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**Workforce Boards Host the First Small Business Workforce Forum – Free Virtual Event  
Features NCWorks Small Business Services**

Washington, N.C. – Rivers East Workforce Development Board (REWDB) and NCWorks are partnering with nine other workforce boards to present North Carolina’s first virtual Small Business Workforce Forum on Thursday, January 26, from 10 am–12 pm. Participants will learn about no-cost resources and programs available to support the talent pipeline of North Carolina’s small business economy.

Olalah Njenga, CEO and Chief Strategist of Yellowwood Group and NCWorks Commission member said “For 20 years, I’ve run my company while helping other leaders run theirs. I know firsthand that workforce is the fuel that drives performance and profitability in small businesses. That’s why it is essential for small business owners to hire people who can help them solve tomorrow’s problems today.”

Jennie Bowen, Director at REWDB said “Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. Most large businesses started at some point as a small business. This forum will provide information on the many tools available to small businesses to help them sustain, grow, and thrive.”

North Carolina has 22 workforce development boards that oversee the NCWorks Career Center system. The 10 boards participating in the forum are Capital Area, Cape Fear, Charlotte Works, Eastern Carolina, Foothills, High Country, Mid-Carolina, Mountain Area, Piedmont Triad and Rivers East.

Attendees will go into virtual breakout rooms following the initial presentation to engage with the business services specialists that serve their counties. Attendees whose counties aren’t represented can attend the session of a neighboring county.

Click [here](#) to see the counties associated with each workforce board.

Individuals can register for the event [here](#).

The board's office is located at 1502 N. Market St., Suite A in Washington. For more information, call (252) 974-1815.

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