Office of the Small Business Advocate

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CalOSBA Mission & Objectives

Mission: CalOSBA supports economic growth and innovation and ensures that ALL California small businesses and innovative startups have the information and direct support they need to better navigate resources, programs and regulations.

CalOSBA serves as the voice of small business, representing their views and interests across the state and advocating for equitable access to capital, markets, and networks so that all California small businesses successfully start, manage, grow and become more resilient.

Objective: Information and Resources | Advocacy | Resilience
CalOSBA: Gateway to Resources & Assistance

- **Direct Assistance:**
  State Resources

- **Content:**
  Trainings / Webinars

- **Network of Small Business Centers:**

  [Small Business Center Network Map](#)
California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program (MCRGP)

**Program:** One-time $50 Million grant program that will provide $2,500 grants to eligible microbusinesses in California.

**Administration:** MCRGP funds will be disbursed by selected eligible grantmaking entities, either a county or a consortium of nonprofit community-based organizations representing a county.

**Funding Availability:** Funding is available. 5 counties have completed their program and none of the major population centers have expended grant funds.

**County Contacts List:**

[Link to MBCRG County Contacts]
California Nonprofit Performing Arts Grants Program (NPAGP)

Program: One-time $50 Million grant program that will provide grants up to $75,000 to eligible nonprofit performing arts organizations to encourage workforce development.

Award Amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Revenue (2019 taxable year)</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Than</td>
<td>Less Than or Equal To</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
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Use of Funds:
- Employee Expenses (payroll costs, health care benefits, paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums).
- Contributions or payments to a centralized payment service.
- Recruitment, training, development, and other human resources related expenses.
- Other operating expenses or equipment for employees.

Program Information & Eligibility:
California Nonprofit Performing Arts | Grant Program (canonprofitperformingarts.com)
Accelerate CA
Inclusive Innovation Hubs (iHubs²)

Program: The iHubs² will stimulate partnerships, economic development, and job creation for underserved geographic areas, industry sectors, and business owners.

Designated Areas: More than one iHub² may be designated in an area to the extent that there is a clear distinction between the focus area of each iHub². 10 regions were selected through a competitive RFP process.

Budget approved to increase to 13 Hubs and name change to Accelerate CA,

Find Your Inclusive Innovation Hub:

iHub² | California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)
Expanding and Proposed Grant Programs

• **Accelerate California: Inclusive Innovation Hubs (iHub²) Program** - $20 million to expand services from ten to thirteen iHubs and add acceleration grants to spur high-growth industries (Senate Bill 193)

• **California Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises (RISE) Program** - $25 million to accelerate economic mobility and inclusion for individuals who experience employment barriers (Senate Bill 193)

• **Women’s Business Center Enhancement Program** - $8 million for technical assistance to women-owned businesses and women entrepreneurs over three years (Senate Bill 154)
Expanding and Proposed Grant Programs

• Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program - $75 million to assist qualified small agricultural business affected by severe drought (Assembly Bill 157)

• Small Business and Nonprofit COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Relief Grant Program - $150 million for qualified businesses and nonprofits with 26-49 employees that incurred COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave costs from 1/1/22 - 12/31/22 (Assembly Bill 152)

• Sign up for the CalOSBA newsletter to receive updates about these programs here
Strategic Initiatives

Regional Advisors serve as point people for specific CalOSBA initiatives. Each initiative relates to core mission objectives for the office:

• Advocacy
• Disaster Preparedness & Resiliency
• Access to Markets: Procurement & Innovation
• Access to Capital
Advocacy

The Advocate serves as the voice of small business-owners within state government

- Provide feedback on policy and programs
- Sponsor, publish and socialize new research
- Respond to your questions about our own programs and business climate issues
- Talk and listen to you
Continuation of an effort launched during COVID-19

This is our current leadership team; announcement of full roster pending

Task Force Workgroups:
- Democratizing Access to Capital
- Diversifying the Innovation Economy
- Driving Economic Mobility through Entrepreneurship
Disaster Preparedness & Resiliency

• Awareness & training program to help you get ready for business interruptions:
  
  • Do you have an evacuation plan for your employees? Is your business site as safe as it can be?
  
  • Do you have enough insurance?
  
  • Would you have access to all your important business data and records in case of a power outage?
  
  • How much capital could you access if something happened?

Outsmartdisaster.calosba.ca.gov