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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 individuals who own and operate businesses in low-wealth and rural 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: Supporting a Resiliency Mindset



A California summer is synonymous with sunshine and skies so blue they break your heart; we had some of those perfect “we’re so lucky to live in California” days in July, but it’s hard to enjoy them like we used to. Now, when the temperature rises, so does our collective anxiety.

As I write this column, my team is monitoring the progress of the [McKinney and Oak Fires](#) with thousands of residents evacuated and multiple structures destroyed. It’s the largest incident of this year’s fire season to date and the Governor has declared a state of emergency in [Siskiyou](#) and [Mariposa](#) counties.

That perfect blue sky is clouded by smoke in several counties.

As CalFire, CalOES, and local agencies fight to contain the fire, my team is waiting to see if this fire will be the next to reach a significant population center, maybe one where small businesses – a grocery store, a diner, a pharmacy, a gas station – are the lifeline of the local economy. We stand by to provide recovery support so these small businesses can literally keep their communities on the map in the case of a catastrophic event.

Wildfires aren’t the only risk in California, of course: pandemics, earthquakes, oil spills, black and brown-outs, even hacker attacks all constitute potential “business interruptions” in both high-density and rural counties alike. Each geography and each kind of incident represents unique challenges for both disaster preparation and eventual recovery. It’s not pleasant to talk about or even think about. But this is why part of my office’s role is to help small business-owners plan for the worst...and hope for the best, which is something Californians, as a population, are really good at. Doing both at the same time, however, requires a business-owner's concentrated effort. This is the resilient mindset my office works to cultivate.

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

[Regional Advisors' Corner](#)



Northern California Regional Advisor Clair Whitmer visited two of three [Inclusive Innovation Hubs](#) throughout her region in July. She accompanied

Director Gray to tech startup incubator [Chico Start](#) and met with Executive Director Eva Shepherd-Nicoll and her team; later, she also met with [Chico State](#) President Gayle Hutchinson. Whitmer also attended the kickoff of the second [Clicks2Bricks](#) cohort, funded in part through the [Accelerate California Inclusive Hub](#) program at the [Santa Cruz SBDC](#).

Director Gray also visited the [Kern Women's Business Center](#) where she spoke to aspiring small business owners developing businesses strategic plans and congratulated the Center's staff on their recent awards that reinforced the organization's commitment to local businesses in the Bakersfield area.



Director Norma Dunn proudly shared the Volunteer of the Year Beautiful Bakersfield Award and the pinnacle Chairman's Beautiful Bakersfield Award they received from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

The Kern Community College District Chancellor sat down with Director Gray during her visit to Bakersfield to discuss hosting a small business forum and an energy discussion, leading up to the Economic Summit being held in Bakersfield this October.

Equally important, Director Gray's visit included business discussions with CEO and President Morgan Clayton of Tel-Tec Security, Executive Director Magda Menendez of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, and members of the Community Action Partnership of Kern including Director of Administration Pritika Ram and Chief of Programs Traco Matthews.

[Grant Programs](#)

CalCompetes



What is it: The California Competes Tax Credit is an income tax credit available to businesses that want to locate or stay and grow in California.

How much is available for this period: \$85 million in business tax credits and \$120 million in business grants are available.

Application period: First of three fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 application periods is now open.

Deadline: Apply through the [online application portal](#) by midnight on August 15, 2022.

Webinars: California Competes Tax Credit is hosting three online webinars to provide technical assistance to applicants. Webinar registration links and updated technical assistance documents (application guide, FAQs, grant guidelines and more) are available on the website [here](#).

CalCompetes Resources:

- [California Competes Tax Credit Application Workshop Fiscal Year 2022-2023](#)
- [California Competes Tax Credit FAQ](#)
- [CalCompetes website](#)

**Sacramento County Small Business and Nonprofit Grant Program
(Sacramento County Only)**



What is it: Sacramento County received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support economic response and recovery efforts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intent of the Small Business & Nonprofit Grant Program is to provide relief to small business and nonprofit organizations that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related health and safety restrictions.

How much is available for this period: Eligible applicants may qualify for grants of \$10,000 each in one-time direct financial assistance. This is a grant program, not a loan, so funds will not need to be paid back.

Application period: July 5, 2022, through August 31, 2022.

Deadline: Apply by August 31, 2022, at 5 p.m. PST. Submit an application through the sac4smallbiz.org website.

Sacramento County Small Business and Nonprofit Grant Program Resources:

- [Check to see if you're eligible for the grant](#)
- [Visit the Sac4SmallBiz website for more information](#)

Caravanserai Project in Palm Springs launched the SEED Initiative for Latinx Entrepreneurs in Spanish



What is it: [Caravanserai Project](#) launched the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) initiative funded by the [Employment Training Panel](#). As part of the SEED Initiative, Caravanserai Project, in partnership with [Uplift San Bernardino](#) at the Making Hope Happen Foundation and [Get in Motion Entrepreneurs](#), will provide entrepreneurial training and technical support to Inland Empire-based Latinx entrepreneurs (for profit, nonprofit and sole proprietors) who have limited English proficiency or are native Spanish speakers, regardless of immigration status. The training will be conducted in Spanish.

How much funding is available for this period: The goal is to support over 200 Latinx entrepreneurs. The successful graduating entrepreneurs will be eligible for micro-grants of up to \$7,500 for business operations.

Applications: Applications are open now. Learn requirements and more at [SEED 2.0 - Caravanseraí Project](#).

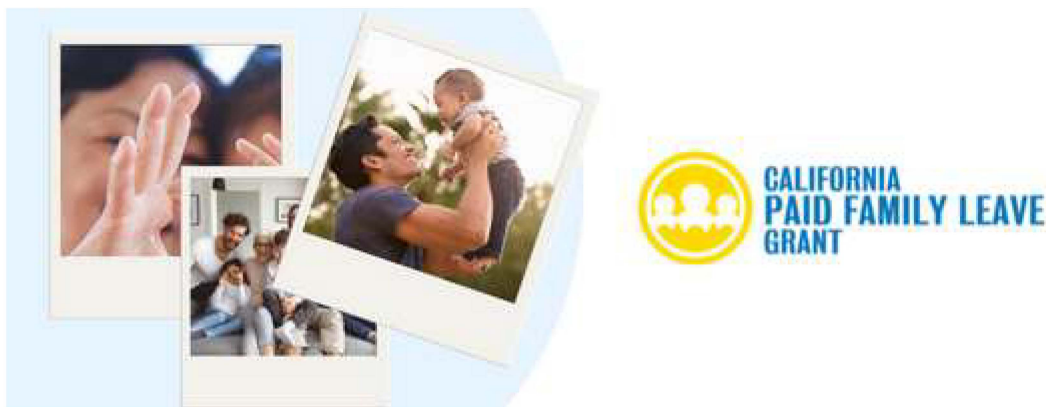
Deadline: Apply by August 15, 2022 at [SEED 2.0 - Caravanseraí Project](#).

Informational Webinar: A recording of an informational webinar conducted in Spanish on August 4th is available [here](#).

Caravanseraí Project Resources:

- Program questions may be directed to seed2@caravanseraiproject.org
- [SEED 2.0 - Caravanseraí Project](#)

California Paid Family Leave Grant - Up to \$2,000 for Your Business Per Employee



What is it: California's Paid Family Leave program allows California workers to take paid leave to bond with a new child (through birth, adoption, or foster care) or to care for a seriously ill family member.

Beginning July 1, 2020, this paid leave expanded from six (6) to eight (8) weeks. Additionally, California's Paid Family Leave program also expanded the twelve (12) week non-paid protected leave to all businesses, regardless of business size.

Businesses impacted by California's Paid Family Leave program will have increased costs such as training and upskilling existing staff to cover duties of the employee on California's Paid Family Leave, in addition to, hiring and training additional staff to cover the duties, marketing, recruitment, and other training costs.

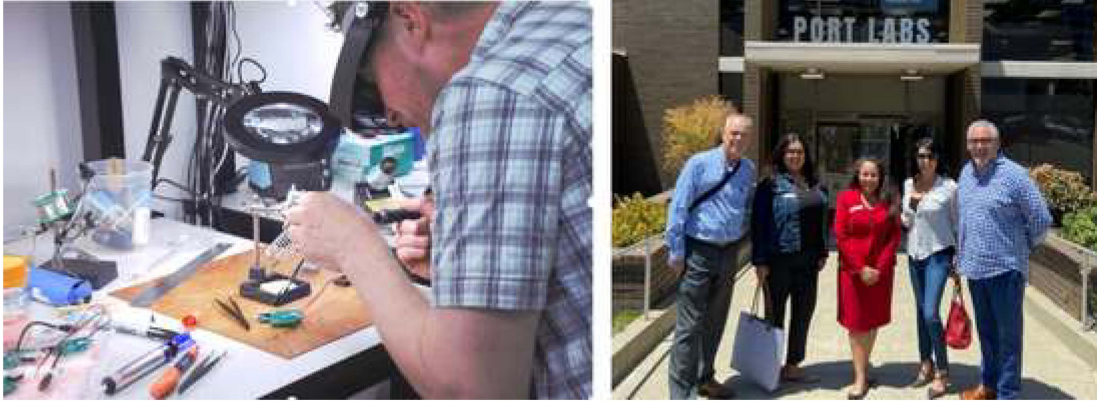
How much is available: Small businesses in California with 1-100 employees with at least one (1) employee utilizing California's Paid Family Leave program (on or after June 1, 2022) are eligible to apply for grants up to \$2,000 per employee to offset the increased costs associated with the employee out on leave.

Eligibility: Learn more about the small business eligibility criteria [here](#).

Applications: Application are open now. Learn more about the program and [apply here](#).

Resiliency and Outreach

Central Valley Partners Look at Port Labs as a Model for Success



Pictured right: Bob Adams, CalOSBA; Monica Flinn, Opportunity Stanislaus; Linda Quiñones-Vaughan CalOSBA, Brenna Butler Garcia, SJIHUB; and Bob Gutierrez, SJIHU

CalOsba's Central California Regional Advisor Linda Quiñones-Vaughan and Central California Small Business Local Engagement Specialist Bob Adams along with Central Valley partners, [Opportunity Stanislaus](#) and the [San Joaquin Innovation Hub \(SJIHUB\)](#), visited the new [Port Labs](#) facility in Oakland, CA. They aimed to learn how to create a business ecosystem, like the Port Labs launch, to benefit business startups in the Central Valley.

"Expansion of the Port Labs facilities, along with our growing list of strategic partnerships, creates additional opportunities within the regional innovation ecosystem. This facility allows us to help more emerging companies," said Sal Bednarz, managing Director of Port Labs.

Port Labs' specialized facilities and staff are tailored to the needs of businesses developing physical products ranging from general consumer goods, IT and other tech-enabled products, medical devices, and life sciences.

Furthermore, the facilities are designed to help lower risk while conserving time and capital for each small business that becomes a member. Members also get access to regular private events, staff office hours, and various discounts.

Port Labs continues to expand the support they offer members through networking opportunities, capital pitch events, peer group workshops, and confidential one-on-one coaching. These programs are enabled through their relationships with the [Northern California SBDC Network](#) and other partners.

Ask yourselves, can we expect to see something like the Port Labs model in the Central Valley? Only time will tell! However, the leaders involved in creating that successful business climate are well on their way to making it happen.

Southern California - City of South Pasadena Small Business Mixer



Middle: South Pasadena Deputy City Manager Domenica Megerdichian and Amber Tarrac, CalOSBA Southern California Small Business Local Engagement Specialist snapped a picture at the event.

On June 29th, the South Pasadena City Manager's Office and Economic Development team hosted their first small business mixer in the city since the pandemic began. The event drew over 60 small business owners, City team members, and partners. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the City's efforts to support small businesses and CalOSBA programs, resources, and services.

Highlighting the Successes of Black-Owned Businesses



In August, we're highlighting California black-owned businesses during National Black Business Month. Follow CalOSBA on social media to read inspiring stories about entrepreneurs who are starting, managing, and/or growing their businesses in California. Our social media links are below.

Check out the latest workshops, trainings, and webinars from CalOSBA's technical assistance partners by clicking [here](#) to view the statewide calendar.

For more small business resources and information, visit 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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