



CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

## Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion

July 15, 2020

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His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor of the State of New Hampshire  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

We, the members of the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion ("the Council"), write to lift up a letter sent to you recently by Deogratias Mwano on behalf of Black, Brown, immigrant, and other minority-owned businesses. We share his concerns that the short application period along with limited outreach to minority communities likely contributed to many, otherwise eligible, minority-owned businesses from applying for funding through the Main Street Relief Fund.

As Mr. Mwano's letter points out, gaps in outreach and inclusion of minority-owned businesses, even when unintentional, harm the potential for success of New Hampshire's diverse communities. Minority-owned businesses provide resources, services, opportunities for success, and a sense of community and belonging that may cease to be available should those businesses be lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. That loss, particularly of community and belonging, may, in the long term, cause members of those communities to feel less welcome or less at home living in New Hampshire.

Part of creating a more diverse and inclusive Granite State includes the need for outreach to inform and include minority communities and businesses in opportunities available to all Granite Staters. We understand, that the COVID-19 Equity Response Team plans to address these concerns in greater detail.

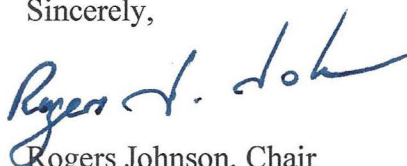
Other states have taken similar approaches for provide support for women and minority-owned businesses. For example, Vermont allocated five million dollars for women and minority-owned

businesses.<sup>1</sup> Vermont also identified community partners to assist those businesses with the application process.<sup>2</sup>

We encourage you to consider Mr. Mwano's requests, the Equity Response Team's recommendations, and how the Governor's Office for Economic Relief and Recovery may allocate CARES Act relief funds to support New Hampshire's diverse population, including its minority-owned businesses. A copy of Mr. Mwano's letter is attached for your further consideration.

The Council stands ready to provide you with any further assistance or consultation that may be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rogers Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rogers Johnson, Chair  
Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity  
and Inclusion

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<sup>1</sup> <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/economic-recovery-grants> (last visited July 14, 2020);  
[https://women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/pdf/VIEW\\_Economic\\_Recovery\\_Grants\\_for\\_Minority\\_Women\\_Owned\\_Businesses.pdf](https://women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/pdf/VIEW_Economic_Recovery_Grants_for_Minority_Women_Owned_Businesses.pdf) (last visited July 14, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/economic-recovery-grants/faqs#are-there-any-resources-for-women-and-minority-owned-businesses-to-get-technical-assistance-in-preparing-their-application> (last visited July 14, 2020).