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Regional Access to Capital series comes to Oakland

OAKLAND — On May 7, Assemblymember Rob Bonta and the Alameda County Small Business Development Center will host a Northern California Access to Capital and Lender Fair event to stimulate economic growth opportunities for East Bay small businesses.

The free program, Access to Capital and Lender Fair, will feature expert panelists that will offer an insider's perspective on how to secure small business funding through traditional and alternative methods. The expert panel portion of the event will feature panels conducted in the English, Spanish and Mandarin languages. There will also be networking with 20 different lending and technical assistance organizations introducing banks, peer-to-peer lending, micro lending, crowdfunding and angel investing.

This event is the third of ten planned programs within the Norcal SBDC Regional Network that will focus on growth strategies that can transform small businesses by adding resources to expand, increase sales and create and retain jobs locally.

The Alameda County SBDC provides no-cost consulting services and trainings throughout Alameda County. The SBDC is a program of the U.S. Small Business Administration and is part of a national network of nearly 1,000 centers in the country providing technical assistance to entrepreneurs.

Organizations and institutions that will be featured at the Access to Capital event include representatives from U.S. SBA, the East Bay EDA, Lending Club, Marble Bridge, JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Working Solutions, Community Bank of the Bay, OBDC, US Bancorp, Bay Area Development Co., Creditera, Lenders Commercial, SCORE, AnewAmerica, Bay Area Development Co., KivaZip and Operation Hope.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for small business owners to hear from and meet a large number of capital providers and resources in one location" exclaimed Lee Lambert, Director of the Alameda County SBDC. "This is our premier capital access event of the year, and people should sign up early, as space is limited."

Assemblymember Rob Bonta explained "We are committed to helping our local small business community, and pleased to help offer the opportunity for small businesses to find resources to grow and create local jobs."

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Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf added "The City of Oakland is pleased to host this symposium as part of our Small Business Week activities. Our local business owners can benefit by taking advantage of the expert knowledge and resources available at this event."

The May 7 program will be held at Oakland City Hall at 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza from 8:00am through 12:30pm. There is no charge, and refreshments, networking opportunities and prizes will be included.

For more information about Access to Capital and Lender Fair go online to <http://acsfdc.org/node/20524>. Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended.

For more information about the Alameda County SBDC or to find out how you can apply for services, visit www.acsfdc.org, or call (510) 208-0410.