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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.

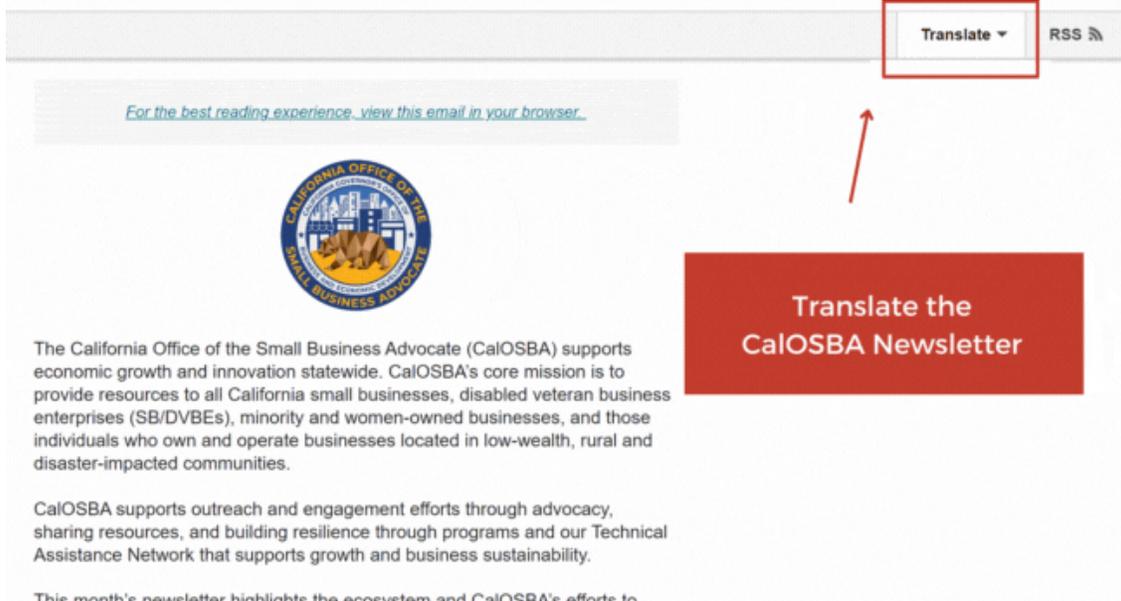
CalOSBA supports outreach and engagement efforts through advocacy, sharing resources, and building resilience through programs and our Technical Assistance Network that supports growth and business sustainability.

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

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[Translate this Newsletter](#)



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[From the Advocate](#)

FROM THE ADVOCATE

Five Things You Need to Know About Employee Ownership

I spent last month, Small Business Month, traveling the state and listening to stories: stories about individual small business-owners, their challenges, their triumphs, their resourcefulness. Every single one sent me home inspired and honored to be their advocate.

I want to share one story in particular, a story about a family and a bakery...and a significant area of small business policy that we should all understand more about.

The San Mateo Small Business Development Center (SBDC) invited my office to a ribbon-cutting last month for Coastside Baking Company in Half Moon Bay. The event was a grand reopening under new ownership. I love those big scissors, I love SBDC success stories and I love baked goods! It was a long trip on a Saturday morning and worth every minute on the road to hear about the story of Salomon and Carmela Silva and how they took ownership of Coastside Baking and, as a result, began the journey to realizing their California Dream.

This California Dream story started in 2005. That's when Salomon Silva moved from Santiago Apóstol in Oaxaca to California to make a better life for himself. After a brief stint as a farmworker, he landed a job at Coastside Bakery and Café in Half Moon Bay. Later, he met Carmela. Fast forward to 2023, the couple have three children and are the new owners of the same commercial bakery where Salomon first found work in 2005. Their growth plan is to expand into new markets with pan dulce recipes learned in Mexico.

The moral of the story? This kind of story is why we all need to be working harder to support the fulfillment of more California Dreams by transforming more employees into owners.

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

Small Business Success Stories

Featured Story - A Deeper Look at Precision Construction Services, Winners of the SBA's 2023 California Small Business Persons of the Year Award



Precision Construction Services Principal Partners Jared Malapit, Erik Wright, and Karl Vaillancourt with Director Tara Lynn Gray

The San Luis Obispo (SLO) community came out in numbers to celebrate their award-winning commercial construction firm, Precision Construction Services.

During their new facility opening and celebration event of being named the Small Business Administration's (SBA) California's Small Business Persons of the Year awardees. CalOSBA Director Tara Lynn Gray honored the Principal Partners Jared Malapit, Erik Wright, and Karl Vaillancourt for receiving both the National and District SBA awards. Also on hand were Mayor Erica A. Stewart, Board of Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, and district representatives from Congressman Salud Ortiz Carbajal and Senator John Laird's offices along with business partners and community leaders.

Precision Construction Services' commitment to their craft, quality work, and scope of projects can be seen throughout Central California.

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

Small Business Success Stories Across the State

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

Central California

Stronger Fitness: Fortaleciendo Empresas Pequeñas y La Comunidad



Cynthia Salas, owner of Stronger Fitness, teaching a class

California is where the entrepreneurial spirit ignites innovation and economic growth. During the month of May, the golden state celebrates Small Business Month and the energy and passion of its diverse small business community is palpable. California has the resilience, tenacity, and creativity of countless entrepreneurs who dare to dream big and turn their ideas into reality. Small Business Month is an occasion to honor their vital contributions to the state's economy.

Cynthia Salas, the visionary owner of Stronger Fitness, embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that pulsates throughout the state. With a dream to establish a small fitness business that could genuinely transform lives within her community, Cynthia's determination and passion set her apart.

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

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

Southern California

Sanctum Tequila – A Priest's Mission-Driven Nonprofit Started with the Dream Fund and Tequila to Help Children in Shelters



Father Lorenzo Lebrija, owner of Sanctum Tequila

Father Lorenzo Lebrija, founder of Sanctum Tequila, received a \$10,000 [Dream Fund](#) grant from CalOSBA to grow the nonprofit organization. Sanctum Tequila was born from Father Lebrija's volunteer service at a children's shelter in Mexicali, Mexico – he wanted to build a business to support the kids at the shelter with basics like keeping the lights on and supplies. But that's only a fraction of how Sanctum Tequila went from just a dream to a real business.

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

Northern California

Meet Salomon & Carmela Silva – New Owners of Coastside Baking Co.



Salomon and Carmela Silva, new owners of Coastside Baking Co.

Salomon moved to Halfmoon Bay from Santiago Apóstol Oaxaca, Mexico, in 2005. He came to Half Moon Bay looking for a better future for himself and his family and found his first job as a farmworker. Being new to the country, Salomon was open to working in whatever was available. However, Salomon had been a baker in Mexico since he was ten years old and hoped he could continue his trade. How did Salomon and Carmela become the new owners of Coastside Bakery?

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

Grant Programs



The following grant programs are administered by CalOSBA. Review the status of current and upcoming grant programs below.

Open Programs

The following grant programs are open to the public. Eligibility criteria applies. Click the links below to learn more about each program.

- [Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant](#) – Closes on June 30, 2023
- [Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Relief Grant Program \(SPSL\)](#) – Closes on June 28, 2023

Closed Programs and Grant Programs ‘Coming Soon’

The following grant programs are currently closed or may open soon. Stay on our email list to learn if/when these programs come available.

- [California Dream Fund Grant Program](#) - Closed
- [California Venues Grant Program](#) – Closed
- CA RISE – Coming Soon
- Ag Drought Flood Relief – Coming Soon



\$10,000 DoorDash Disaster Relief Grant

The Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund, a partnership between DoorDash, financing platform Hello Alice and the Global Entrepreneurship network, will provide 100 grants across 2023 to restaurants in state or federally declared natural disasters.

To be eligible, restaurants must also have a brick-and-mortar location, fewer than 50 employees per location, be open at least six months and have less than \$3 million in revenue per location.

Applications are due by June 30, 2023, for the first round. Click [here](#) to apply.

[Disaster Impact: May Revise Budget Proposal Includes Flood Investment Proposals](#)

California is experiencing “weather whiplash”, from extreme drought that impacted most of the state last fall to winter storms that have now compelled the Governor to declare a State of Emergency in 52 counties as of May 15.

The series of storms began around February 21, 2023, and caused snowfall accumulation, widespread flooding and power outages, downed trees, hazardous debris flows, mudslides, landslides, swelling of waterways, dam overflows, and levee failures. Even now, as summer begins, melting of this year’s historic snowpack is causing new flooding and unusually dangerous currents in rivers that many families love to visit in the summer. This could further impact tourism-focused areas as well as agricultural businesses.

The State of Emergency allows businesses in 52 counties to apply for disaster relief loans of up to \$1 million backed by IBank under the Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program. Many businesses may be eligible as well for loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. These loan processes can be complex; CalOSBA encourages you to contact your local Small Business Center for support.

The Governor also proposed \$492 million in funding to help protect Californians from ongoing flooding impacts in the Central Valley and throughout the state as part of the May revise of the state’s budget. This package included \$25 million to expand the California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program administered by CalOSBA to provide direct assistance to eligible agriculture-related businesses that have been affected by the recent storms. The California Legislature will vote to approve the final budget by July 1.

Download the CalOSBA Disaster Response Resources for California Businesses [here](#).

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](#).

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