



Association for
Enterprise
Opportunity

Disability-Owned Business Fact Sheet

Roughly 23% of U.S. adults live with a disability, and they're more likely to become entrepreneurs than those without a disability, underscoring the need for an ecosystem that supports their success.



Business Owners

28% of entrepreneurs identify as having a disability or experience functional difficulties; of these, **2.6 million (8% of entrepreneurs)** have greater functional limitations.

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#)



Driving Job Creation

Entrepreneurs with disabilities are **more likely to have W-2 employees (40%)** than those without (27%). Among those with greater functional limitations, 41% (1M) are employers.

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#)



Economic Impact

Entrepreneurs with disabilities generated an estimated **\$493 billion in sales and receipts in 2024**; those with more significant limitations generated \$123 billion.

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#)



Leading in Entrepreneurship

Adults with disabilities are about **1.3 times more likely to be entrepreneurs** than those without — driven by both innovation and barriers in traditional workplaces.

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#); also see [NDI 2022](#)



Workplace Inclusion

Disability-owned businesses **hire people with disabilities at 10x the rate** of other companies.

Source: [Disability:IN](#)



Innovating with AI

Entrepreneurs with disabilities are **more than twice as likely to use generative AI** than those without disabilities (22% vs. 10%).

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#)



Mission & Community Focused

Entrepreneurs with disabilities prioritize community impact and are **more likely to be mission-driven** than other businesses (43% vs. 31%).

Source: [EPOP:2024 RUF](#)

Sources: Author's calculations using NORC at the University of Chicago [Entrepreneurship in the Population \(EPOP\) Survey Project Restricted Use Data File: 2024](#). Note: "Entrepreneurs with disabilities" refers to business owners who reported experiencing "a lot of difficulty" or being unable to do at all at least one activity such as seeing, hearing, walking or climbing, concentrating or remembering, washing or dressing, speaking, or doing errands. "Those with more significant limitations" refers specifically to individuals who indicated they cannot perform at least one of these activities at all.



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Disability-Owned Business Fact Sheet

Entrepreneurs with disabilities don't just start businesses — they drive local economies, build inclusive workplaces, and lead on innovation, even while facing steeper barriers to health coverage and essential support.



Health Coverage Gaps Force Closures

51% of former entrepreneurs without disabilities **closed their business due to a lack of affordable health insurance** — rising to **59%** for those with disabilities and **80%** for those with greater functional limitations.



Facing Barriers to Support

Entrepreneurs with disabilities are **more likely to face challenges accessing support** (76% vs. 65%), especially finding role models, getting support from family, and using Small Business Development Centers.



The Revenue Gap

Entrepreneurs with disabilities report **average annual revenues of about \$61,000** — less than half the \$135,000 reported by entrepreneurs without disabilities.



Missed Opportunity

Closing the revenue gap could drive **\$776 billion** more into our economy each year. **That's the opportunity we unlock when entrepreneurs with disabilities have equitable access to financing, health coverage, and essential support.**

Let's start new conversations about how we can work together to support underserved small businesses across the U.S.

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Sources: Author's calculations using the EPOP:2024 RUF.



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