



Turning the Tide

Public Counsel's Response to the Economic Crisis

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Information and Resources for Small Businesses

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Public Counsel Information Sheets

Public Counsel Information Sheets were prepared by expert attorneys addressing timely legal issues that small businesses may be facing during these difficult economic times. Topics include the following:

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	LAST UPDATED
<u>Employment</u>	In this information sheet, applicable California employment laws are explored through a series of questions addressing many common concerns of small businesses. The answers offer a starting point for a small business to evaluate alternatives designed to reduce expenses, including reductions in salaries, work hours or benefits, as well as layoffs.	August 2009
<u>Lease Modifications</u>	In this information sheet, the topic of lease modifications is explored through a series of questions that address many of the common experiences and concerns of organizations leasing commercial real estate in these economically challenging times. The answers offer a starting point for a small business to evaluate whether it can achieve a more sustainable economic future through rent abatement, rent deferral, sub-letting, or other lease concessions.	August 2009

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Helpful Resources

Below are additional resources that may be helpful for small businesses in our challenging economic environment. Resources are listed in alphabetical order.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT ("RECOVERY ACT")

Contracting businesses may visit the following websites related to government contracting to determine opportunities for additional business arising out of recovery funds:

Local

City of Los Angeles Contracting Opportunities,
http://business.lacity.org/discover_opps/la_city_opps/index.htm

Listing of various city and county contracting websites - www.wifcon.com/stsol.htm

California

California Department of General Services, www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/default.htm

California Department of Transportation, www.dot.ca.gov/doingbusiness.htm

California Economic Recovery Portal, www.recovery.ca.gov

Federal

Office of Federal Procurement Policy, www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement

Federal Business Opportunities, www.fbo.gov

Federal Government Acquisition Forecast, http://acquisition.gov/comp/procurement_forecasts/index.html

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FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Public Counsel, www.publiccounsel.org

In this period of economic downturn, small businesses are facing increasing financial challenges. Trying to address these challenges without legal advice could put the small business and your livelihood at greater risk. Public Counsel's **Community Development Project (CDP)** provides [free legal assistance](#) with a variety of [transactional issues](#) to small businesses and low-income entrepreneurs located in, and employing residents of, underserved communities in Los Angeles County. For further information, please call us at (213) 385-2977, extension 200, or visit our [website](#).

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ISSUES FACED BY SMALL BUSINESSES

Employment

Choosing alternatives to layoffs, Los Angeles Times,
www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz21-2009apr21,0,6496081.story

Keeping Good Employees When You Can't Pay Them More, New York Times,
www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/business/smallbusiness/18toolkit.html

Financing

Financing your firm with a credit card? Bad Idea, Los Angeles Times,
www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz18-2009aug18,0,2231646.story

Steps to Take When Your Credit Line Is Pulled, All Business,
www.allbusiness.com/banking-finance/banking-lending-credit-services-commercial/11683607-1.html

Foreclosure

After the Bank Failure Comes the Debt Collector, New York Times,
www.nytimes.com/2009/04/17/business/smallbusiness/17debt.html

Leases

Negotiating the Best Office Lease for Your Business, New York Times,
www.nytimes.com/allbusiness/AB12317629_primary.html?ref=smallbusiness

Rent relief often gives tenants new lease on life, Los Angeles Times,
www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz16-2009jun16,0,4984170.story

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Los Angeles Office of Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business

In July, Los Angeles will open the doors of its Office of Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business. The new city office will help small businesses navigate the many rules and benefit programs scattered throughout different city departments. For more information, [click here](#).

Small Business Administration (SBA), www.sba.gov/recovery/index.html

Visit this website for updates on loans to start or expand your small business, surety bonds for supply, service or construction firms, government contracting opportunities, and training programs. The SBA and its resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Women's Business Centers and Veteran Outreach Centers can provide technical, financial and contracting assistance to small businesses. For lists of such organizations please click on the links below:

- [Business Consulting](#)
- [Contract Procurement](#)
- [Individual Development Accounts](#)
- [Loan Services](#)
- [Training Programs](#)
- [Workshops](#)

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