

## Access to Capital Program

America's 28 million small business owners are the backbone of our economy. They create jobs, drive innovation and strengthen our communities. Yet, they face significant challenges and an uneven playing field when it comes to securing capital. Small Business Majority's research found 91% of small business owners identify access to capital as a top area of concern. This finding is no surprise, considering many traditional avenues of funding for small businesses have been choked off. For instance, some banks have significantly reduced or eliminated loans below a certain threshold, typically \$250,000. Others simply won't lend to small businesses with revenue of less than \$2 million. These changes have hurt small businesses, since 68% of small businesses seek loans of less than \$250,000 and half \$100,000 or less.

Small Business Majority's Access to Capital program provides education to small business owners about their financing options and connects them with trustworthy lending resources. Its key tenets include:

- Our **Access to Capital 101 presentation** walks small business owners through funding options to start and grow their business and resources for taking next steps. Through in-person and online seminars with local lenders, technical assistance groups and business organizations, we present an overview of alternative lending options, including microloans, SBA loans, community banks and credit unions, responsible online options, and crowdfunding.
- Our **online resource portal** ([www.smallbusinessportal.org/capital](http://www.smallbusinessportal.org/capital)), which offers a wealth of objective information about financing options for small business owners. Resources on the portal include funding options, research, a list of responsible lenders and technical assistance providers, calendar of Access to Capital 101 events and more. The portal also outlines resources specifically for women, low-income, veteran, minority, LGBT, disabled and other underrepresented business owners.
- The **Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights** ([www.responsiblebusinesslending.org](http://www.responsiblebusinesslending.org)), which is a set of basic rights that puts small business borrowers at the center of the lending process and encourages transparency and fairness. The principles include:
  - **The Right to Transparent Pricing and Terms**, including a right to see an annualized interest rate and all fees
  - **The Right to Non-Abusive Products**, so that borrowers don't get trapped in a vicious cycle of expensive re-borrowing
  - **The Right to Responsible Underwriting**, so that borrowers are not placed in loans they are unable to repay
  - **The Right to Fair Treatment from Brokers**, so that borrowers are not steered into the most expensive loans
  - **The Right to Inclusive Credit Access**, without discrimination
  - **The Right to Fair Collection Practices**, to prevent harassment and unfair treatment

### For more information

Please contact Northern California Outreach Manager Rhea Aguinaldo at [raguinaldo@smallbusinessmajority.org](mailto:raguinaldo@smallbusinessmajority.org) or (415) 654-4846 to explore hosting a seminar for small businesses in your region.

Visit <http://www.smallbusinessportal.org/capital> to find a seminar near you.