



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

WHEREAS, National Small Business Week is a nationwide celebration that recognizes the vital contributions that entrepreneurs and small business owners make to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains the best state in the nation to start a small business because of Florida's, business-friendly environment, low taxes, and investments in workforce development and vital infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, Florida's strategic investments in workforce education and site-ready infrastructure projects will benefit generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Florida's economy continues to thrive as the state leads the nation with more than 2.9 million new business formations since Governor DeSantis took office in January 2019, and – in 2024 alone – 163,992 new businesses have formed in Florida, more than any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Florida also has the fourteenth largest global economy, the fourth-best tax climate, and an AAA credit rating with the lowest debt per capita in the U.S and, to nurture this growth, Florida will continue to make strategic investments in workforce development and infrastructure enhancements; and

WHEREAS, Florida is the first large state to hit U.S. Treasury guidelines and secure nearly \$172 million in additional business loan funds for the State Small Business Credit Initiative 2.0 (SSBCI); and


WHEREAS, in just one year, Florida provided more than \$149 million in loans and venture capital investments for small business to 105 Florida small businesses stimulating more than \$554 million in private capital that has created or retained nearly 3,830 jobs for Floridians; and

WHEREAS, of Florida's 529,072 private sector businesses, 99.7 percent are small businesses with fewer than 500 employees, which represents 56.9 percent of the state's total private sector employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 28 – May 4, 2024, as *National Small Business Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 28th day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-four.



Governor