

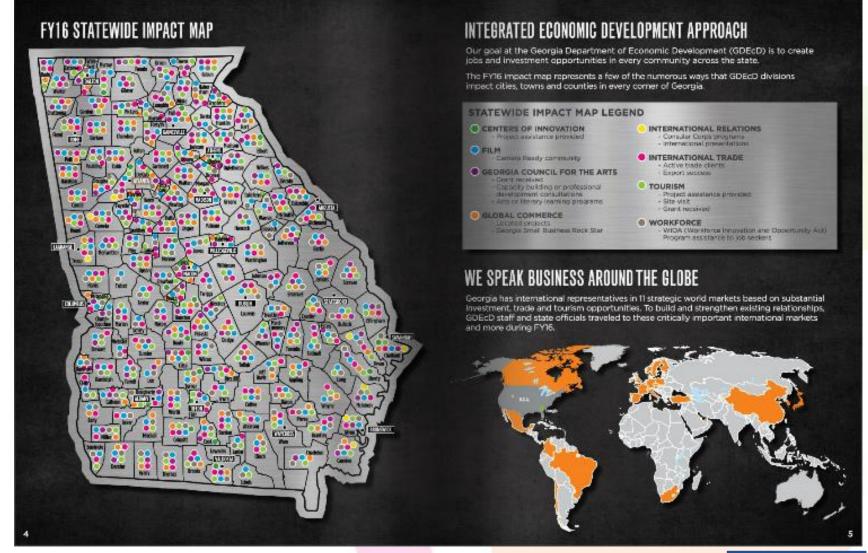
# engaging small businesses in procurement activities



# Georgia Department of Economic Development

- WHO WE ARE: The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the marketing and sales arm of the State of Georgia
- WHAT WE DO: Strategically deliver economic development throughout the state by:
  - Attracting new business investment
  - Supporting the expansion of existing industry and small businesses
  - Locating new markets for Georgia products
  - Attracting tourists from within and outside the state
  - Promoting Georgia as a desirable location for entertainment businesses and projects







## Georgia ranks . . .

- #1 in US for best state for business-4<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year (Site Selection Magazine)
- Georgia scores an "A" for Small Businesses Friendliness (Thumbtack.com)
- Georgia ranks #9 for Most Entrepreneurial State; #1 Average of SBA Loans; #5 in Highest Growth in Number of SBA Loans (Nerdwallet)
- Top Five for best environment for small business and entrepreneurs (Thumbtack.com)
- Georgia ranks #4 in US for best environment for small business and entrepreneurs and earned an A- grade for overall friendliness to small business (*Thumbtack.com*)
- #2 for fastest growth in number of women-owned firms and #2 for highest number of black-owned firms (American Express OPEN)
- Georgia ranks #5 in US for top state for business and #2 in workforce (CNBC)
- Georgia ranks #1 in US as a top exporting state (Trade & Economic Analysis)
- GDEcD ranks #1 'best in class' state-level economic development agency in US (IEDC)



### What is a small business?

- There are more than 660,000 entities registered in Georgia (Georgia Secretary of State's Office)
- The Department of Labor has employment (this data is from companies who pay unemployment insurance totally different benchmarks than SOS) information on approximately 298,000 businesses
- 99.8% have less than 500 employees
  - SBA's definition of a "small business"
- 97.6% have less than 100 employees
- 94.6% have less than 50 employees
- 77.7% have less than 10 employees



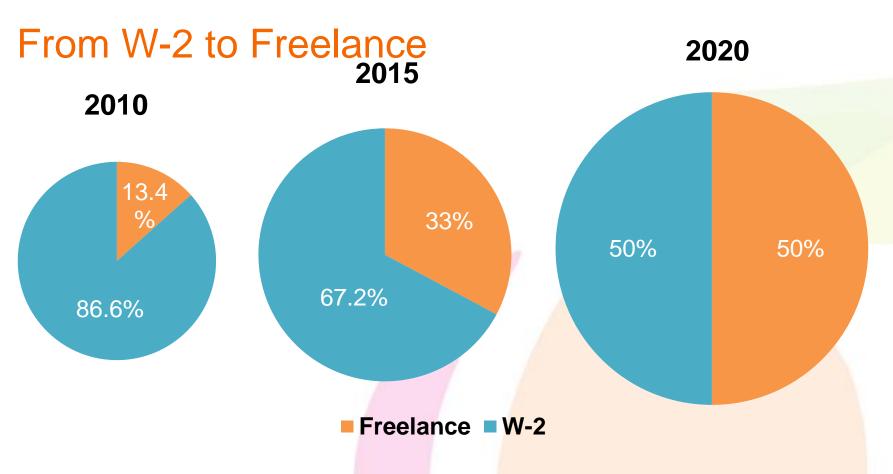
# gig e·con·o·my

noun

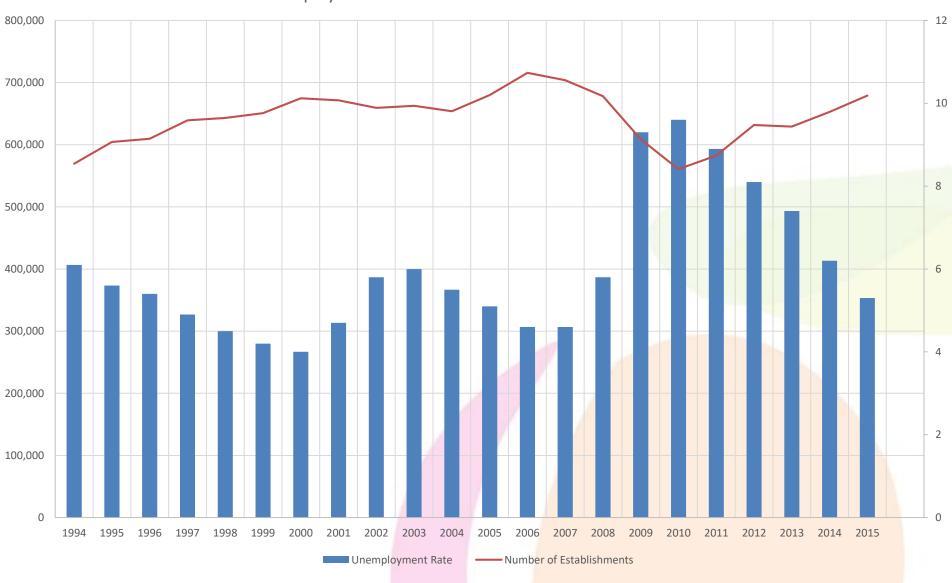
a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.

"working in the gig economy means constantly being subjected to last-minute scheduling"





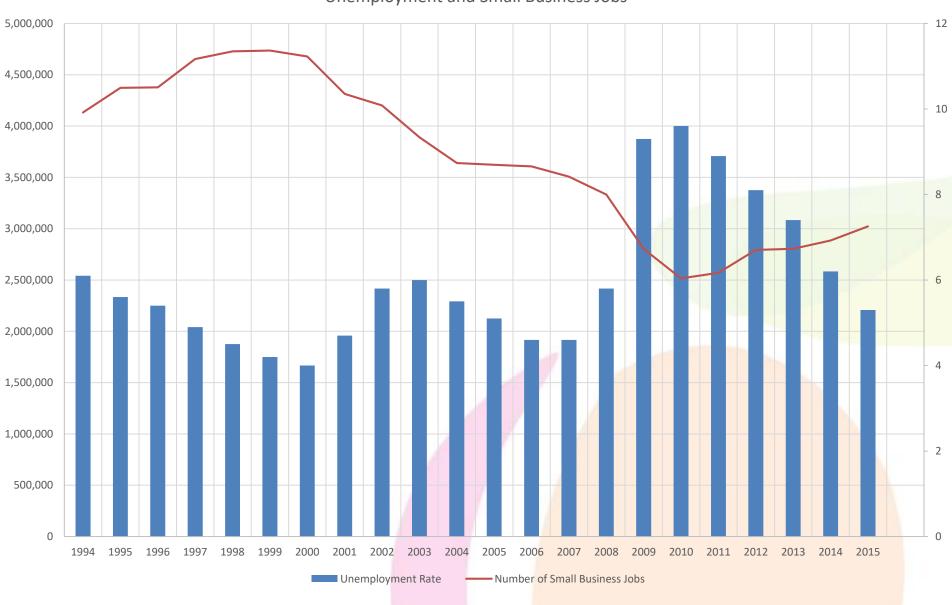
#### Unemployment Rate and Number of Small Business Firms



#### Establishments and Jobs



#### Unemployment and Small Business Jobs





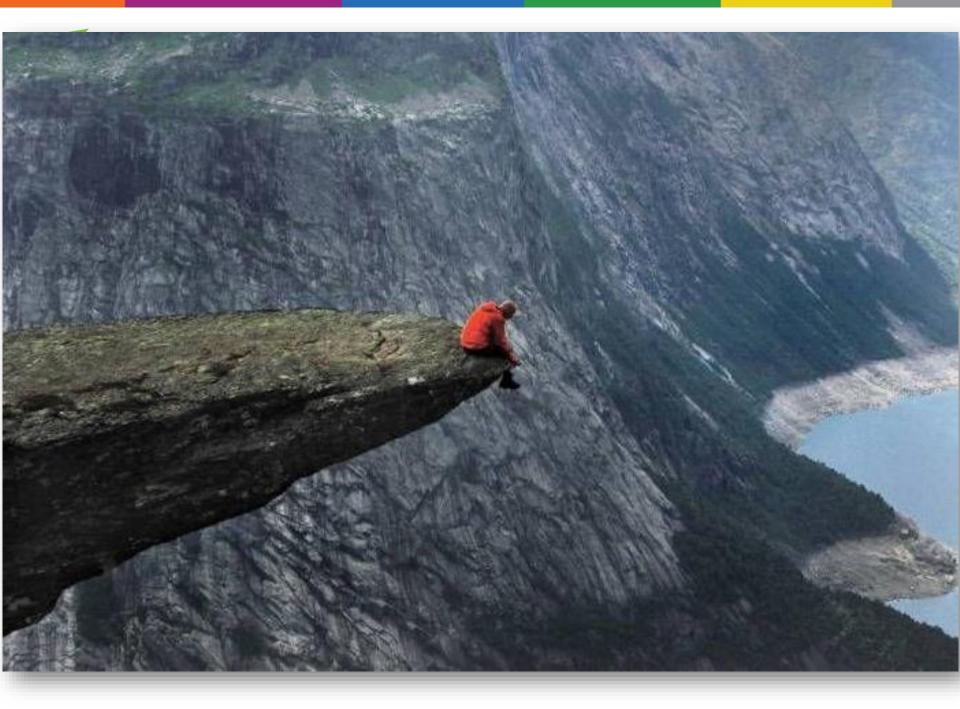
# Why is important to support small businesses?

- According to the 3/50 Project, for every \$100 worth of goods and services your agency buys:
  - If you spend that with an independently-owned small business, \$68 stay within the local community;
  - If you spend that same \$100 with a national chain retail outlet, only \$43 stay within the community; and
  - If you click the "Buy Now" button, \$0 stay within the community (except for sales tax).



#### Resources to assist small businesses

- University of Georgia Small Business Development Center
- Georgia Tech Procurement Services
- Small Business Administration/SCORE
- Georgia Department of Economic Development,
  Entrepreneur and Small Business Office





# What do entrepreneurs want to Know?





#### Direct services to small companies

One-On-One Contact

Tax credits, resources, connections

Tourism, Arts, Film, Music

Export assistance

Centers of Innovation



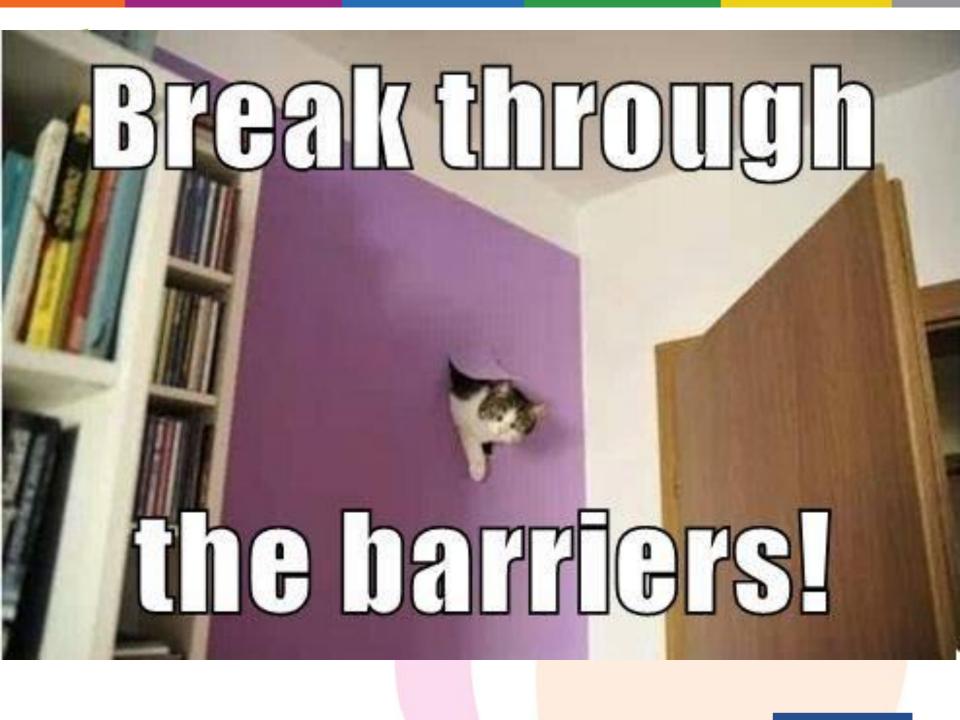
Marketing





### Certifications to assist small businesses

- Disadvantaged Businesses Enterprise
- Minority Business Enterprise
- Woman Business Enterprise





## The questions we should ask ourselves are:

- What do small business owners do on a daily basis;
- How easy is it for small businesses to engage us;
- Are we acting as gatekeepers or facilitators for contract opportunities for small businesses?



### What is it like to be a small business owner?

- Entrepreneurs fill many roles in their business:
  - Manufacturing/Distribution/Logistics
  - Maintenance/Repair
  - Marketing/Sales
  - Human Resources
  - Accounting
  - Counselor
  - Advocate



# How easy is it for small businesses to engage us?

- More prominent links to DOAS Procurement Opportunities on websites
  - One Click, That's All link to Procurement Opportunities
  - "Do Business with..."
- Increased partnerships with local partners, such as Chamber of Commerce, Development Authorities, Cities/Counties and other local/regional entities that utilize DOAS for procurement services
- Listing of upcoming DOAS Supplier Webinars and Events on www.georgia.org/small business and social media channels



#### Solutions for the future

- Team Georgia Marketplace
  - Continue to promote and educate known providers about Team Georgia marketplace
  - Encourage and assist known providers with registering with the Team Georgia Marketplace
- Amazon is a known provider
  - Search by company name for required purchases
  - Remember the 3/50 Project, and shop small and at home when you can
- One final thought...





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