

# The Exchange

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ISAAC G. BRYAN | FEBRUARY | 2025

Resources for local small businesses, nonprofits, and community groups.



## STAY SAFE - DISTRICT 55

### WILDFIRE UPDATES

department  
of economic  
opportunity  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

RESOURCE HUB FOR BUSINESS &  
WORKERS AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES

DISASTER RECOVERY  
CENTERS

REPORT PRICE  
GOUGING



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

**Economic Injury Disaster  
Loans Available**

[Learn More](#)

**DISASTER  
EXPRESS LOAN  
PROGRAM**

pace Finance Corporation

Fast, flexible loans to small businesses. **APPLY**

**INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE RELIEF FOR  
SMALL BUSINESSES**

[Apply Here](#)

**Got extra space? Help  
a displaced business!**

**SPACE  
SHARE**



[More Info](#)

department  
of economic  
opportunity  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



**NCAPER**  
NATIONAL COALITION  
FOR ARTS PREPAREDNESS  
AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### Arts & Cultures Relief

A response and recovery [resources hub for the LA arts and culture sector](#). It brings together federal, state, and local resources, as well as lists of both financial and non-financial aid for artists, arts organizations, and individuals. It's updated regularly.

[Complete an online assessment form](#) from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) to help identify where assistance is sought, provide assistance where needed, understand critical needs, and inform how recovery efforts progress.



### Apply for County Aid

The County has established the Los Angeles County Relief Fund to provide [direct financial relief](#) to homeowners, tenants, workers, small business owners, and nonprofits most affected by the fires.

**LA County Recovers**

### Opt-In for Free Debris Removal

Property Owners need to decide whether to [opt in for free cleanup by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) or opt out and pay a specialized, approved contractor to remove the remaining fire debris, following all necessary requirements, rules and regulations.



**FEMA**

### Apply for Federal Aid

Property Owners seeking financial help after the devastation of the wildfires can request FEMA assistance [HERE](#). The deadline to apply is **March 10, 2025**.

NEW THIS MONTH



# 2025 Homeless Count

They Count. Will You?

February 18-20, 2025

**Volunteers Needed**

Helps us gain a clearer picture of homelessness in our community to better direct services and develop new and innovative programs.

[Click to Volunteer](#)





economic mobility initiative



department of economic opportunity  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HOSTED BY VERMONT SLAUSON EDC

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY

Do you need help starting and growing your business? Enroll in **LA County's Entrepreneurship Academy** to learn how to develop a business plan, register your small business, manage finances, strategically brand and market to consumers, access capital and more! Walk away with a business strategy and resources to take your business to the next level!



**NEXT ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY**

 <b>Application Due Date:</b> February 20, 2025	 <b>Graduation Date:</b> April 22, 2025
 <b>Anticipated Start Date:</b> February 25, 2025	 <b>Language:</b> Spanish
 <b>Location &amp; Hours:</b> Hybrid (virtual + in-person options) Thursdays, 5:30pm-8:30pm 1130 West Slauson Ave Los Angeles, CA 90044	

**PROVIDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**



HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR - 11th DISTRICT



LA COUNTY EMI



VERMONT SLAUSON EDC

**How to Apply and Learn More!**

 (424) 223-5997

 [lacountyemi.com](http://lacountyemi.com)



Upcoming Events

FEB 18

The Power of Connections: Leveraging Networking for Your Small Business. Free LA Chamber Webinar. [Register](#)

FEB 19

Applications Due for LA County Entrepreneurship Academy. [Apply](#)

FEB 20

Exploring the Enhanced Veteran Employment Outcomes Data Tool. U.S. Census Bureau Free Webinar. [Register.](#)

FEB 22

MEHKO Workshop. Free County Event. [Register](#)

FEB 23-28

"Rooted in Place": CA Small Farm Conference. [Reserve a Ticket](#)

FEB 27

Intro to Sustainable Building Certifications. So Cal Gas Virtual Webinar. [Register](#)

Join LA County's Office of Small Business team every 3rd Thursday of the month for training, updates on programs, resources, etc. [Register](#)

MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATION

# MEHKO IS HERE!

COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY  
FEB 22  
9:30AM-2PM

LAS PALMAS PARK  
505 S HUNTINGTON ST, SAN FERNANDO, 91340



- ATTEND AN OVERVIEW PRESENTATION:  
SPANISH - (10:30AM-11:30AM)  
ENGLISH - (12:00PM-1:00PM)
- HAVE YOUR APPLICATION & DOCUMENTS REVIEWED
- CONSULT WITH A SPECIALIST & SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Register Today: [LACMEHKO.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lacmehko)

The LA County Board of Supervisor-Third District, Department of Economic Opportunity, the City of San Fernando, and the COOK Alliance will be in attendance to offer guidance, resources, and other opportunities  
Visit [ph.lacounty.gov/mehko](https://ph.lacounty.gov/mehko) to view application & requirements



New Economics for Women®

## Certifications in LA County

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Come join online to learn how to apply for small business owner certifications. This webinar covers eligibility, the application process and tips to help your business qualify for contracts and resources.

[Reserve a Spot](#)



### New Procurement Resources and Peer Support Groups

Friends of the Earth recently launched a new webpage for school nutrition service teams interested in purchasing California-grown, organic offerings including fruits, vegetables, grains, poultry, meats, and dairy. These farm procurement resources are intended to support districts in adding organic foods to school menus. [Click here](#) to visit the new webpage, or email Leah Smith at [lsmith@foe.org](mailto:lsmith@foe.org).

Additionally, the Friends of the Earth is offering two free peer support group opportunities for nutrition service directors:

Organic Farm to School Procurement Peer Support Group: one-on-one and peer networking support to help expand access to organic, local food procurement.

To learn more and apply by February 21, visit:

[www.foe.org/organic-cohort-form](https://www.foe.org/organic-cohort-form)

Plant-Based Elementary School Menus Peer Support Group: help expand plant-based options on elementary school menus. To learn more and apply by February 21, visit: [www.foe.org/plant-based-cohort-form](https://www.foe.org/plant-based-cohort-form)



**Reserve Ticket**  
Admission on  
Sliding-scale

Learning.  
Inspiration.  
Community.

CALIFORNIA  
**SMALL  
FARM  
CONFERENCE**

One week.  
Over 60 events.  
Virtual & in-person.





**ROOTED IN PLACE**  
**FEBRUARY 23 - 28**



**Partnership Initiative**  
Consumer Outreach

**Exciting News!** 🌟 The California Department of Insurance (CDI) is proud to introduce the **Community Outreach and Education Partnership Initiative**. This dynamic program is designed to raise consumer awareness about CDI's vital services and expand understanding of key insurance topics and fraud prevention. Become a valued partner and unlock exclusive access to:

- Comprehensive consumer education materials
- Specialized training sessions
- Powerful social media tools

**Become a Partner Today!**

**SMALL BUSINESS BOOTCAMP**  
**SPRING 2025**




**Business Bootcamp**

Wednesdays, March 19 - May 14, 2025 |  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

Join this interactive 5-week course designed to equip small business contractors with the skills to bid successfully. Explore topics such as estimating, labor compliance, bonding, prequalification, scheduling and bidding on contracts.

**Register Today**



City of Los Angeles  
Contractor Development and Bonding  
Program Presents...

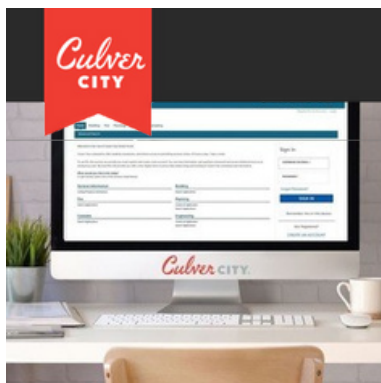
**2025 Construction Bidding & Estimating Hybrid Training Academy**  
Every Tuesday, February 18th - March 18th

**Bidding and Estimating Hybrid Training**

Tuesdays, February 18 - March 18, 2025 | 5:00PM - 7:30PM

Dive into this interactive 5-week course designed to help small business contractors develop and improve estimating skills when bidding on public works projects. Learn about bidding strategies, quantity takeoffs, pricing, bid assembly and bid day activities. Register by Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

**Reserve a Spot**



The City of Culver City now offers residents, businesses, and design professionals access to permitting services online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the new **Culver City Online Permits Portal.**

## FUNDING & CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Deadlines

#### **DHCS Behavioral Health Infrastructure Grants**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced the release of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Bond Act of 2025 to construct, acquire and rehabilitate real estate assets or to invest in mobile crisis infrastructure to expand the community continuum of behavioral health treatment resources. The application deadline is February 13, 2025. [Learn More](#)

#### **Youth Garden Grant**

Any organization in the United States or US Territories planning a new or improving an existing garden program that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 0 and 18 is eligible to apply. In early 2025, 50 organizations will be awarded \$500 in funding for their youth garden program. The deadline for application submission is Friday, February 13, 2025. [Learn More](#)

#### **Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant**

The Verizon Small Business Digital Ready program offers an opportunity to apply for a \$10,000 grant. Register to access free online tools and valuable resources such as personalized learning, expert coaching, mentorship and peer networking. The grant period is open until February 13, 2025. [Learn More](#)

#### **The California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP)**

CNIP encourages the purchase and consumption of healthy, California-grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts by nutrition benefit clients. The program provides monetary incentives for the purchase of California grown fruits and vegetables at Certified Farmers Markets and small businesses. Apply by February 16, 2025. [Learn More](#)

#### **Beverage Containers Infrastructure Grant Program**

CalRecycle announces \$23.75 Million available to fund infrastructure and start-up costs related to a deposit-return system for glass reusable containers in the Beverage Container Recycling Program. Grant applications are due February 19, 2025. [Learn More](#)

#### **Fruit Tree Orchard Grant**

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation is donating fruit trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities and improve the surrounding air, water and soil. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. [Learn more](#).

#### **USDA Southwest Regional Food Business Center (SWRFBC) Grant Program**

The SWRFBC is a five-year project that seeks to strengthen resilient, diverse, and competitive local and regional food systems by improving opportunities for food and farm businesses. The grant will support the development of local and regional food supply chains by providing capital directly to businesses for post-harvest activities. Launching Jan 2025. [Learn More](#)

## FUNDING & CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES Cont'd

### Ongoing Opportunities

#### LA County Economic Opportunity Grants Program

Microbusinesses (under \$50,000 in revenue) in LA county may qualify for financial relief through the Economic Opportunity Grants (EOG) program. [Sign up today](#) for additional information and next steps!

#### U.S. DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

The [DOT Navigator](#) is a resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

#### Build Back Better with LA County Contracting Opportunities

With resources from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), LA County is working to partner with community service providers and businesses that can help our communities recover. To learn about current solicitations and contracting opportunities, [visit here](#).

#### Thriving Communities Program | US Department of Transportation

This fall the DOT and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be issuing Notices of Funding Opportunities for organizations interested in providing technical and capacity building assistance. It is expected that states, local governments, nonprofits, and philanthropic entities will be eligible. [Learn more](#).

#### California Financing Coordinating Committee

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) combines the resources of four State and two Federal funding agencies to provide a one-stop shop for available grants, loans and bond financing for infrastructure projects. Visit

#### Become a City Vendor – Culver City

Culver City welcomes the opportunity to foster business relationships with high-quality suppliers and service providers at the best value for our city. The Purchasing Division is responsible for the procurement of equipment, goods and services for all City departments, divisions and offices. To register: [Become a City Vendor](#)

#### Procurement Division of The Department of General Services (DGS)

Supports the State of California's small business (SB) and disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) firms through outreach, education, advocacy and certification services. This branch processes certification applications, addresses certification inquiries, conducts outreach to businesses, and supports buyers throughout the state to work with SBs and DVBEs. Call 800-559-5529 or visit [Procurement Division \(ca.gov\)](#) to learn more.

#### Cal eProcure

The State of California's home for state procurement and certification programs. Through this system business owners can learn how to sell to the State, search bid opportunities, get certified as a Small Business (SB) or Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), and find training and resources. [Visit Cal eProcure](#)

## FUNDING & CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES Cont'd

### **Small Business (SB) / Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Advocate Directory**

The State of California agencies, boards, departments, and panels that have SB/DVBE Advocates can be found in the SB/DVBE Advocate Directory. The directory can help you find and connect with the advocate for the agency you would like to work with to learn more about their department's procurement needs and future contracting opportunities. \*\*Some agencies have chosen to have a SB/DVBE First Policy. Click here to learn more about that designation. Find Your SB/DVBE Advocate

### **Division of Procurement and Contracts (DPAC) at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

Caltrans commits to an overall Small Business contracting goal of 25 percent and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise goal of 5 percent. Interested businesses can call 916-227-6000 or visit [Procurement and Contracts \(DPAC\) | Caltrans](#).

# TOOLS & SERVICES

## Small Business Services

### CalOSBA Small Business Centers

CA Office of the Small Business Advocate

Small business technical assistance centers in over 30 languages. No-cost one-on-one consulting and low-cost training services and programs. [More Info](#)

### L.A. Business Portal

Los Angeles County

Info and tools to plan, start, and manage a business. [Visit](#)

### Free Legal Support for Small Business

LA County WDACS

Free legal aid and rent relief to small business owners affected by COVID-19. [Visit here](#) or call 1-866-375-9511 to learn more & determine eligibility.

### Learn How to Contract with LA County

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

Interested businesses can [visit here](#) to sign up for a tailored assessment by a Small Business Counselor.

## Tax Services

### Apply for Tax Exempt Status

CA Franchise Tax Board

Tools and guidance for charities and nonprofits seeking tax exemptions. [Visit](#)

### Online Taxpayer Services

LA County Treasurer and Tax Collector

Pay property tax and apply for a business license. [Visit](#)

### Online Taxpayer Services

LA City Office of Finance

Services, forms, tax education, and FAQs. [Visit](#)

### Tax Guide for Nonprofit Organizations

CA Dep. of Tax and Fee Administration

[Visit](#)

### Taxpayers' Rights Advocate

CA Dep. of Tax and Fee Administration

Assistance with rights violations in the audit or collection of taxes or fees. [Visit](#)

## Helpful Tools

### Parklet Permits

Parklets are permanent installations to expand outdoor restaurant dining, create a customer waiting area, display art, or plant a garden.

Culver City [Parklets - Culver City](#)

LA City [Parklets | \(lacity.org\)](#)

### EDD Employer Services Online

Payroll services, eWOTC, and SIDES E-Response. [Employer Services Online \(ca.gov\)](#)

### Let's Volunteer LA

A directory launched by Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti in partnership with Inspiring Services. Nonprofits in LA County can post their information and locals can find places they to volunteer. [Lets Volunteer LA](#)

### LA Law Library

Self-help resources, legal research, free consultations, classes, & events. Free and low-cost. Main library located Downtown. [lalawlibrary.org/](#)

### DIR Small Business Portal

CA Dep. of Industrial Relations

Guidance on workplace laws. [Visit](#)

### California Grants Portal

CA State Library

One destination to find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies. [Visit](#)



## Free Training & Educational Resources

### Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

*PG&E and Community Partners*

Free online classes for small businesses on a variety of topics including supply chains, crisis messaging, cybersecurity, and more. [More Info](#)

### Start a Business in Culver City

Information on the requirements to do business in Culver City. Connect with the Business Resource Center. [More Info](#)

### Strategic Partnership Program (SPP)

*Clark Construction and Community Partners*

Free executive education program for minority-, women-, and veteran-owned firms working in construction, engineering, and architecture.

[More Info](#)

### Sidewalk & Park Vendor Permit Program

Free workshops, webinars, and business counseling.

[More Info](#)

### Charity Registration & Guidelines

*Office of the Attorney General*

Register a charity, submit annual disclosures, learn best practices, and review charitable giving laws. [Visit](#)

## FOR MORE INFO & SERVICES



Phone: 888-211-0644 510 S. Vermont Ave., 11th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90020 LA County [WDACS](#)



<https://dyd.lacounty.gov/>



Los Angeles District Office  
Phone: 213-634-3855 312 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[www.sba.gov/district/los-angeles](http://www.sba.gov/district/los-angeles)



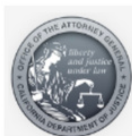
Phone: 1-877-345-4633 1325 J Street, Suite 1800 Sacramento, CA 95814 [calosba.ca.gov/](http://calosba.ca.gov/)



Phone: (844) 663-4411 200 North Spring Street, Room 101 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
<https://finance.lacity.org/>



Phone: 800-852-5711 (213) 897-5196 300 South Spring Street, Suite 5704 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Email: [FTBSmallBusinessLiaison@ftb.ca.gov](mailto:FTBSmallBusinessLiaison@ftb.ca.gov)



**ROB BONTA**  
*Attorney General*

Charities: (916) 210-6400

Advocate for Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and Small Business Liaison: (916) 210-6358 [Advocate@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Advocate@doj.ca.gov)



Culver City Business Hotline  
(310) 253-5765

City of Culver City - City Hall  
9770 Culver Blvd. Culver City, CA 90232



Business Licenses: 213.974.2011  
Email: [businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto:businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov)  
<https://ttc.lacounty.gov/>



California Financing  
Coordinating Committee

<https://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>

**INFRASTRUCTURE LA**

<https://infrastructurela.org/>



State of California  
Department of  
Industrial Relations

Email: [DIRInfo@dir.ca.gov](mailto:DIRInfo@dir.ca.gov)  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/>