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The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) supports economic growth and innovation statewide. CalOSBA's core mission is to provide resources to all California small businesses, disabled veteran business enterprises (SB/DVBEs), minority and women-owned businesses, and those individuals who own and operate businesses located in low-wealth, rural and disaster-impacted communities.

CalOSBA supports outreach and engagement efforts through advocacy, sharing resources, and building resilience through programs and our Technical Assistance Network that supports growth and business sustainability.

This month's newsletter highlights the ecosystem and CalOSBA's efforts to serve California businesses statewide.

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### [From the Advocate](#)



FROM THE ADVOCATE



## California's Model for Ecosystem Acceleration

Last month, I met a tech investor from Israel visiting California on a mission for his firm. His trip and the event we were both attending just happened to coincide with the Silicon Valley Bank closure and the federal intervention to secure its deposits. So I asked him, considering the headlines, if he was second-guessing his California scouting trip. "Oh no," he shrugged. "Israel is the Startup Nation. But this is California. The ecosystem here is like no other place."

Silicon Valley has ruled as the world's #1 startup ecosystem since 2017 in [a widely quoted report from Startup Genome](#), ranking #1 in every evaluated category: Performance, Funding, Connectedness, Market Reach, Knowledge and Talent. In the 2022 report, Los Angeles ranks #6 and San Diego #13. (Tel Aviv is #7.)

This is why Pitchbook reports that California has received over 51 percent of all venture capital invested in the United States since 2000.

But that's no excuse to take California's dominance for granted or to stop pushing the envelope, two things Governor Newsom has consistently refused to do. Instead the Newsom administration is investing in the State's innovation ecosystem, leveraging that success and know-how so obvious to my new friend from Israel.

The latest example coming out of my office is called Accelerate California and it's designed to expand the reach of that California ecosystem to include more diverse founders, support new technology sectors, drive growth and create high-quality jobs in geographies beyond the coastline.

[Read the full article on LinkedIn here.](#)

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[Small Business Success Stories](#)

Check out these three small business success stories from the [California Office of the Small Business Advocate \(CalOSBA\) Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) Network](#).

### **Southern California - Café Metzli Revolutionizing the Coffee Business by Connecting Mexican Women Farmers with Economic Mobility**



Lupita Sanchez was born and raised in Mexico and has a passion for specialty coffee. She started her social impact Mexican coffee import and distribution business in 2021 in Los Angeles. She reached out to CalOSBA looking for small business guidance and assistance, so we: 1. Asked to learn more....[read more](#)

### **Central Valley - Dream Fund Success with Sculpt**



Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) are essential resources for entrepreneurs and small business owners in California. These centers provide a wide range of services, including one-on-one consulting, workshops and training programs, access to funding resources, and assistance....[read more](#)

### **Northern California - Training Success with Correa Logistics**



Correa Logistics is a small business based out of Santa Rosa, California. They develop and market innovative medical products and services to multiple industry sectors around the world. Their mission is to provide preventable disease solutions that will enhance patient outcomes and....[read more](#)

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## **[Grant Programs](#)**

**Employment Social Enterprise Grant Programs Proposals Accepted Through May 8, 2023**

The Employment Social Enterprise (ESE) Solicitation for Proposals for Program Year 2022-2023 grants will be awarded to design, develop, and implement programs that will promote job training opportunities and transitional employment through social enterprise programs for the hardest-to-serve individuals to provide economic self-sufficiency and life stability. The ESE will focus on the first step to transitioning participants into the workforce by placing individuals into employment, typically in a supported employment setting, to help them earn wages while building work experience, improving job skills as well as provide supportive services for California's most vulnerable populations.

Eligible applicants are ESE businesses or ESE providers collaborating with the public workforce development system and human service partners, public and private non-profit organizations, and community-based organizations are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Proposals must be received by 3 p.m. on May 8, 2023.

[For more information, click here.](#)

### **Mom-preneurs, This Founders First CDC Grant Is for You**



The Kitty Fund makes small micro investments in moms who are running employer-based small businesses with two or more employees. The award was created in honor of Mother's Day and Founder's First CEO Kim Folsom's mother, Catherine "Kitty" Abrams Tadlock Webster, who passed away in March of 2020.

For 2023, this \$25,000 fund will make investments of \$1,000 to 25 mother-led business owners in the form of grants. The deadline to apply is April 17, 2023.

[Click to learn more and apply here.](#)

### **San Bernardino County Mountain Small Business Grant Program**





This program aims to assist small businesses and non-profits that were impacted by the winter storm events in San Bernardino County. Eligible small businesses and non-profits located in unincorporated areas of the County can apply.

- Businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees are eligible for a one-time \$3,000 grant
- Businesses with a workforce greater than 50 but fewer than 500 employees are eligible for a one-time \$15,000 grant

Online applications opened on April 7, 2023.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

### **Southern California Gas Utility Assistance Fund and Restaurant Resilience Fund**



SoCalGas is stepping up to help customers in need with charitable donations of \$10 million in shareholder funding to help customers with bill assistance and to bolster community resources for those who may be struggling financially.

SoCalGas is supporting small restaurant owners through the [Restaurants Care Resilience Fund](#), a fund that was started in 2021 to help small restaurants with improvements, upgrades, employee retention and to manage debt, losses and rising costs.

[Sign up for Resilience Fund 2023 Updates here.](#)

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## [Resiliency and Outreach](#)

### **Congratulations San Diego and Imperial Women's Business Center as a 2023 Resource Partner of the Year**

Recently, the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) announced four Resource Partners of the Year awards. The awardees will be honored at a ceremony during National Small Business Week, April 30-May 6, 2023. Join us in congratulating the SBA 2023 Resource Partner of the Year, [San Diego and Imperial Women's Business Center](#), a CalOSBA Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grantee from San Diego, California.

For additional information about this year's Small Business Resource Partners of the Year, please see the press release [here](#).

### **How to Do Business with the State of California Hosted by NorCal PTAC**



Don't miss this in-person workshop for businesses new to state contracting or those who want a refresher. At this in-person workshop, you'll discover the basics of government contracting with the State of California. You'll get valuable information on how to get certified as a small business (SB) or disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE), and how to start selling your products and services.

- Date: April 28, 2023
- Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Location: The Pub at North Coast Brewing Co., 444 N Main St, Fort Bragg, CA, 95437

[To register for the event, click here.](#)

### **Attend the In-Person 2023 Transportation Summit**



Explore procurement opportunities with transit agencies from San Joaquin and Sacramento counties at the 2023 Transportation Summit. Registrants will learn about access to capital, procurement opportunities available, business resources and will have a chance to network.

Agencies participating at the event include Sacramento International Airport, CalTrans, San Joaquin Regional Transit District, Port of Stockton and more. Registration is free.

- Date: May 4, 2023
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Location: Lodi Hutchins Street Square, 125 South Hutchins Street #a, Lodi, CA, 95240

[To register for the event, click here.](#)

### **April Is Innovation Month and the Riverside County Office of Economic Development Is Excited to Share Rivcoinnovation.org Is Now Live**

# The Innovative Push within Riverside County

RAISING THE STANDARDS FOR INNOVATION

Not only is this new webpage home to [Innovation Month highlights](#), but also highlights innovation happening all year long, from biotech to cleantech, as well as features [Riverside County's Innovation Incubators](#).

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For more small business resources and information, visit [calosba.ca.gov](https://calosba.ca.gov)

No-cost and low-cost training is available through Technical Assistance Centers across the state. Browse the training schedule on the CalOSBA website by [clicking here](#).

[Submit a request to CalOSBA](#)



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