



Dear Contra Costa Manufacturing Community,

Happy New Year, we at Contra Costa County wish you nothing but success in 2026.

We would like to share an important opportunity. The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), in partnership with the Association of Manufacturers (AMBayArea) and EASTBAYWorks, is hosting an exclusive executive roundtable on February 19 as part of the Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative. This session will focus on regional opportunities and practical strategies to support and grow the manufacturing sector.

Why this matters

- Special guest: State Senator Tim Grayson, a legislative champion for the industry, will join the conversation.
- Who will attend: Manufacturing executives, workforce development leaders, education partners, and economic development stakeholders.

Purpose

- Share real-world challenges, influence regional workforce, and support initiatives, and help shape services that directly address manufacturers' needs.

Event details

- Date: February 19
- Format: Invitation-only executive roundtable (focused, action-oriented discussion)
- How to register: Manufacturers are encouraged to register [here](#) to secure a seat.

Sincerely,

Economic Development Team



Good morning

The County Economic Development team would like to share this grant opportunity to our business community. Please find the information below.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Amex Shop Small Grants Program, in partnership with American Express®, will fund more than 500 grants of \$20,000 each, empowering small businesses to grow, innovate, and support their local communities. The program was initially launched with a \$5 million contribution, and as a result of its giving pledge for eligible transactions made on Small Business Saturday®, American Express will now contribute an additional \$5.1 million to the program – totaling over \$10 million in grants.

The Amex Shop Small Grants Program reflects the shared commitment of American Express and Main Street America to champion small businesses that strengthen communities and help local economies thrive.

Recipients will have a 6 month period in which to complete their projects, so applicants are encouraged to prepare a “ready-to-execute” project plan and a detailed, itemized budget. During that period, Main Street America will provide opportunities for grant recipients to connect and network with each other, complete self-guided e learning courses, and share the story of their business and their Amex Shop Small Grants Program project journey with a variety of audiences.

Applications will be open from Small Business Saturday, November 29, 2025, to Friday, January 23, 2026 at 11:59 CT.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The application submission deadline has been extended from Friday, January 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT to Friday, January 23, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT.

Sincerely,

Economic Development Team