

CA RISE Program



CA Rise is the first of its kind, \$42 million state investment in employment social enterprises. California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) is in collaboration with Redefine Alliance who is the program lead. CA RISE brings capital, community, and customized technical assistance to businesses across the state that employ, train, and support Californians overcoming barriers to employment.

The application period for the 2026 cohort is open from June 3 to July 3 at 5:00 PST.

Please email carise@redefinealliance.org

If you would to lean more about the CA Rise program please click [here](#)

2026 Taking Your Business to the Next Level: East County Recap



Local small businesses from the neighborhood boutiques and restaurants to local manufacturing and print shops are the heart of communities. When local businesses thrive, the entire community grows more resilient.

To support this growth, local entrepreneurs, small business owners, and regional economic development partners packed the room at the Brentwood Community Center on May 21, 2026, for the launch of the ***Taking Your Business to the Next Level*** resource event.

Connecting Businesses with Free Support

While local business owners are experts at their trades, there is rarely time in the day to pursue outside support systems that are available to help the business thrive. To address this gap local economic developers are focused on being the bridge to the countless resources available to them. This event was a part of that bridge. We focused on three core areas that are often concerns for small businesses.



The workshop focused on demystifying common but complex business topics and breaking them down into three core areas:

1. Accessing Financial Support: Experts shared how small businesses can successfully position themselves to access local funding opportunities and financial programs, helping them remain resilient during challenging economic times.
2. Opening New Revenue Streams through Government Contracting: Attendees learned how small businesses can expand by successfully bidding on and obtaining contracts with local and state government agencies.
3. Hiring and Team Building: Growing a skilled team can be tough. Panelists highlighted how small businesses can maximize their limited budgets and handle human resources obligations by taking advantage of government-funded workforce programs.



Missed the Event? You Can Still Get Involved!

Even if you couldn't make it to the Brentwood Community Center, you can still access all of these community **programs**:

- Antioch Business Collaborative/Alliance for Community Development
- BMO Bank
- California Employer Training Panel (ETP)
- California Employment Development Department (EDD)
- California Office of the Small Business Advocate (OSBA)
- Contra Costa Green Business Program
- Contra Costa Health Services MEHKO Pilot Program
- Contra Costa Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
- East Bay SCORE
- East Bay Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Los Medanos College
- Pacific Community Ventures
- Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County
- Working Solutions

Watch Online: A full recording of the presentations and panel discussions is available to watch on [YouTube](#).

Get Direct Assistance: You can connect directly with the Contra Costa County Economic Development team. For more information on how to access these free business programs, reach out to the team via the link [here](#).

CCTV will also be broadcasting the event through the month of June. The dates and times are listed below.

Monday 06/08 at 8:00 PM

Thursday 06/11 at 10:00 AM

Sunday 06/14 at 1:00 PM

Monday 06/15 at 8:00 PM

Thursday 06/18 at 10:00 AM

Sunday 06/21 at 1:00 PM



A Community Effort

This event was made possible thanks to a collaborative effort between county departments, local chambers of commerce, and regional economic development partners dedicated to bringing vital resources directly to East County.

Did you attend the event?

The organizers want to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out the brief feedback survey at [Bludot Community](#) to help shape future resource events in our area.

Future Events

The Contra Costa County Economic Development team plan to host more of these events later this year, with the next scheduled to take place in West County. Please check out the [Economic Development Events Page](#) to be up to date about future events.