exists to develop you into a stronger, more thoughtful, confident entrepreneur.

[Connections, Space & Tools](#)



**Coastal Carolina Community College Small Business Center Confidential Counseling**  
Jacksonville, NC

Free, Confidential Counseling To Assist You With Starting Or Growing A Business.

[Coaching](#)

**Search**

**Support Categories**

**Applies To Area**

**State**

**City**

☐ Include Small Business Centers


[Search Programs](#)

[Reset Filters](#)

### Content Repository →

Planning, starting, or growing – no matter where an entrepreneur is in their small business journey, we've got the right type of **how-to content** to push them ahead.


[Blog](#) [Podcasts](#) [Questions & Answers](#) [Videos](#)



Blog | Questions & Answers

**How To Hire An Independent Contractor/1099 Employee**


[Read More →](#)



Blog

**4 Strategies To Create Content That Gets Your Small Business Noticed**

[Read More →](#)



Blog

**How To Build Your First Sales Team (Pt. 1)**

[Read More →](#)



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**TOWN AND COUNTY**  
GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

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## **Executive Summary**

Town and County Government Solutions, acting as an independent contractor, conducted a review of Supportedly's digital entrepreneur support network, organization, and mission (collectively Supportedly) to determine if Supportedly may be eligible for funding through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), as provided for in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

Our findings indicate Supportedly is eligible for support with SLFRF. This conclusion was reached by analyzing the following factors.

### *Supportedly's mission and user base:*

- 1) Supportedly's mission is to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing training, support, and fostering connections through its proprietary and dedicated digital entrepreneur support network<sup>1</sup>.
- 2) Relative to the population of entrepreneurs in the United States, Supportedly's user base is over represented by those from disadvantaged communities, such as racial minorities, young adults, and women.<sup>2</sup>
- 3) Small businesses who receive assistance through initiatives such as Supportedly's have a higher record of success.<sup>3</sup>

### *SLFRF's uses and goals:*

- 1) One of the potential uses of SLFRF is to "respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts" by providing assistance to "small businesses" and "impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality."<sup>4</sup>
- 2) Further, the SLFRF's Interim Final Rule "aims to promote and streamline the provision of assistance to individuals and communities in greatest need, particularly communities that have been historically disadvantaged and have experienced disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Supportedly Homepage](#)

<sup>2</sup> Internal Supportedly Survey Data

<sup>3</sup> Startup Genome, Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2018

<sup>4</sup> [U.S. Department of The Treasury, Interim Final Rule](#)

- 3) Such aid can be provided through, “Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.”<sup>5</sup>
- 4) Under the Compliance and Reporting Guidance, such aid can be classified under Expenditure Category 2.7: Job Training Assistance.

As detailed, given Supportedly’s mission and user base, as well as the intended uses of SLFRF, Supportedly can be an eligible recipient of these funds.

### **Supportedly’s Model**

Supportedly is built on the premise that at least half of new businesses fail within the first two years. As a result, Supportedly seeks to improve new business success rate by:<sup>6</sup>

- 1) Development of a one-of-a-kind channel, consisting of an online network of interconnected statewide and hyper-local community sites available to all.
- 2) Provide actionable content where users have access to the largest open-sourced collection of actionable, how-to entrepreneur instruction.
- 3) Build the largest free online community of everyday entrepreneurs where users can join, learn, and collaborate.
- 4) Develop connections so entrepreneurs can more easily find and apply critical support to improve their odds.

This is accomplished by partnering with a state and/or lead stakeholder (such as a community college); creating a statewide site; developing local community sites; creating local content; launching the Supportedly Network; attracting, building, and nurturing a community of entrepreneurs; and connecting entrepreneurs to the help and support necessary for success.<sup>6</sup>

On the surface, this appears to be a top down model. However, Supportedly’s model is instead built on the premise success comes from building local, grassroots connections in a community. In order to do this, Supportedly seeks to partner with public and/or nonprofit entities to facilitate the creation of this program.

Supportedly’s partnership with the public and/or nonprofit sector is vital. Supportedly is a for-profit business, as such, their mission would not be a typical candidate to receive public support. However, Supportedly seeks to provide ready-made solutions to help states and localities with small business growth and development. Supportedly’s services are designed to foster a community’s economic development.

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<sup>5</sup> [U.S. Department of The Treasury, Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Supportedly, About](#)



## **Business Owners in the United States**

As of 2018, there are 30.2 million small businesses in the United States. They account for nearly half of all employment in the United States, 99.9% of all businesses in the United States, and are responsible for two-thirds of net new jobs.<sup>7</sup> Small businesses are vital to the American economy.

However, what is the profile of business owners in the United States? As of this year, 20% are below the age of 35 with 42.7% between the ages of 35-54, 21.4% are foreign born, nearly 60% are male, and 28% are racial minorities.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, 40% of the American population is comprised of racial minorities, (Hispanics are excluded for the white population to ensure an accurate comparison), 13.6% are foreign born, and 50.8% are female.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore, business owners tend to be older, whiter, and more likely to be foreign born than the rest of the United States.

Further context can help understand business growth and development. Nonemployer businesses are firms where the owner is the sole worker of the company. Nonemployers account of 81.5% of small businesses in the United States. However, nonemployers account for only 3.1% of total receipts.<sup>8</sup> Owners of nonemployer small businesses are also more racially diverse, younger, more likely to be female, and slightly more likely to be foreign born. While nonemployers account for a large share of all small businesses but only a small share of the American economy, many successfully firms start as nonemployers.

## **Supportedly's User Demographics**

57% of Supportedly users are female, 25% are racial minorities, 60% are 25-54, and over 90% of the users who identified as minorities are women. Also, 13% are students and 63% identify as more than one group.<sup>2</sup> As a result, Supportedly users are more likely to be young and female than the average small business owner in the United States and are slightly less likely to be racial minorities.

## **Disparate Impacts of COVID-19**

### *Small Businesses*

A March 2021 report by the Small Business Administration outlined the severe economic harm brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially to industry sectors featuring a high portion of small businesses.

For example, the report found, "Supersectors with large shares of employment at small businesses before the pandemic experienced large decreases in employment. Leisure and hospitality had the largest decrease in employment, at 48 percent, and had the third largest small business share, at 61 percent. Miscellaneous services had the largest small business share, at 85

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<sup>7</sup> [U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, 2018 Small Business Profile](#)

<sup>8</sup> [U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, Business Ownership Demographics](#)

<sup>9</sup> [U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts, United States](#)

percent, and the third largest decrease in employment, at 22 percent.” It goes on to state, “Food services and drinking places had a high share of employment at small businesses, at 64 percent, and a large decrease in employment, at 48 percent.”<sup>10</sup>

Minority and female small business owners were particularly hard hit. “The total number of people who were self-employed and working declined by 20.2 percent between April 2019 and April 2020. The Hispanic group experienced a higher decline, at 26.0 percent. The highest declines were experienced by the Asian and Black groups, with a decline of 37.1 percent for the Asian group and 37.6 percent for the Black group.”<sup>10</sup>

### *Workers*

The economic harm of the COVID-19 pandemic was distributed unevenly. For example, a study by the Brookings Institution from September 2020 found “evidence that the labor market prospects of young workers have been particularly hard hit by the current economic downturn, and this is especially true for young Black and Hispanic workers and young workers with lower levels of education.”<sup>11</sup>

While this study may appear dated it notes, “Young workers are typically hard hit in recessions, and research suggests that entering the labor market during a recession has a negative impact on future earnings and job prospects.”<sup>11</sup> Without policy interventions, this trend may repeat for the COVID-19 economic recession.

Later research supports the findings of the Brookings Institution paper. A report produced by McKinsey & Company in March 2021 found, “The pandemic had a near-immediate effect on women’s employment. One in four women are considering leaving the workforce or downshifting their careers versus one in five men. While all women have been impacted, three major groups have experienced some of the largest challenges: working mothers, women in senior management positions, and Black women.” The report goes on to state “women’s jobs were found to be almost twice as vulnerable to the pandemic as men’s jobs.”<sup>12</sup>

In summary, young workers, racial minorities, and women experienced disproportionate economic harm as a result of the pandemic.

### **Conclusion**

As stated in the overview, Supportedly is well situated to ensure the post-pandemic economic recovery is equitable and reaches the most vulnerable. This is demonstrated by the fact Supportedly’s digital entrepreneur support network has a record of success, their user base is comprised of groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are underrepresented among small business owners, and small businesses as a whole have faced severe economic harm from the pandemic.

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<sup>10</sup> [U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small Businesses](#)

<sup>11</sup> [The Brookings Institution, Unemployment Among Young Workers During COVID-19](#)

<sup>12</sup> [McKinsey & Company, Seven Charts That Show COVID-19’s Impact on Women’s Employment](#)



SLFRF can be used to assist small businesses in their recovery, through training, technical assistance, and coaching – all of which are provided by Supportedly. Further, the SLFRF prioritizes assisting those groups most impacted by the pandemic, many of which have found value in the services offered by Supportedly.

As a result, in my independent determination, Supportedly is:

- Eligible to be supported by SLFRF
- Potentially a valuable use of funds for a state or community

### **About Town and County Government Solutions**

Town and County Government Solutions is an independent consulting firm specializing in the needs of small municipalities and rural county governments with a particular focus on the administration, compliance, and reporting of SLFRF. The firm was founded by Seth Higgins, who is experienced in municipal and county government as well as public policy design and implementation.

This report was prepared on September 27, 2021.

# **Florida College System Council of Presidents**

## **Agenda Item Request Form**

**Agenda Item Name:** FCSAA Report

**Date of COP Meeting for Agenda Item Consideration:** January 20, 2022

**Presenter:** Dr. John Avendano and Ms. Kelly Warren

**Description of Agenda Item:** FCSAA Updates

**Action Requested:**

**COP Approval:** N/A

**Information Only:** General Updates

**Discussion Items:** N/A

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**Disposition of Item:**

# Florida College System Activities Association

## Report to the Council of Presidents

January 20, 2022

### Athletic Division Updates

**Athletics Reconferencing:** The CAA e-board has chosen not to send forward a revised reconferencing proposal for this meeting. Instead, they would like to attend the February COP Professional Development meeting to make a presentation on reconferencing to discuss why some options are more sustainable and better for the state as a region. I'm working with Dr. Avendano to be placed on the February PD agenda.

**COVID Cancellations:** We have been seeing a fair number of basketball game cancellations due to COVID positives. Each conference is working to get those games rescheduled as best as possible, focusing on rescheduling conference games first.

### Academic Division Updates

**Brain Bowl:** Due to COVID challenges continuing to affect participation, the Brain Bowl division will likely not hold regional tournaments again this year. The state tournament is scheduled for March 24-26 at the College of Central Florida. *The Brain Bowl State Advisors are Dr. Asha Brunings, Santa Fe College, and Chris Borglum, Valencia College.*

**Forensics:** The state tournament is scheduled for February 4-5. Previously scheduled for Tallahassee Community College, it will now be virtual based on the request of the coaches. *The Forensics State Advisor is John Schultz, Tallahassee Community College.*

**Model United Nations:** The Florida College System Model United Nations virtual conference is scheduled for February 25. This is a new event for the division. Event description: "FCSMUN is a training Model United Nations conference for students within the Florida College System. Both first-time and experienced delegates will benefit from the experience of practicing their skills in position paper research and writing, following committee procedures, giving speeches, building consensus within blocs, and writing resolutions. The conference will be offered virtually and free of charge its first year. We hope this new conference provides a valuable addition to the state college's Model UN programs and can help prepare your delegates to succeed in any other conferences you might attend." *The Model UN State Advisor is Dr. Tom Waller, Tallahassee Community College.*

**Music:** The full Winter Music Symposium that was scheduled for January 20-22 has been cancelled due to host Stetson University's covid tier status limiting group gathering size. The division is moving forward with the Student Artist Competition portion virtually as we did last year. *The Music State Advisor is Dr. Robyn Bell, State College of Florida.*

**Publications:** The Publications Division has rescheduled their Florida College System Press Association annual conference from February 10-12 to March 31-April 2. Hillsborough Community College, Ybor Campus, is hosting. *The Publications State Advisor is Manolo Barco, Miami Dade College.*

**Student Government:** The Student Government Division is currently scheduled for region-based in person leadership workshops February 11, with a virtual statewide component. Hosts are:

Region 1: Northwest Florida State College  
Region 2: St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus  
Region 3: Eastern Florida State College, Melbourne Campus  
Region 4: Miami Dade College, North Campus

*The Student Government State Advisor is Kerry Roth, Florida State College at Jacksonville.*

**Theater:** Theater programs continue to be very creative in how they bring theater to their communities during a pandemic. Hats off to our theater directors! The FCSAA respondent program remains active.  
*The Theater State Advisor is Alex Kanter, Indian River State College.*

## Updated Spring Calendar 2022

Jan. 20-22	CANCELLED - FCSAA Winter Music Symposium, Stetson University Student Artist Competition proceeding virtually via HeartsOut App
Feb. 4-5	FCSAA State Forensics Tournament, Zoom
Feb. 11	FCSSGA Leadership Conference, region programs in person with statewide virtual component
March 2-5	FCSAA State/NJCAA Region 8 Basketball Tournaments, NWFSC
March 24-26	FCSAA State Brain Bowl Tournament, College of Central Florida (Tentative)
March 31-April 2	FCSAA Press Association Conference, Hillsborough Community College-Ybor
April 8-9	FCSSGA Year End Conference/Elections, Daytona State College
April 14-16	FCSAA State/NJCAA Region 8 Tennis Tournament, Sanlando Park, Altamonte
May 6-8	FCSAA Baseball State Tournament Semi-Finals, Locations TBA
May 6-9	FCSAA State/NJCAA District Softball Tournament, Soldiers Creek Park, Longwood
May 12-15	FCSAA State/NJCAA District Baseball Tournament Finals, Lakeland
May 19-20	Council for Athletic Affairs Spring Meeting, Daytona State College
May 25	Spring FCSAA Steering Committee Meeting, Tampa
May 26	Spring FCSAA Executive Committee Meeting, Tampa
June 14-16	FCSSGA Summer Advisors' Workshop, Location TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Warren, FCSAA Executive Director