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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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[From the Advocate](#)



Undervalued No More

As I reflect on February activities, a time when I frequently get asked to provide remarks to commemorate Black History Month, there is a moment that stands out to me.

Recognizing underserved groups befits any senior official in the administration of a Governor whose vision for the future of the state is predicated on the expansion of economic and social equity.

But obviously, Black History is also a personal topic for me and my family -- protagonists in that history -- and I feel a special responsibility to prepare meaningful and memorable remarks for the month of February.

This year, I was invited to keynote a commemoration of Black History Month hosted by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Authority (LACDA). It was towards the end of the month, a wrap-up for me of another busy February. It was a beautiful event. And something happened for me while at the podium.

I felt overwhelmed by emotion for just a moment and, in that moment, what I couldn't get out of my head was a culmination of thoughts and feelings about what it means to be undervalued no more.

As I stood there delivering my speech about the progress made by my family and my people, I felt myself to represent, to embody, the California For All envisioned by our Governor where people who look like me are undervalued no more.

As I said the words, California For All, I felt my own value recognized as a contributor to our state, confident that everyone could see the tangible value my people add to the fourth largest economy in the world.

But, of course, it's not enough that I can enjoy a moment like that. The whole point is to create that feeling for everyone.

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

[Grant Programs](#)

EmployABILITY Business Grant Applications Open



The EmployABILITY Business Grant offers small and medium-sized businesses grants of \$20,000 to \$200,000 to help grow their businesses and provide job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition, business owners can use funds for consulting services, new equipment, accessibility modifications to their locations, and more. It's free and easy for business owners to apply. The website offers resources for small business owners to use when preparing to apply. [Click here to learn more.](#)

The Demand Side Employment Initiative (DSEI) is an employer incentive program that aims to support small and medium-sized businesses while encouraging them to hire people with disabilities. DSEI comprises the following elements: the EmployABILITY Business Grant, the EmployABILITY targeted marketing campaign, earn and learn opportunities, human resources training, and collateral. [For more information on DSEI, visit here.](#)

Los Angeles County Economic Opportunity Grant Program (EOG)



The [Economic Opportunity Grant Program \(EOG\)](#) offers over \$54 million across 6,800 grants to small businesses, microbusinesses, and nonprofit agencies, prioritizing the most COVID-impacted and highest-need communities and organizations in Los Angeles County.

Phase One

- Dates: Available now until March 25, 2023
- Targets microbusinesses with under \$50,000 in revenue and will award \$2,500 per grant, funded by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate

Phase Two

- Dates: Available now until May 20, 2023
- Will award \$15,000 or \$20,000 per grant for small businesses and \$20,000 or \$25,000 per grant for nonprofits funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

[Click here to learn more.](#)

The Amber Grant - \$10,000 Grant for Women Business Owners



Where *Women Like You* Get Small Business Grants

WomensNet founded the “Amber Grant” in 1998. The grant was set up with one goal in mind: to honor the memory of a very special young woman, Amber Wigdahl, who died at just 19 years old — before realizing her business dreams.

Today, WomensNet carries on that tradition, proudly giving away at least \$30,000 every month in Amber Grant money. In recognition of the diversity of businesses owned by women, WomensNet has also expanded its grant-giving to include “Marketing Grants,” “Business Category Grants,” as well as two “\$25,000 Year End Grants.”

[Click here to view grant requirements and to apply.](#)

[Download CMTC's Latest eBook - Manufacturer's Guide to Government Funding.](#)



With available government funds projected to reach \$74 billion, California's small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) have several avenues to

increase their growth potential and improve their bottom lines.

Taking advantage of these opportunities — grants, contracts, loans, or economic incentives — enables California’s SMMs to reach or maintain positions at the forefront of their industry.

In this guide, you’ll learn about:

- The differences between grants, contracts, & loans
- Eligibility requirements for each
- Step-by-step processes for applying
- Various types of government contracts and loans
- Actionable tips for a successful application
- Funding resources
- And more!

[Download the guide today!](#)

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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