

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), allocating \$500 million to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of idled properties that may be contaminated, with priority given to properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. DTSC will use the \$500 million for grants to investigate and clean up brownfields in environmental justice communities, a program to investigate and clean up properties impacted by dry-cleaning contamination in environmental justice communities, a workforce development program, and several programs focused on environmental equity, justice and community engagement. Visit [DTSC's Brownfield website](#) for more information

CVCI Small Business Advocacy Program

DTSC is advocating the use of small business and disabled veteran business enterprises to enhance equitable access to opportunities under the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative, also referred to as "CVCI". Engaging with small businesses, especially women owned, minority, and disadvantaged businesses, creates opportunities for inclusion and can strengthen California's economy. DTSC will work with the Department of General Services (DGS) and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) to increase outreach with the small business community to provide meaningful opportunities to participate in the CVCI. As the various programs under the CVCI are developed, DTSC will be encouraging small business to respond to solicitations for various projects that will support DTSC's efforts to address environmental disparities in our most vulnerable communities. Following the three relatively simple steps outlined in this Quick Reference Guide will enable small businesses to compete for certain CVCI projects.

DTSC Encourages Small Business to Become Certified

The State established the Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Certification Programs to increase business opportunities for the SB and DVBE community.

Step 1: Become Certified

SB Eligibility Requirements

- Independently owned and operated
- Cannot be dominant in the field of operation
- Must have its principal office located in California
- Must have its owners (or officers in the case of a corporation) reside in California; and together with affiliates, be either: a business with 100 or fewer employees and have average annual gross receipts (GARs) of \$15 million or less over the three most recent tax years or a manufacturer with 100 or fewer employees (GARs not required)

DVBE Eligibility Requirements

- The veteran must have a service-connected disability of at least 10% declared by the United States of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense
- At least 51% owned by one or more disabled veterans, except in the case of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The LLC must be wholly owned by one of more disabled veterans
- The disabled veteran(s) who owns, manages, and controls the firm must reside in California
- Daily business operations must be managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans

Principal office must be located in the United States and cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or other foreign based business

SB and DVBE registration and certification can be accessed at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD-SB-DVBE-Resources>

Step 2: Become a California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) Contractor

The CMAS program is a procurement option. DGS establishes agreements with businesses who offer products and/or services based on terms of a current federal General Services Administration (GSA) multiple award schedule. A purchase using a CMAS contract may be awarded to multiple suppliers. CMAS competitively assesses contracts for products and services and lets state and local government agencies streamline their purchasing.

State and local government agencies shop and compare CMAS for the best value, e.g., best price product, service, etc., and place orders directly with these businesses.

CMAS information and application can be accessed at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD-CMAS>

Step 3: Find Contracting Opportunities

Cal eProcure is an online procurement service to help state agencies organize, automate and better manage purchasing processes on the web. Cal eProcure houses California State Contracts Register (CSCR) which is a one-stop central information source for state contracting opportunities. State agencies post solicitations on this website when they are seeking bids. CSCR connects businesses to government solicitations with an easy-to-use, online publication contract list.

Small business who are eligible to serve as sub-contractors can find contracting opportunities and place ads seeking work with potential prime contractors at no cost.

Additional information and resources can be accessed at <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/index.aspx>

Additional Resources

California Office of the Small Business Advocate (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. For more information on CalOSBA, visit <https://calosba.ca.gov>

California Capital Financial Development Corporation – Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) helps established SB prepare for, pursue, and perform on government contracts. PTAC services include one-on-one counseling, training workshops and an automated bid matching system. California Capital PTAC is funded in part through the Department of Defense therefore all services are provided at no cost. PTAC counselors assist small businesses to understand government contracting requirements, pursue California State (SB, SB-PW, DVBE) and Federal certifications (veteran-owned small business (VOSB), service-disabled veteran owned small business (SDVOSB), woman-owned small business (WOSB), economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB), 8(a), historically underutilized business zone (Hub Zone), etc.), applicable registrations, conduct market research, identify bid opportunities and proposal preparation. For additional information or to register, visit <https://cacapital.org/ptac>

Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) is an economic development, nonprofit, community organization that is dedicated to the growth and economic expansion of diverse Los Angeles communities. This is accomplished through providing access to capital, financial literacy, business consultations and procurement assistance services. PACE offers aspiring and existing small business owners free one-on-one business consulting, free to low-cost workshops and trainings including business development & strategic planning, market research, financial packaging, lending assistance, manufacturing assistance, exporting & importing support, contract sourcing and Bid proposal assistance, small business certification support, disaster recovery resources and much more. For more information on PACE, visit <http://pacelabdc.org/>.

To learn more about the CVCI Small Business Advocacy Program and upcoming opportunities, contact Rana.Georges@dtsc.ca.gov.

[*Download a collection of all CVCI Program Quick Reference Guides*](#)