

## WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

A chamber of commerce is a group of business people who show up for their town. They open doors for new businesses. They create pathways from school to local jobs, and from those jobs to lasting careers. They are community organizations that bring neighbors together to fix problems no one person can fix alone. And they plan for what comes next.

## WHO'S BEHIND THE CHAMBER?

Local business leaders are at the heart of every chamber. They volunteer their time and invest their resources and expertise to strengthen the place they call home. Working with professional chamber staff, they provide leadership, solve problems and build consensus on the issues that matter most. That work extends across the community. Chambers work with community leaders, nonprofits, educators and elected officials to bring different perspectives to the table and move important priorities forward.

**90%**

of Americans feel that their local chamber has an impact on growing the local economy.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT DOES A CHAMBER DO?

Chambers provide local leadership that strengthens the economy and addresses the challenges that affect a community's future. They identify priorities, build consensus and work across business, government and the community to solve problems.

Here is some of what chambers do:

Advocate for policies that strengthen the economy.

Help every employer grow and succeed.

Connect employers to talent and people to jobs.

Attract residents, visitors, businesses and investment.

Build consensus to solve community challenges.

Develop local leaders and plan for the future.

**NEARLY 3/4**

of Americans believe local chambers play a key role in addressing community challenges.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Harris Poll. (September 2024). "The Impact and Value of Chambers of Commerce."

## WANT PROOF?

Chambers step up where a community needs leadership, focus, and momentum the most. Hundreds of chambers lead efforts shaped to fit what their communities need. **Across the country, Chambers Change Things.**



### SOUTH CAROLINA

**OneSpartanburg, Inc.** in South Carolina made room for 197 more kids in day care. They did it with small grants to local providers, not by building anything new.



### OREGON

**The Bend Chamber** is helping working people purchase homes they can actually afford through ongoing zoning reform and loan grants designed for local workers.



### MICHIGAN

**The Grand Rapids Chamber** housed 100 people experiencing homelessness in 100 days for under \$500 per person.



### FLORIDA

**The Florida Chamber** Health Council's Mental Wellness Institute turns behavioral health research into real tools for employers and communities.



### TENNESSEE

The Nashville Area Chamber's **Partnership 2030**, backed by local investors, helps Middle Tennessee grow by creating good jobs, expanding affordable housing, and protecting the region's music, culture, and neighborhoods.



### UTAH

**The Salt Lake Chamber** is helping more local workers live near their jobs by speeding up workforce housing projects and keeping homes within reach for middle-income families.



Chambers Change Things is a national initiative by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) that highlights chambers across the U.S. for their contributions to local communities and businesses.

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the impact chambers of commerce make in their communities, visit [chamberschangethings.com](http://chamberschangethings.com) or email Will Burns at [wburns@acce.org](mailto:wburns@acce.org).

