



## POPULATION

**520K**



## RACE/ETHNICITY

**85%** White

**6%** Black or African American

**6%** Asian

**2%** Two or More Races

**7%** Hispanic or Latino

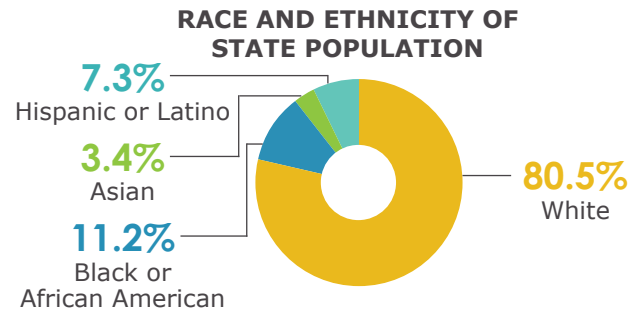
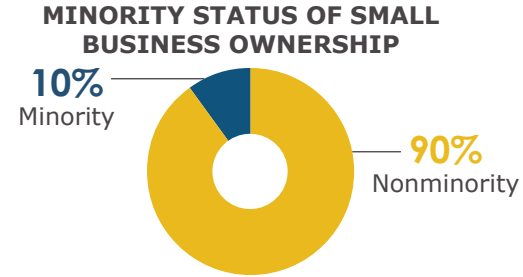
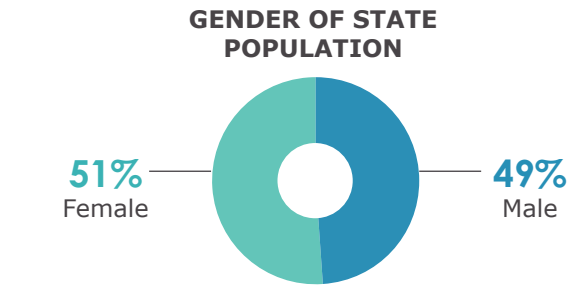
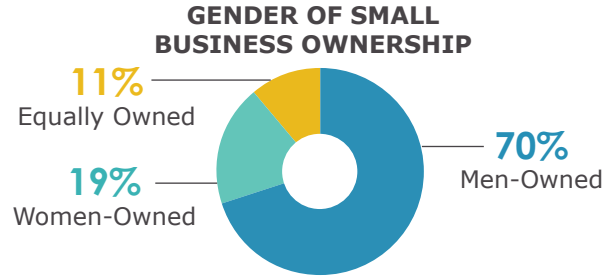
## WEALTH AND ACCESS TO CREDIT

**\$28K** Median Debt

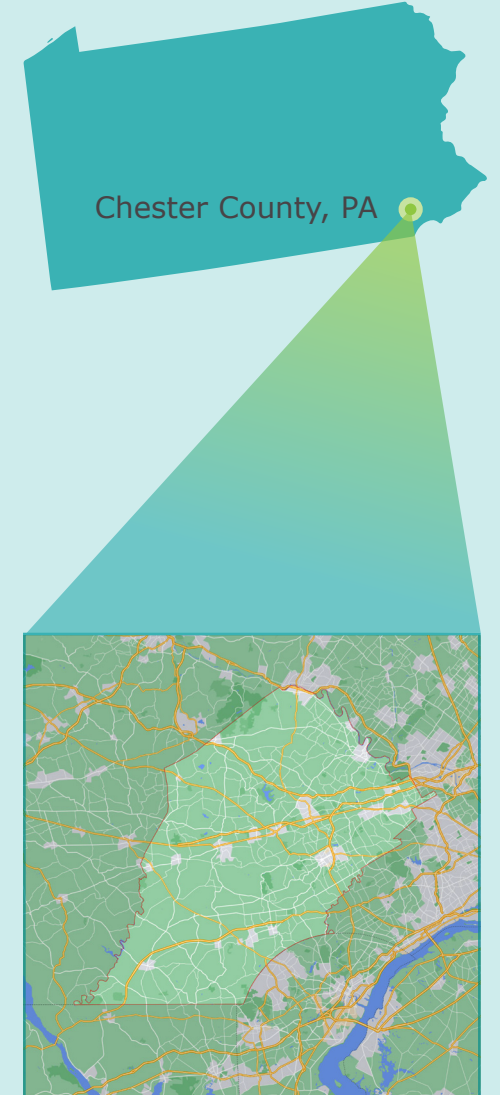
**74%** Residents with Debt

**25%** Residents with Student-Loan Debt

## STATE LEVEL DATA FOR PENNSYLVANIA



## MAP



Now is the time to take advantage of an openness to change because of the pandemic. Our county is a resilient community, and our aim is to explore equity issues that have long existed and help educate business and community leaders to build stronger and more inclusive community wealth.

**Karen Simmons**  
Chester County Community  
Foundation, *President/CEO*

**Hugh Bleemer**  
Chester County Community  
Foundation, *cohort lead*



## COMMUNITY NARRATIVE

Chester County is known for lush farmlands, rolling hills, and preserved open spaces. It is home to more than 500,000 residents and serves as a tech hub and headquarters for many innovative industries in southeastern Pennsylvania, including finance, education, energy, and others. Many tourists visit the region's unique historic, cultural, and equestrian attractions. Located between Philadelphia and Wilmington, DE, Chester is consistently among the top-rated places to live in the United States. Through the ROC program, Chester has an opportunity to create initiatives that enable more diverse small business ownership and support financing and growth. The pandemic has highlighted disparities within Chester County, and attention remains focused on social justice issues. Now is our opportunity for increased communication, understanding, and partnerships that promote more equitable access to community-wide opportunity.

## COMMUNITY GOALS

### Support and Access

Enhance understanding of equity issues among business and nonprofit leaders, and establish a shared commitment toward addressing them

### Building Relationships

Engage with partners in all sectors who are eager to develop more inclusive workforces and create learning opportunities for others

### Systems Change

Expand the availability of resources for small business and entrepreneurs of color in support of more inclusive growth and community wealth

## PARTNERS

**Hugh Bleemer**, Chester County Community Foundation

**Shaun Bollig**, Chester County Department of Community Development

**Vanessa Briggs**, Brandywine Health Foundation

**Guy Ciarrocchi, Esq.**, Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry

**Mike DeHaven**, Chester County Community Foundation

**Mike Grigalonis**, Chester County Economic Development Council

**Alice Hammond**, West Chester NAACP

**Tamela Luce**, Phoenixville Community Health Foundation

**Jamison Ludgate**, Chester County Community Foundation

**Honorable Josh Maxwell**, Chester County Commissioner

**Angeline May**, Women Willpower

**Cathy Moran**, West Chester NAACP

**Timmy Nelson**, Community Volunteer

**Jeannette Roman**, Chester County Department of Community Development

**Karen Simmons**, Chester County Community Foundation

**Marrea Walker-Smith**, Chester County Economic Development Council

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

