



October 7, 2026

Dear Partner:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Members of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) for your support of our 2027 Calendar of Events. We are forever grateful and honored to have forged relations with so many that remain committed to advancing the mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc. As we look forward to our upcoming 20th Anniversary on June 15, 2027, we ask you to consider joining us in our efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of the state of New Jersey through intentional equitable strategies on behalf of the 124,000 black owned businesses and the 1.8 million black New Jerseyans.

Executive Summary

The AACCNJ is a 501c3 non-profit organization that empowers and sustains Black businesses and communities across the state through entrepreneurship and capitalistic initiatives. The AACCNJ, the only chamber in New Jersey (out of 154 local chambers) which has been accredited as a Chamber with Distinction by the United States Chamber of Commerce. There are approximately 7,000 chambers in the United States of which only 3 percent (194) are accredited. The AACCNJ is the only accredited chamber in the U.S. I am also a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC).

The AACCNJ has received both regional and national recognition for its execution of its mission: The AACCNJ is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African American communities and businesses through entrepreneurship and free enterprise initiatives, and workforce and youth enrichment programs, throughout the state of New Jersey and through its partnership with the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (NBCC).

The mission of the AACCNJ is critically important to the competitiveness of New Jersey through its advocacy and positioning of Black Business Owners and Black People for their equitable participation in the economy of New Jersey.

Your sponsorship investment will allow the AACCNJ the opportunity to expand its programs and services, increase its membership and outreach, and strengthen its impact on the economic and social well-being of Black businesses and communities in New Jersey.

Disparities Facing the Black Community

Black businesses and communities in New Jersey face significant challenges and disparities that hinder their growth and prosperity. According to the latest data:

- The poverty rate for African Americans in New Jersey is 16.5% versus 6.5% for whites.
- New Jersey's median net worth for Black households is \$20,000 versus \$660,000 for white households.
- New Jersey's median net worth for Black individuals is \$4,900 versus \$103,500 for white individuals.
- The median income for New Jersey's Black households is \$61,000 versus \$100,600 for white households.

- The rate of homeownership for African Americans in New Jersey is 41.7% versus 77% for whites.
- The rate of New Jersey's African American residents with retirement savings accounts is 37.7% versus 56.1% for whites.
- The rate of African Americans in New Jersey with student loan debt is 25.3% versus 16% for white individuals.
- 93 percent of New Jersey's Black business owners are sole proprietorships.

These statistics reflect the systemic barriers and inequities that Black businesses and communities face in accessing capital, competing for contracts, education, health care, and other resources that are essential for economic empowerment and social mobility.

The AACCNJ was created to address these challenges and disparities by providing a platform for New Jersey's Black business leaders to speak with a collective voice, advocate and promote economic diversity, and foster a climate of business growth through major initiatives. The AACCNJ is dedicated to creating economic equity in public and private sector opportunities, fair representation in governmental policy and sustainable job development for Black communities throughout the state.

Accomplishments and Impact

Since its inception in 2007, the AACCNJ has achieved several accomplishments and made a positive impact on the Black business ecosystem and the broader community in New Jersey.

Some of the highlights include:

- Establishing a strong and diverse network of over 800 Black-owned businesses, ranging from small to large enterprises, across various industries and sectors engaged in programming and networking opportunities.
- Developed and implemented public policy strategies and advocacy campaigns to advance the interests and needs of over 124,000 Black businesses and 1.2 million Black New Jerseyans and underserved communities at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Partnering with public and private entities, such as the NJ Economic Development Agency, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New Jersey Business & Industry, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, South Jersey Chamber of Commerce and Morris County Chamber of Commerce, to facilitate access to contracts, procurement, financing, and other opportunities for Black businesses.
- Organized and hosted networking events, educational workshops, webinars with Government Agencies, Non-Profit Executives and corporate leaders representing financial services, maritime, venture capital, education, and technology.
- Collaborating with other Black Chambers of Commerce and business associations, such as the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the US Chamber of Chambers to leverage best practices, share insights, and amplify the collective voice of Black businesses nationwide.

Jacqueline Baptiste, Executive Advisor & Brand Ambassador, and I would be happy to schedule a meeting, at your convenience, to answer any questions or provide any additional information. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM
Founder, President, and CEO