

*Bringing People Together for Business*  
**JACKSON  
BUSINESS ACCELERATOR**

*excellence \* collaboration \* global vision \* technology*

JACKSON BUSINESS ACCELERATOR IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM OF NEW HORIZON MINISTRIES  
601-540-5415 \* [newhorizon@jacksonbusiness.net](mailto:newhorizon@jacksonbusiness.net) \* [www.jacksonbusiness.net](http://www.jacksonbusiness.net)

## ***PROFILE- JACKSON BUSINESS ACCELERATOR COLLABORATION***

The Jackson Business Accelerator Collaboration (J-BAC) seeks to strengthen the business development infrastructure and promote comprehensive community-based strategies and programs to significantly increase the quality, number, and size of businesses in Jackson, Mississippi by emphasizing collaboration and innovation.

Per most recent Census data as reported through the Minority Business Development Agency Report for Jackson MSA- 1997, African Americans were 43% of total metropolitan area population of 425,335, and owned 4,940 firms (15.55% of total); with a business participation rate of 27 per 1,000 for African Americans vs. 111 per 1,000 people for non-minorities in the Jackson MSA. Black owned firms generated annual sales of \$283.5 million, slightly over 1% of total MSA sales. This low number of sales clearly supports the need for additional entrepreneurship and business development in Jackson.

Applications for assistance are now being accepted from business owners as well as volunteers interested in providing services. Persons interested in business assistance, volunteering, or making a financial contribution are asked to contact Michael Harris, Program Manager. He can be reached at 1770 Ellis Ave.- Suite 100-PC, Jackson MS, 39204; by email at [newhorizon@jacksonbusiness.net](mailto:newhorizon@jacksonbusiness.net); or telephone 601-540-5415.

Entrepreneurs can't be created, managed, or directed. However, they can be identified, encouraged, and supported. By emphasizing strategies for collaboration, joint ventures, and other cooperative activities, businesses can import revenue into the area, not simply compete with each other for current revenue. This requires emphasizing building capacity for manufacturing, distribution, knowledge-based, and other industries with regional, national, or international potential.

A collaboration of over 40 businesses, government agencies, and organizations, J-BAC evolved from the South Jackson Business Assessment, a project of New Horizon Ministries Comprehensive Programs. Funded in September 2008 by the Mississippi Development Authority Minority and Small Business Division, Regions Bank, and the Wal-Mart Foundation, its purpose was to: 1) identify ways development agencies can better serve small businesses in Jackson; and 2) identify businesses interested in increasing entry level jobs for young adults in Jackson. Additional funding from the Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security and the Foundation for the Mid South allowed Jackson Business Accelerator Collaboration operations to begin in April of 2010.

***WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER!***