

Sonya Smith- NY Small Business Development Center Bio

NYSBDC State Director, Sonya Smith. Sonya was appointed state director in December 2021. She has risen in the ranks through the SBDC and is the first woman and first African American appointed to lead New York's vast SBDC network in its nearly 40-year history.

Prior to her arrival at the NYSBDC she served as associate state director of programs & policy at the Pennsylvania SBDC, where managed the design and implementation of services provided by 16 regional centers and more than 120 staff to support Pennsylvania entrepreneurs and small businesses. She led the creation of a new dashboard for network performance data and successfully led an organizational change management initiative.

Prior to this, Smith served as the assistant director of Grants and Sponsored Projects at Kutztown University, and before that, rose through the ranks of Pennsylvania's SBDC, holding the positions of assistant director, budget analyst, and associate business consultant at the Kutztown University SBDC. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Kutztown University, and a bachelor's in accounting from Albright College.