

# Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year from September 15 through October 15, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. This is a time to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. This observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The celebration starts on September 15 because it marks the anniversary of independence for several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days during this month.

Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us of the profound impact Hispanic and Latino Americans have had on our nation's history, from public service and the arts to science, business, and beyond. Here in Missouri, Hispanic-owned businesses continue to enrich our communities and strengthen our economy.

At the Office of Equal Opportunity, we encourage eligible businesses to explore Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification. Certification creates access to state contracting opportunities and helps us build a more inclusive supplier network.

This month, let's honor the heritage, traditions, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Missourians and continue working toward a more equitable future.

