

Celebrating Juneteenth

Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth Day in North Carolina, honoring the oldest known commemoration of the abolition of slavery in the United States. "As we celebrate Black heritage, history and



freedom, it's critical that we also take this opportunity to both celebrate the progress we've made and accept the challenge we still face to achieve true racial equality," said Governor Cooper. "By addressing the systemic racism that has been in our communities for centuries, we can create a more just and equitable future."

Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas

and announced the news of freedom, reaching some of the last enslaved men and women in the United States. Despite over 150 years of progress since the abolition of slavery, Black communities still face economic, institutional, and social barriers.

In June 2020, Gov. Cooper established the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force to address the longstanding, systemic disparities in communities of color. He also created the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice to acknowledge and eliminate systemic racial bias in criminal justice.

Read the Governor's Proclamation.

State Government Leaders Set Vision

Governor Cooper along with state leaders, including Department of Administration Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell and HUB Director Tammie Hall, met in June to set the vision for the next three years. The vision includes working towards a more open and transparent state



government, recognizing systemic practices that have been barriers to success, and further incorporating the inclusion of HUB businesses. State leaders are working to create impactful and lasting changes in 2021 for the betterment of North Carolina.

Black Business Forum



In conjunction with Juneteenth, the Black Business Forum was held on June 25th. The half-day session was presented by ResilNC, NC Department of Administration, Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, and State of North Carolina. Governor Cooper, ResilNC and HUB Director Tammie Hall, alongside industry leaders in entrepreneurship, finance, and advisory services, provided insight and direction on subjects to propel black businesses back into the workforce in 2021. The topics included:

- * Access to Capital: The Right Capital at the Right Time
- Contract Academy: Selling to Government & Corporate Supply Chains
- * State of Play for Underestimated Entrepreneurs across the State

"The state's Black businesses still do not get their fair share of work from state agencies. To achieve equitable business outcomes in NC, state and local governments must renew their commitment to equitable procurement statewide, via our largest public-sector budgets. The stronger the commitments, the lower the hurdles to access, the better the outcomes will be." - ResilNC

Thank you to all who participated! Find out more about <u>ResilNC</u>.

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NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES

The Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses would like to welcome our certified vendors from June 2021!

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