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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 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.

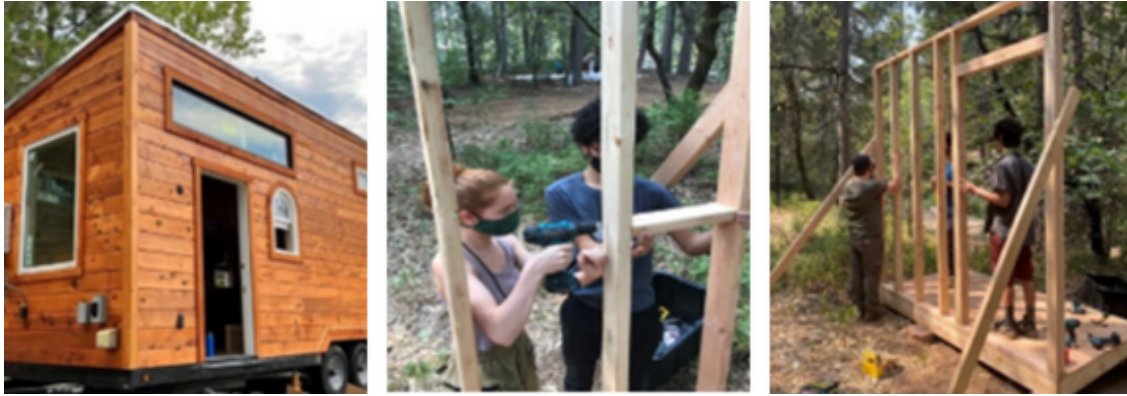
This month's newsletter highlights the ecosystem and CalOSBA's efforts to serve California businesses statewide.

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Northern California

Business Spotlight: SOL Learning Institute



CalOSBA had an opportunity to catch up with Travis Duckworth, the director of SOL Learning Institute, which has a year-round, skill-based enrichment program designed to introduce young adults to the three pillars of sustainable agriculture, architecture, and economics.

Director Duckworth explained how his organization's program was formed out of the desire to address the homeless and affordable housing crisis. SOL's program teaches youth how to build a tiny house from the ground up. He also credits [Sierra Commons](#), and advisor Robert Trent's Business Igniter Course, for providing them with resources on how to balance their books, marketing, and more.

To elaborate, what is also amazing is how Director Duckworth was able to raise nearly a quarter million dollars for SOL through crowdfunding from folks in the local community who believe in his vision.

Learn more about SOL Learning Institute [here](#).

Sierra SBDC Brings Capital Summit to Nevada County



The [Sierra SBDC](#), in collaboration with the [NorCal SBDC Finance Center](#), hosted an engaging Capital Summit inside of the [Golden Empire Grange](#) in Grass Valley. The Summit featured both a lender panel and a resources panel that provided the business owners in attendance with valuable resources and information.

Learn about the latest Sierra SBDC training and events [here](#).

Central California

Navigating Government Contracting at No Cost for Small Business



CalOSBA attended the Kern County Entrepreneur Expo in Bakersfield, and it was exciting to see so many agencies and private industry representatives in attendance, including the Golden State Procurement Technical Assistance Center (Golden State PTAC).

Golden State PTAC is a new service that established its roots in Bakersfield, serving businesses in Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties. Their mission is to help small businesses understand the complex world of government contracting.

You can expect to find a friendly face to help you determine if your company is ready for government opportunities at the local, state, or federal level. Their services include:

- No-cost, one-on-one counseling
- Custom bid matching
- Group training and outreach events
- Marketing support for business owners

The Golden State PTAC serves a unique region of Central California, which is home to some of the largest military bases in the state. Their service areas provide exclusive opportunities to local suppliers interested in government contracting. They assist small businesses by building a bridge between the private and government sectors. Government contracting operates differently compared to other projects that you might be familiar with and the Golden State PTAC, like other PTAC partners, has the experience to help you build your government contracting capabilities.

Learn more about the Golden State PTAC [here](#).

Southern California

Bolstering California's Diverse and Inclusive Technical Assistance Resources

CalOSBA is partially responsible for funding the statewide Technical Assistance (TA) network, which provides free one-on-one consulting and no-cost or low-cost training for small businesses, startup founders and nonprofits.

While Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) have a major presence in the Capital Infusion Program (CIP) and the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), CalOSBA continues to expand resources to non-SBDC Technical Assistance providers, which increases access to capital in underserved communities.

An example of a recent non-SBDC awardee is the [Caravanserai Project](#) located in Riverside County. The organization focuses on helping mission-driven nonprofits and small businesses with a focus on nonprofit fundraising development. Another example is the [Asociación de Emprendedor@s](#); their focus is on technical assistance for Hispanic small business owners, and they offer training opportunities in Spanish.

Connect with technical support for your business in over thirty languages [here](#).

Partners in Research



CalOSBA sponsors research studies, such as the [2022 COVID-19 Impact on Women-Owned Businesses](#), and supports students interested in learning about California's economic health and mobility.

The [Diversity and Entrepreneurship in California](#) research paper, authored by Tristan Shaughnessy while attending the University of California Berkeley, emphasized the importance of collaboration between Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), and supporting diverse small business owners in multiple languages. Data was gathered by contacting CalOSBA and the [San Diego & Imperial Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) Network](#).

The author says in his report, "Looking at the recent developments in the San Diego and Imperial Valley Network, two important takeaways come to the fore: first, promoting a collaborative culture across business centers that capitalizes

on the benefits of virtual assistance should be a priority; and second, partnering with the right organizations can make economic development more equitable.”

Additional information on the TA Program, including a list of the 2022-2023 grant awardees is available [here](#).

For more small business resources and information, visit calosba.ca.gov

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