

SBA Information Notice # 2000-838

The U.S. Small Business Administration is proud to join the Nation in commemorating Women's Equality Day.

In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, granting women the right to vote.

President Barack H. Obama has stated, "Today, women are nearly 50 percent of our workforce, the majority of students in our colleges and graduate schools, and a growing number of breadwinners in their families. From business to medicine to our military, women are leading the fields that were closed off to them only decades ago. We owe that legacy of progress to our mothers and aunts, grandmothers and great-grandmothers -- women who proved not only that opportunity and equality do not come without a fight, but also that they are possible. Even with the gains we have made, we still have work to do."

Women entrepreneurs are among the fastest growing groups of business owners. The number of women starting and owning businesses has increased dramatically over the last few decades.

Women are leaders in business, government, law, science, medicine, the arts, education, and many other fields. The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also recognizes women's continuing efforts toward full equality.