

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Resources for Startups & Technology Sectors



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Empowering Your Success: A Message from the State Treasurer

Dear Friends,

As your State Treasurer, I am honored to present this resource guide for startups and technology sectors - the driving forces behind California's innovative industries. This guide reflects my commitment to ensuring that all Californians have access to the resources, support, and financial tools needed to thrive in the Golden State. Whether you're launching a startup or scaling a tech venture, this guide is designed to help you navigate the many opportunities for financial growth and long-term resilience in our great state.

California has long been a state of innovation, diversity, and opportunity. In that spirit, this guide brings together an array of programs, financial products, and services tailored to meet your unique needs.

A strong and thriving economy begins with the success of startups and the entrepreneurs who drive innovation across our state. Startups are valuable contributors to our state's economy, creating jobs and fostering economic growth for our local communities. This guide is part of my office's ongoing effort to support you in these endeavors by providing access to affordable financing, grants, and resources that can make a tangible difference in your lives.

The California State Treasurer's Office is proud to be your partner in building a prosperous and sustainable future. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and resilience. Together, we are building a brighter future for all Californians.

In Peace & Friendship,



Fiona Ma, CPA
California State Treasurer



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Grants

Scan QR code with phone here



California Dream Fund

Provides microgrants (up to ~\$10,000) for eligible startups/business owners after completing training programs via SBDCs.

<https://smallbizla.org/dreamfund/>



California Grants Portal

A Centralized destination to find all grants and loans offered by California state agencies.

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/>



CalSEED

Provides grants of up to \$700,000 and professional development to early-stage clean energy entrepreneurs to accelerate California's clean energy goals.

<https://calseed.fund/>

Loans & Incentives



California Capital Access Programs (CalCAP)

Supports financial institutions making loans to small businesses through CalCAP for Small Business and CalCAP Collateral Support, catering to various sectors.

<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cpcf/calcap/index.asp>



Small Business Loan Guarantee Program (SBLGP)

Administered by California's IBank and delivered through regional Financial Development Corporations, SBLGP provides up to an 80% guarantee on loans made by participating lenders to small businesses—including startups that lack collateral or a long operating history.

<https://www.ibank.ca.gov/small-business/loan-guarantees/>



Climate Tech Finance Loan Guarantee Program

For startups in clean technology or climate innovation, the Climate Tech Finance program, administered by IBank and regional partners, offers loan guarantees covering up to 90% of a bank loan. This is particularly valuable for capital-intensive ventures developing new hardware or manufacturing processes.

<https://ibank.ca.gov/climate-financing/climate-loan-guarantees/>



Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program

Offers a full sales and use tax exclusion for advanced manufacturers and those producing alternative source, recycled feedstock, and advanced transportation products.

<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/ste/index.asp>



Accelerators



USC Stevens Center for Innovation

External resources, networks, and accelerators; helps with sections such as IP, venture capital, partnerships.

<https://stevens.usc.edu/usc-startups/external-resources/>



BioLabs LA @ The Lundquist Institute

Flexible, fully equipped co-working wet lab on the Harbor-UCLA campus.

<https://www.biolabs.io/>



BioCurious

Community biotech lab / shared lab space / resources for those who need wet lab access or community infrastructure.

<https://biocurious.org/>



SkyDeck, UC Berkeley

Offers startup acceleration, investment opportunities, mentorship.

<https://skydeck.berkeley.edu/>



IndieBio SF (SOSV)

Biotech accelerator for human and planetary health; San Francisco program.

<https://indiebio.co/>

Incubators



BADASS Labs

The first fully supportive biotech incubator in Alameda that provides entrepreneurs with specialty, core, and common equipment for their research.

<https://badasslabs.org/>



Hera Hub

Female focused coworking incubator in the San Diego region.

<https://herahub.com/>



Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)

Supports startups through various programs, providing resources, and fostering partnerships to address the climate crisis and create a green economy.

<https://laincubator.org/>



Aquillius

Life science and med tech incubator in San Diego with lab spaces, prototyping, cleanroom, dry labs, office, & coworking resources.

<https://www.aquillius.com/>



Accelerate California (Accelerate CA Hubs)

Innovation hubs across the state offering non-dilutive funding, technical assistance, IP support, regulatory guidance, product development help, etc.

<https://calosba.ca.gov/funding-grants-incentives/accelerate-california/>



Technical Support



NVIDIA Inception

Free program for AI startups: tools, training, preferred pricing, and investor exposure.

<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/startups/?ncid=no-ncid>



California Office of Small Business Administration (CalOSBA)

Provides small businesses, startups, and entrepreneurs with tools and resources to start, manage, and grow.

<https://calosba.ca.gov/>



iHub 2

Aids DEI-focused science and tech firms in designated areas, helping diverse entrepreneurs develop their ideas through local connections and access to advising and training.

<https://calosba.ca.gov/funding-grants-incentives/ihub2/>



Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)

Provides one-on-one technical assistance, information, and training to small businesses to help them compete more effectively on federal, state, and local government contracts at no cost.

<https://www.aptac-us.org/find-a-ptac/?state=CA>



Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

Offers FREE business consulting and affordable training on various topics. The California SBDC network assists all industries with capital, HR, marketing, e-commerce, and more.

<https://americassbdc.org/find-your-sbdc/>



FAST California (CLS Innovation & Entrepreneurship FAST Program)

Specific to life sciences / biotech: advisory program, mentorship, help with regulatory strategy, commercialization, etc.

<https://www.califesciences.org/fast-program/>



Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

Offers permit and regulatory assistance.

<https://business.ca.gov/advantages/permit-and-regulatory-assistance/>



SCORE

Provides business mentoring, education, and resources to help aspiring and established small business owners.

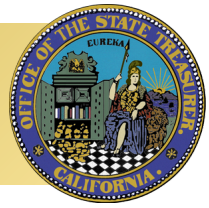
<https://www.score.org/>



Women's Business Centers

Provides free to low-cost counseling and training and focus on women who want to start, grow, and expand their startups.

<https://awbc.org/wbc-locator/>



Technical Support Cont'd



California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTc)

Technical assistance / cybersecurity / quality and scaling support for hardware / manufacturing startups.

<https://www.cmtc.com/>



SBDC - Tech Focused Services

Free advising for tech startups in California, including strategy, product development, market entry, pitch prep, etc.

<https://www.californiasbdc.org/sbdc-tech/>

Networks & Mentors



California Life Sciences (CLS)

Statewide trade association supporting biotech, pharma, and medical technology companies with advocacy, mentorship, and networking.

<https://www.califesciences.org/>



Biocom California

Largest regional life sciences association in California, connecting biotech entrepreneurs with industry leaders, capital, and regulatory guidance.

<https://www.biocom.org/>



Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio)

Network for biotech and med tech companies in Southern California offering mentoring, events, and investor forums.

<https://socalbio.org/>



California Regional Networks

Numerous regional networks across California offering grassroots connections, talent pools, and innovation communities.

<https://www.techstars.com/communities>



Startup Grind (Silicon Valley & Bay Area Chapter)

Monthly events connecting founders, operators, and investors / large annual conference.

<https://www.startupgrind.com/>



City of San Diego - Startup Resources (Ecosystem Map)

Municipal portal mapping incubators, accelerators, co-working, and support agencies.

<https://sandiego.maps.arcgis.com/>



Women In Bio (Bay Area & SoCal Chapters)

Industry networking, mentorship, and career programs for women across biotech and med tech.

<https://community.womeninbio.org/>



Networks & Mentors Cont'd



LA / OC Bioscience Network

Puts on events and brings together scientists, entrepreneurs, clinicians, and students in biotechnology and diagnostics.

<https://www.meetup.com/la-oc-bioscience-network/>



UCSF Rosenman Institute (Healthtech)

Programs, resources, mentorship, and investor access for med tech and digital health founders.

<https://rosenmaninstitute.org/>

Co-Working & Hackerspaces



Noisebridge (San Francisco)

Long-running hackerspace with open classes / tool access / community projects.

<https://www.noisebridge.net/>



CRASH Space (Los Angeles / Culver City)

Volunteer-run hackerspace hosting STEAM classes / maker events / community meet-ups.

<https://blog.crashspace.org/>



Hacker Dojo (Silicon Valley)

Community and co-working space for IT and startup founders; hosts workshops, coding events, and networking.

<https://hackerdojo.com/>



Circuit Launch (Hardware Co-Working & Prototyping Labs)

Robotics/electronics-focused coworking with shared labs, test equipment, and fabrication tools.

<https://www.circuitlaunch.com/index.html>



Bay Area LifeTech (BALT)

Regular meetups for scientists, entrepreneurs, clinicians, and students focused on biotechnology, medical devices, and life sciences.

<https://www.meetup.com/BALTSF/>



Hackerspaces & Makerspaces In California

Database of all active hackerspaces and makerspaces in California.

<https://wiki.hackerspaces.org/California>



Bonneville Labs - Berkeley

A flexible coworking lab space optimized for a community of biotech companies, researchers, scholars, partners, and life science market leaders.

<https://bonnevillelabs.com/>



Additional Resources



California Workforce Development Board

Offers information and guidance on job training, placement, and business services.

https://cwdb.ca.gov/local_boards/local_workforce_investment_associations/



CalSavers

A state-mandated retirement program enabling California workers to save through automatic payroll contributions from their workplace.

<https://employer.calsavers.com/>



CalTestBed

This voucher program assists clean energy entrepreneurs in gaining access to critical testing facilities. It expedites their pathway to commercialization through connection to a network of next-level partners.

<https://www.caltestbed.com/>



GoGreen Financing Programs

Helps California residents, businesses, and nonprofits save energy and money by providing accessible financing for energy efficiency improvements.

<https://www.gogreenfinancing.com/>



Small Business Majority

Provides information on Federal, State and Local Resources.

<https://smallbusinessmajority.org/>



Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Center (Berkeley)

Supports UC Berkeley faculty/postdocs/students with translational research, venture grants, commercialization pathway.

<https://lsec.berkeley.edu/startup-resources>