



# SW

**SYNERGIES WORK**

**Closing the Disability Wealth  
Gap through Entrepreneurship**

Aarti Sahgal, Founder



Our purpose is to build one world where people with disabilities belong.

We are the **first** and **largest** incubator & accelerator supporting small business owners with disabilities

Supported **200+** entrepreneurs with disabilities and launched **70+** startups.


# **A Personal Mission**






# A Tale of Two Worlds





68.9 million Americans  
have a disability



Women & people of  
color are significantly  
more likely to have a  
disability



**Disability Exists at  
the Intersection**



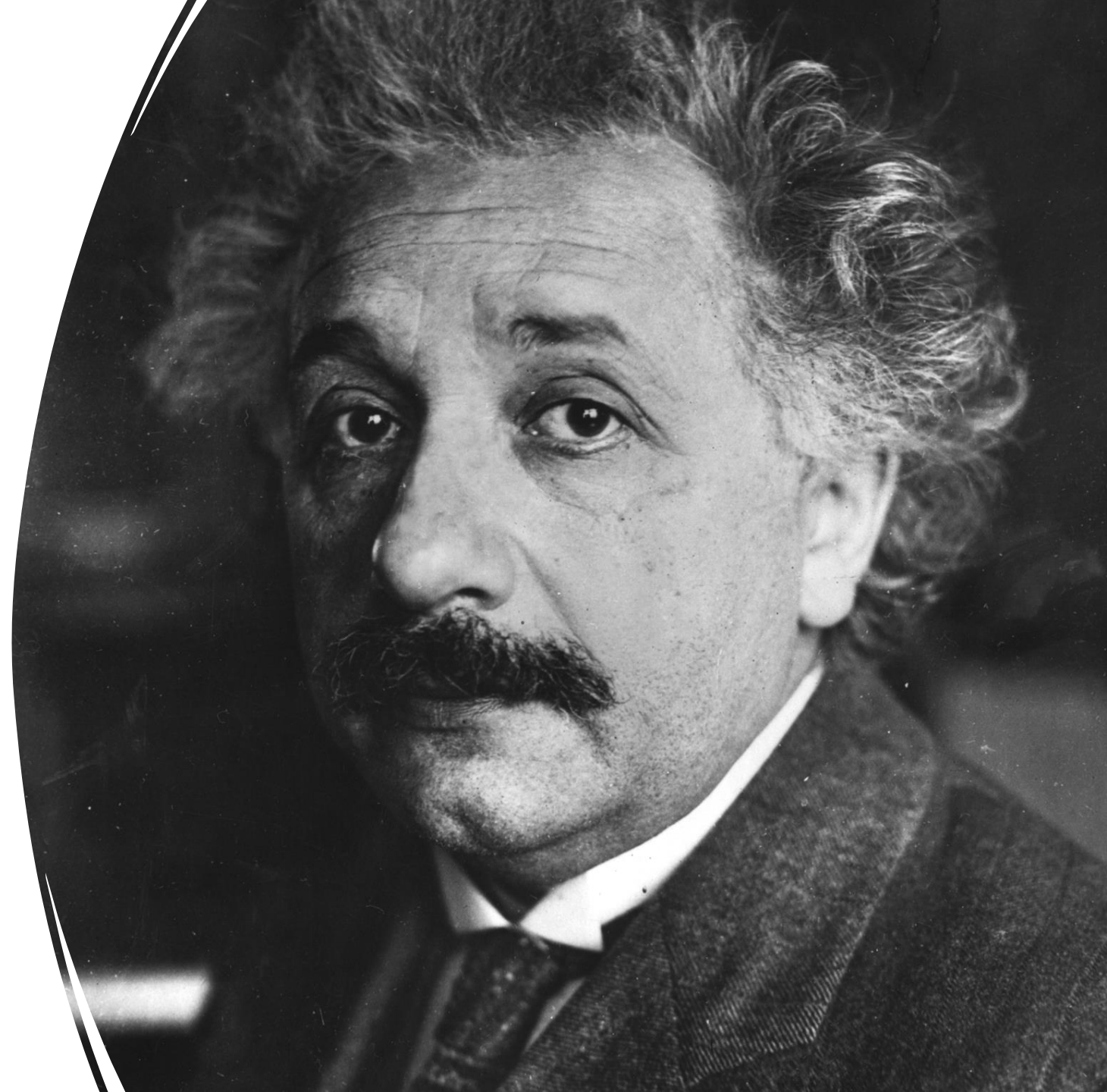
Unemployment has been  
**stagnant** at 20% for over  
30 years



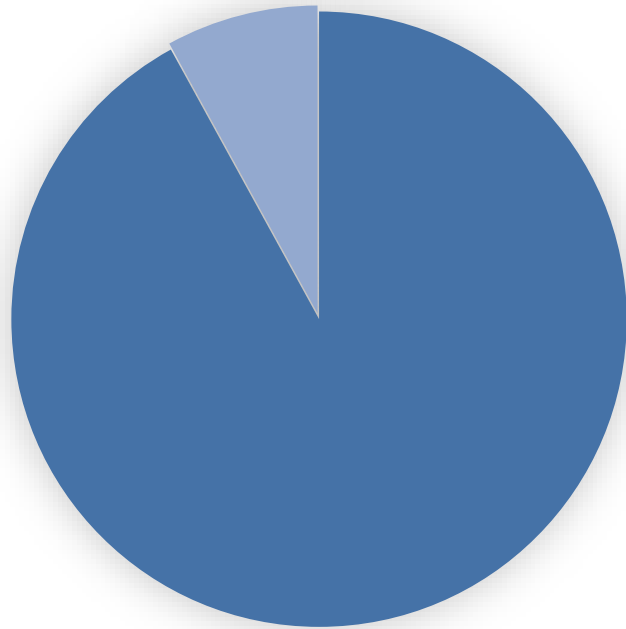
50% of people living in  
poverty are disabled

“Insanity is doing the  
same thing over and  
over and expecting  
different results”

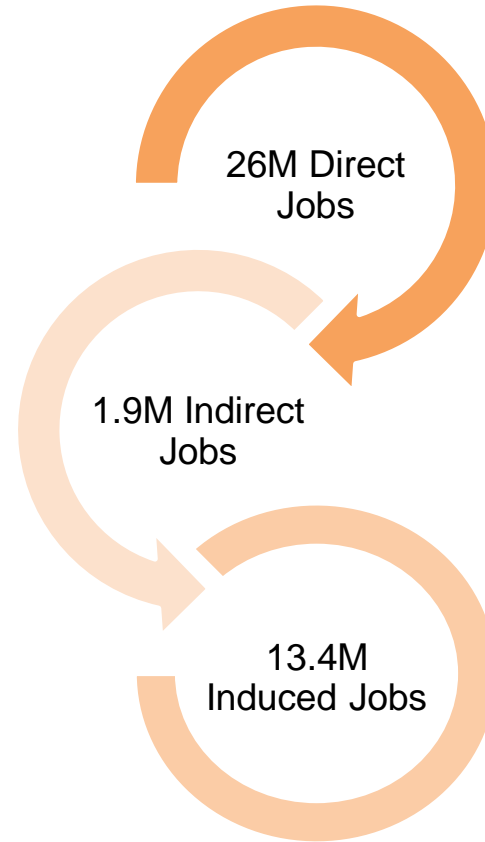
**Albert Einstein**



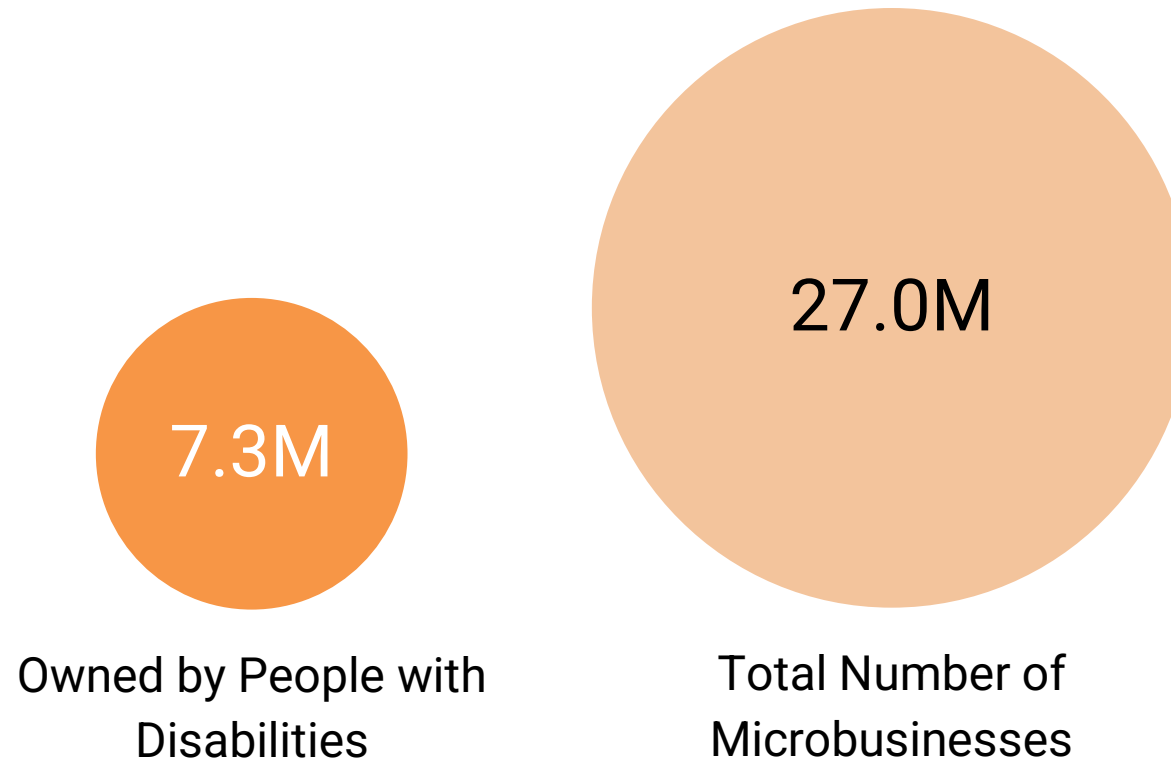
# Microbusinesses: **The Backbone of the Economy**



Microbusinesses represent nearly **92%** of all U S businesses



# The **Massive Potential** for Change



Based on data provided by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, we estimate potentially that **7.3 million microbusinesses** are owned by individuals with disabilities - **comprising 28% of all microbusinesses** in the United States.



# Barriers to Entrepreneurship

## Barriers to Education

- Education tends to be focused on **limited skill development**
- No clear career paths
- Higher education is often extremely limited.

## Barriers to Health

- Choices limited by health due to factors such as risk of illness, losing insurance, and physical limitations
- Requiring the entrepreneur to **sacrifice their health in order to work** or pursue new opportunities.

## Barriers to Finances

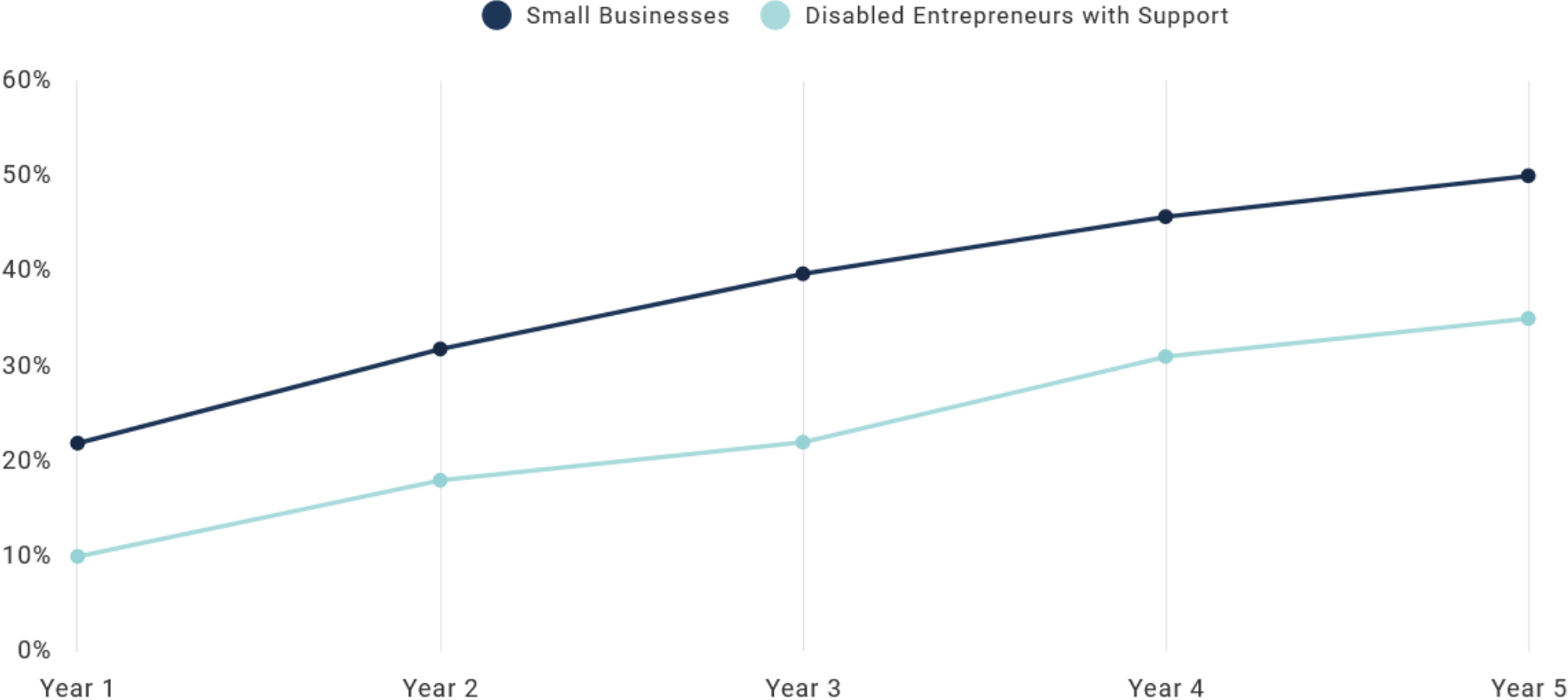
- Lack of opportunities towards saving and earning
- Limited capital to launch ventures
- **Forces entrepreneurs into labor-intensive industries**

## Barriers to Networks

- Often have no interaction with the larger business community
- Lack entrepreneurial guidance resulting
- **Segregation by socialization**

# Breaking Misconceptions

## Business Failure Rate



Source of data: [Statistics of US Businesses](#) (Census) and Department of Labor Case Study

How can we **build one world** where people with disabilities **belong**?



# Our Solution



**Jasmine Duffey**  
Founder, Blinded By My Ambition



## Supporting Entrepreneurs at **Every Step** of Their Journey

The Synergies Work  
Marketplace

i2i Entrepreneurship  
Program

The Synergies Work  
Learning Hub



# The i2i Entrepreneurship Program

The largest incubator-accelerator program in the United States for entrepreneurs with disabilities

- 11-Week Incubator Program
- Weekly Learning Labs
- Individual Coaching
- 2-Year Commitment



# The Synergies Work Learning Hub

- **A free multi-channel Platform**
- Accessible, step-by-step business guides
- Centralized library of resources and grants
- A network for entrepreneurs with disabilities
- Content created by entrepreneurs with disabilities
- Building role models, network of support orgs. and true representation
- Join at [Learn.SynergiesWork.org](https://Learn.SynergiesWork.org)

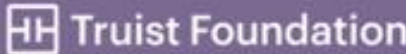





# Starting a Global Movement



Truist Foundation  
Inspire Awards







**1 Million Entrepreneurs with  
Disabilities by 2027**

**Let's Build Synergies Together**



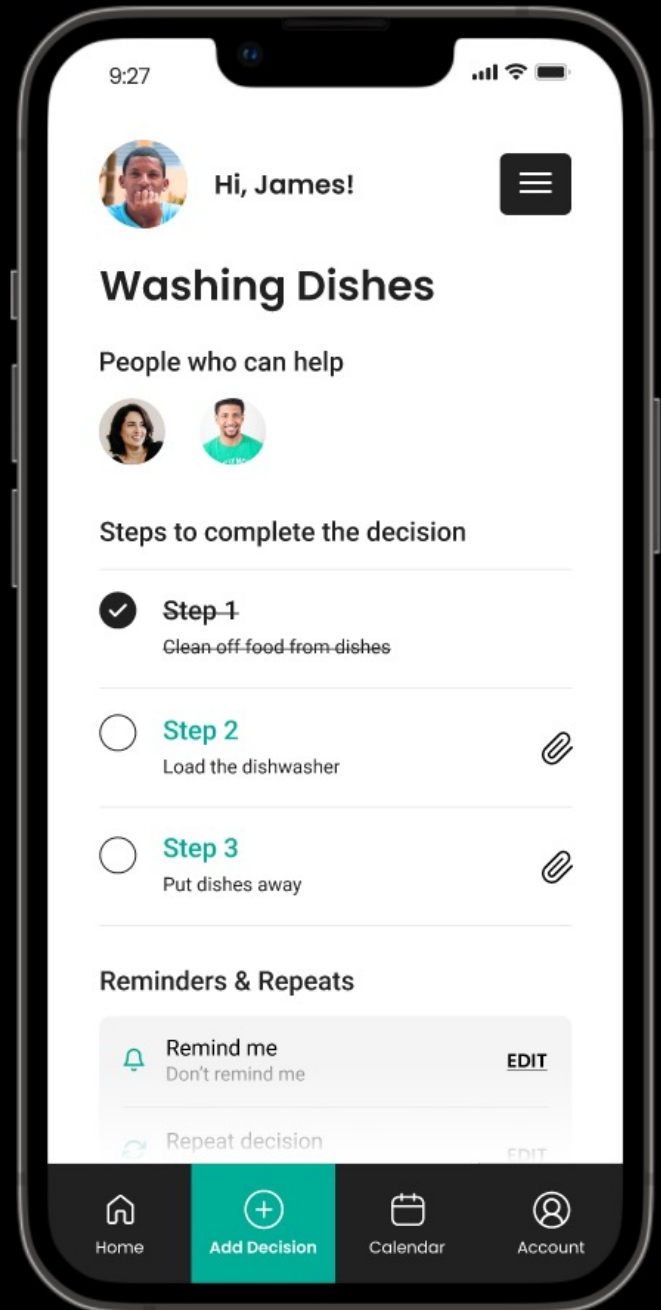
# Stage 1: Add **Entrepreneurship** to the **Employment Menu**

- ❖ Introduction to Entrepreneurship Webinar
- ❖ Inspire Founders through Igniting Ideas Series
  - Evaluate, vet and build a viable business idea
  - Discover your life & business purpose
  - Leave with a clear business direction
  - 5 weeks, 2 hour/session, 20 participants max.
- ❖ Add Learning Hub to your website Free

# Stage 2: Growing **Sustainably**

- ❖ Building a Framework of Support
  - 10-Week Incubator Program
  - 2+ Year Accelerator Program
  - Ongoing Education & Networking Opportunities
  - Impact Grants
- ❖ The Larger Impact
  - Build public-private partnerships
  - Creating success stories
  - Tailored Cohorts





# Stage 3: Celebrate Entrepreneurship !



# SYNERGIES WORK



# Building Bridges



**Aarti Sahgal**  
Synergies Work



**Ashish Thakur**  
Atlanta CEO Council



**Alpa Sutaria**  
Westrock



**Steve Hartman**  
General Electric



**Zen Kramer**  
Waterloo Sparkling  
Water



**Arjun Sahgal**  
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**Peter Baron**  
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