



POPULATION

121K



RACE/ETHNICITY

62% White

15% Black or African American

3% Asian

5% Two or More Races

53% Hispanic or Latino

WEALTH AND ACCESS TO CREDIT

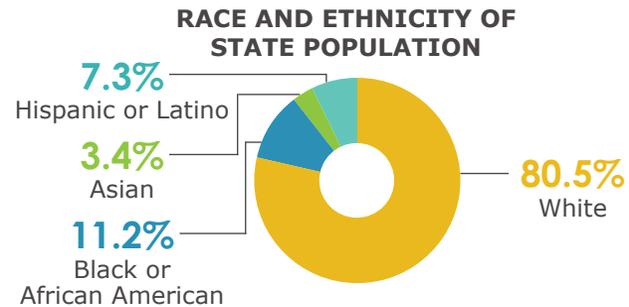
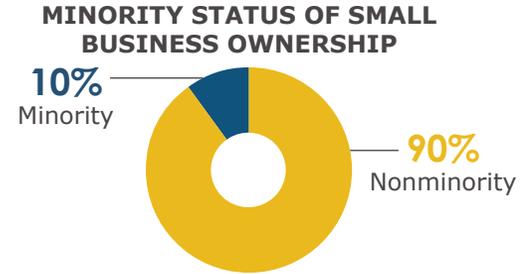
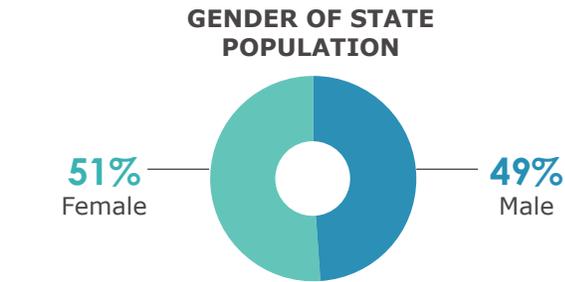
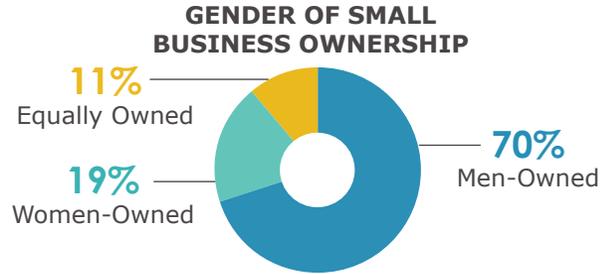
\$28K

 Median Debt

75% Residents with Debt

23% Residents with Student-Loan Debt

STATE LEVEL DATA FOR PENNSYLVANIA



MAP



“Our work centers on supporting those who have been historically overlooked, underfunded, and economically impacted by the pandemic and systemic racism so that all residents can benefit from an inclusive, equitable plan for recovery.”

Megan Briggs
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, *cohort lead*



COMMUNITY NARRATIVE

Allentown is Pennsylvania’s third-largest city and one of the areas of the state that keeps growing. As noted in the city’s 10-year [Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan](#) completed in 2019, its population has increased by almost 14 percent since 2000. Foreign-born residents now make up nearly 17 percent of the total population, and the Hispanic and Latino community has more than doubled. However, leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors remain predominantly White, creating significant disparity in how resident groups are represented. This lack of diversity affects important community decisions — from housing and transportation needs to equal access to services and amenities. It also impacts small business opportunities and support, particularly for minority business owners, who often feel disconnected from community leaders and lenders.

COMMUNITY GOALS

Support and Access

Securing support for Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)-owned businesses, such as access to loans

Centering the best interests of BIPOC-owned businesses

Building Relationships

Cultivating relationships with key decision makers

Building rapport with potential funders

Systems Change

Increasing representation in key decision-making roles

Breaking down barriers to program and resources

PARTNERS

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Learn more about the Reinventing Our Communities (ROC) Cohort Program
www.philadelphiafed.org/roc-cohort-program

