

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT (GO-BIZ)**



OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Serves as the primary advocate for California's small business community.

- Provides educational workshops.
- Manages interagency projects to promote enhanced State outreach and assistance to small businesses.
- Provides centralized resources for technical assistance, financial assistance, and state procurement opportunities.

EXTERNAL OUTREACH

OSBA plans, coordinates, and delivers workshops to small businesses on current issues of concern.

- Brown Bag It! Workshop Series
- Coffee Break with GO-Biz Series
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Workshops

Also convenes and attends outreach events with selected groups of the small business community.

- GO-Small Biz Quarterly Meetings

BROWN BAG IT! WORKING LUNCH

2013 workshops were held in Fresno, Emeryville, Sacramento, San Diego, Torrance, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

Topics covered:

- Covered California's Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP).
- California's Employment Training Panel program.
- GO-Biz's services and resources for small businesses.

COFFEE BREAK WITH GO-BIZ SERIES

- A one to two-hour event to provide information about a single topic of concern among small business owners.
 - Hosted through the partnership of local Chambers of Commerce, members of the Legislation, and other regional stakeholders.
 - 2013 locations and topics included Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Camarillo.
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OTHER EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Workshops

- Educates small businesses on how to prepare and react to potential disasters (e.g., earthquakes, cyber-attacks, wildfires).
- 2013 event will be held on September 19th in Los Angeles.

GO-Small Biz Quarterly Meetings

- Meetings with statewide small business associations to stay abreast of the issues and challenges that small businesses are facing in California.



INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS INQUIRIES

OSBA provides direct assistance to small business owners:

- Refers small businesses to external organizations for technical assistance (e.g., Small Business Development Centers and Financial Development Corporations).
 - Connects small businesses with State contacts to resolve licensing or other regulatory matters (e.g., Secretary of State, Board of Equalization, Employment Development Department).
 - Works with the Department of General Services (DGS) to resolve small business contracting issues.
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SMALL BUSINESS ONLINE PORTAL

Exploring options to create a web portal to enable businesses to submit questions and receive answers on State regulatory, permitting and licensing issues.

- **Key Goals**
 - Provide businesses with a single user-friendly site that offers expedited information from the State.
 - Reduce the amount of email/phone inquiries that staff receive from businesses.
- OSBA has coordinated with department staff to develop a database of over 800 frequently asked questions from small businesses.

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

- Consists of State decision-makers on regulatory, permitting, and licensing issues that affect small businesses.
 - Reports departmental updates and shares best practices.
 - Provides information and technical support to OSBA on an as-needed basis.
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SMALL BUSINESS/(DVBE) PROCUREMENT SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Consists of members from the Department of General Services and Small Business/DVBE Advocates in other departments.
- Supports GO-Biz in implementing policy-level initiatives to help small business navigate the State's small business/DVBE procurement program.
- Implemented a directive through the California Technology Agency to make State Small Business/DVBE Advocate contact information more visible on State websites.

CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

- Moved to GO-Biz on July 1, 2013.
 - Helps small businesses access capital by providing a State Guarantee to a participating Lender's loan.
 - OSBA has been working closely with SBLGP staff during this transition.
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Visit GO-Biz at
www.business.ca.gov

