



Citywide Small Business Support

In addition to Storefront Opportunity and Business Training Grants, the City has a portfolio of resources for small businesses including:

The Storefront Opportunity Grant provides small businesses with \$25,000 to \$50,000 in funding and access to technical assistance in support for signing a lease for a new commercial storefront in eligible areas.

The Business Training Grant provides a diverse range of small businesses between \$5,000 to \$50,000 to stabilize and grow in San Francisco. The focus of these is to ensure entrepreneurs are informed and educated through trainings and workshops. In addition to opening a small business, the first few years of operating is critical to the long-term success of a business.

SF Shines Design Services Grant: OEWD provides access to professional design services to storefront businesses to help them with design, permits, and other technical services so they can make improvements to their space.

Accessible Barrier Removal Grant: The Office of Small Business provides grants to small businesses to improve the physical accessibility of their storefront. Grants for up to \$10,000 can be used for the purchase and installation of accessible furniture, fixture, and equipment, construction costs to remove barriers to accessibility, and related inspection and permit fees.

Storefront Vandalism Relief Grant: OEWD provides financial relief to restore small businesses impacted by deliberate actions that result in the destruction or damages of storefronts. This program offers either \$1,000 or \$2,000, depending on the total cost incurred to repair physical damages.

Revolving Loan Fund: Through community partner, Main Street Launch, up to \$50,000 in low-interest loans is available for eligible new and existing small businesses. Funds can be used toward business acquisition, debt refinance, furniture, fixtures and equipment, inventory and supplies, tenant improvements, working capital, and for start-up expenses.

Emerging Business Loan Fund: Through community partner, Main Street Launch, up to \$250,000 in low-interest loans are available for eligible new and existing small businesses. Funds can be used toward business acquisition, debt refinance, furniture, fixtures and equipment, inventory and supplies, tenant improvements, working capital, and for start-up expenses.

First Year Free: The program waives first-year permit, license, and business registration fees for new and expanding businesses in order to reduce the cost of opening a new business location.



Technical Assistance through the Office of Small Business

- Small Business Permit Specialists provide businesses with comprehensive technical support as they go through the permitting process. Located at the San Francisco Permit Center at 49 Van Ness, they coordinate across agencies to help small businesses secure their permits in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Commercial Vacancy Manager supports existing and interested business start-ups with real estate opportunities and lease negotiations and terms. In addition to providing direct assistance to individual businesses, they attend neighborhood merchant meetings and visits to commercial corridors to understand existing commercial storefront opportunities and challenges.
- Small Business Case Managers and the Small Business Development Center staff provide one-on-one counseling and referrals based on a small business' needs. Workshops are also offered to support entrepreneurs on a range of topics.

Commercial Corridor Activations

- Connecting artists, performers, musicians, makers, entrepreneurs to empty spaces short-term with the goal of permanent activation. Through programs such as Vacant to Vibrant, the City is partnering with non-profits, property owners, and creative innovators in the small business and entrepreneurship space to breathe new life into San Francisco's downtown corridors while attracting much needed foot traffic.
- Investing in neighborhood events and festivals through public and private partnerships, the City works with community and merchant groups to plan, organize and launch activities to boost and draw visitors into commercial corridors in support of direct spending to nearby small businesses. These activities include events such as the Fillmore Jazz Festival, Carnaval, Sunday Streets, Craving Chinatown and the Bhangra and Beats night market.
- Supporting incubation models by co-locating multiple retail/food entrepreneurs in one space. The goal is to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start and launch in a brick and mortar by sharing the overhead costs.

Policy

- Legislation to make over 100 changes to the Planning Code to improve the small business permitting process and reduce restrictions on **ground** floor commercial uses.



- Reforms to business taxes and convening a process with the business community and other stakeholders to develop specific reform recommendations. The process will result in a public report back to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors by late 2023 to frame the development of a measure for the consideration of the voters in November 2024.

Mayor Breed has allocated \$5 million to support small businesses in her upcoming budget. San Francisco has directed over \$83 million in grants and loans to support more than 4,800 small businesses since the start of the pandemic.