



March 19, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Emergency Supplemental Funding Request for Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SB-TAEP)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

More than four million small businesses, many of them micro-enterprises or sole proprietors, are facing an extraordinary economic disruption due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19. We applaud your aggressive measures to protect public health and open communication to the business community.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands small businesses, independent contractors and entrepreneurs represented by our collective of chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, minority business groups and technical assistance providers, we urge you to take additional extraordinary steps to support our small businesses at this time. Our recommendations include the following:

- ❖ **Supplemental disaster appropriation** funding of **\$17 million** in the current and following fiscal years for the purpose of enabling the immediate expansion of statewide no-cost advising, training, and support as it relates to small business disaster response, recovery, and resiliency. SB-TAEP is currently administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).
- ❖ Enable SB-TAEP to adapt and modify, **using existing program contractors**, so as to ensure **rapid response** according to the needs of the current disaster, allowing the program to address the current, urgent needs of small businesses, as it relates to **response, recovery, and resilience** across the State.
- ❖ **Empower** the Director of Small Business Advocate to establish and convene a *COVID-19 Resiliency Task Force* in partnership with the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy to plan out a long-term strategy for small business recovery.

As you know, SB-TAEP providers already have the standing infrastructure to quickly move and mobilize human and technical resources and services, including business resiliency planning and capacity-building financing. It is what they do every day across the State, and it is what our small businesses desperately need in this time of crisis. They stand ready to provide critical resources to our impacted business owners, who are the job creators of our great State, and they look forward to working with your Administration to rise together in support of California's small businesses and their employees, as they respond to this crisis.

**Coalition for Small Business Technical Assistance**

CC:

Lenny Mendonca, Director, GO-Biz  
Isabel Guzman, Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate, GO-Biz  
Sen. Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore  
Asm. Anthony Rendon, Speaker  
Sen. Holly Mitchell, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Chair  
Asm. Philip Ting, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Vice-Chair  
Members: Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Sen. Steven Glazer, Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, Chair  
Sen. Ling Ling Chang, Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, Vice-Chair  
Members: Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee  
Asm. Sabrina Cervantes, Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee, Chair  
Asm. Jordan Cunningham, Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee, Vice-Chair  
Members: Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee