



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

AEO Communications

Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO)

communications@aeoworks.org

www.aeoworks.org

AEO Celebrates Milestone of 19 Million Business Incorporations, CEO Reaffirms Commitment to Supporting Entrepreneurial Growth

Washington, DC, August 15, 2024 – The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), the leading voice of innovation in microbusiness and microfinance in the United States, is proud to recognize the significant achievement of 19 million business incorporations across the nation, [as reported by the White House](#). This historic milestone underscores the resilience and innovation of American entrepreneurs, particularly in the face of unprecedented challenges over recent years.

Under the leadership of Natalie Madeira Cofield, President & CEO of AEO, the organization has remained steadfast in its mission to create economic opportunities for underserved entrepreneurs. This record number of incorporations reflects not only the entrepreneurial spirit that fuels our economy but also the critical need for continued support and resources to ensure these businesses thrive.

“Today, we celebrate a remarkable achievement in the entrepreneurial landscape of our nation,” said Natalie Madeira Cofield, President & CEO of AEO. “19 million incorporations

is more than just a number; it represents the dreams, aspirations, and hard work of millions of Americans who have chosen to pursue their entrepreneurial vision. These businesses are the backbone of our economy, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering community resilience.”

AEO's Position on Record Business Incorporations

The record 19 million business incorporations serve as a powerful testament to the entrepreneurial dynamism that defines America. However, while the number of new businesses is impressive, the journey from incorporation to long-term success requires more than just determination. It requires access to capital, technical assistance, mentorship, and a supportive policy environment that enables businesses to grow and scale.

At AEO, we believe that every entrepreneur deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. As we celebrate this milestone, we also renew our commitment to advocating for policies and programs that provide the necessary tools and resources for these businesses to thrive. This includes ensuring equitable access to capital, expanding technical assistance programs, and fostering a business ecosystem that supports innovation and inclusivity.

“We must recognize that while the number of incorporations is a positive indicator, it is just the beginning of the journey for many entrepreneurs,” added Cofield. “AEO will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that these 19 million businesses have the support they need to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable success.”

As the nation continues to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, AEO remains dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs, particularly those from underserved communities, to build successful businesses that contribute to the economic health of their communities and the nation as a whole.

For more information about AEO’s initiatives and how we are supporting entrepreneurs, please visit www.aeoworks.org or contact Renee Johnson at rjohnson@aeoworks.org. Or, to schedule an interview with Natalie Madeira Cofield, please contact Dawn Fong at dfong@aeoworks.org.

About the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO):

The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) is the leading voice of innovation in microbusiness and microfinance in the United States. AEO and its more than 1,700 member organizations are dedicated to empowering underserved entrepreneurs and enhancing economic opportunity for all. Since its founding, AEO has worked to create a robust ecosystem of support for microbusinesses, driving economic growth and equity across the nation. [Click here](#) for more information.

About Natalie Madeira Cofield:

Natalie Madeira Cofield is the President and CEO of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), the foremost national trade association representing microbusinesses and small enterprises. Cofield is an award-winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, political appointee, and economic activist with a robust track record of empowering small businesses and underserved communities. She has offered her expertise and strategic insights to prominent CEOs of billion-dollar organizations, senior advisors to the White House, mayors of major cities, and community leaders across the nation. Her contributions have earned her recognition as one of the most powerful women in business by Entrepreneur Magazine. [Click here](#) for more information.

###