

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENT SUMMARIES

Fiscal Year 2025

OVERVIEW

19 Organizations	Amount Awarded
Access, Inc.	\$30,000.00
Asian Business Association San Diego	\$30,000.00
Bayside Community Center	\$15,589.43
Better Business Bureau Serving The Pacific Southwest Foundation For Education And Entrepreneur Leadership	\$30,000.00
Black Entrepreneurs Leaders & Learners	\$30,000.00
Black San Diego Empowering Our Community	\$30,000.00
Black Tech Link	\$29,700.00
Chicano Federation of San Diego County	\$30,000.00
Convoy District Partnership	\$10,000.00
Kim Center for Social Balance	\$30,000.00
Project New Village	\$30,000.00
RISE Urban Leadership Institute of San Diego	\$17,150.00
San Diego Made	\$10,000.00
San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition, Inc.	\$30,000.00
Somali Family Service of San Diego	\$30,000.00
Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego	\$30,000.00
The International Rescue Committee, Inc.	\$22,600.00
Via International	\$30,000.00
Viet Vote	\$14,600.00
Total	\$479,639.00

The Economic Development Department values the commitment to invest and collaborate in the San Diego Promise Zone. In Fiscal Year 2025, \$259,450.00 from the Capacity Building Grant program were allocated to Promise Zone-specific projects.

SUMMARIES

[Access, Inc.](#)

Microenterprise Program

Access, Inc. has robust efforts to build awareness, recruit, and serve entrepreneurs. Providing marketing support to business owners is a key component to their programming. Many businesses are market vendors and need updated materials. The Capacity Building Grant funds helped cover direct business expenses and was used on the following: events equipment, marketing materials and supplies, as well as food industry permits.

[Asian Business Association San Diego](#)

Business Development Support for Asian Pacific Islander Owned Businesses

Asian Business Association San Diego represents the interests of Asian Pacific Islander owned businesses throughout San Diego. The Asian Pacific Islander Economic Equity Advancement Program is designed to empower minority businesses by offering tailored resources, training, and mentorship. The Capacity Building Grant funds helped cover workshops materials and translators as well as organizational software and hardware support.

[Bayside Community Center](#)

Community-Supported Microenterprise Program

Bayside Community Center champions the residents of Linda Vista through services, education, and advocacy. The Community-Supported Microenterprise program provides direct support to small businesses with an emphasis on finance, marketing, operations, and licensing. The Capacity Building Grant funds provided programmatic expansion through software and hardware upgrades, increasing their ability to reach more microentrepreneurs in Linda Vista.

[Better Business Bureau Serving The Pacific Southwest Foundation For Education And Entrepreneur Leadership](#)

Accelerator Program for Under-Resourced Entrepreneurs

Better Business Bureau's mission is to empower underserved small business owners by providing the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to build ethical and sustainable businesses. The organization leveraged Capacity Building Grant funding to host the BBB Ignite Small Business Accelerator

program and cover consultant costs, training supplies, technological equipment, and software subscriptions.

Black Entrepreneurs Leaders & Learners

Business & Government Contracting Summit

Black Entrepreneurs Leaders & Learners' mission is to establish an ecosystem of business services, cultivate technical education, and foster generational wealth to empower Black entrepreneurs, leaders, and learners. Through initiatives such as the BELL Summit and BELL Business workshops, the organization creates opportunities that foster business development and long-term sustainability. Grant funds supported event expenses such as speaker costs, marketing materials, and software subscriptions.

Black San Diego Empowering Our Community

Festival Celebrating Black Culture, Art, And Food

Black San Diego provides a platform for black owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and professionals to empower and strengthen our community. Businesses receive support to either start or sustain their business. Many businesses need help obtaining permits and licenses needed to participate in vendor events such as the annual Daygo Eat. The Capacity Building Grant funds helped cover permits and licenses for businesses, event supplies and equipment, among other expenses.

Black Tech Link

Business Development Support for Black Owned Businesses

Black Tech Link's mission is to focus on the economic development of Black communities by providing workforce solutions, technical training, and networking opportunities. Small businesses are offered one-on-one tailored support through mentorship, networking, workshops, trainings, and the Digital Resource Hub. With Capacity Building Grant funding, Black Tech Link contracted with a consultant to create brand kits for small businesses, update their website, videographer/photographer to capture content for marketing materials, and more.

Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Business Support for Childcare Businesses

The Chicano Federation provides childcare-centered services through the Infant Toddler Care Program and Childhood Nutrition Program. Many childcare providers do not have the proper funds to access and purchase materials to continue advancing their businesses. With Capacity Building

Grant funding, the Chicano Federation purchased materials and supplies for childcare business owners who are often women of color.

Convoy District Partnership

Promoting Cultural Identity

The Convoy District Partnership oversees the transformation of the greater Convoy area into a vibrant cultural center, dining destination, and innovative economic hub. The neighborhood was designated as the "Convoy Pan Asian Cultural and Business Innovation District" by the City of San Diego. The organization leveraged Capacity Building Grant funding to cover expenses focused on outreach such as contracting with a canvasser to conduct outreach and develop a marketing plan as well as create a business/stakeholder database.

Kim Center for Social Balance

Addressing Workplace Equity Barriers

The mission of the Kim Center For Social Balance is transforming ecosystems so everyone has a fair and accessible opportunity to thrive. The LEAPS (Leadership in Ecosystems, Advancement, Policies, Supervisors) initiative helps small business leaders identify issues within their workplaces and create an implementation plan with solutions for measurable success. Grant funds supported program expenses for the City Heights cohort such as software subscriptions. The Kim Center partnered with City Heights Community Development Corporation to provide technical assistance support to businesses facing financial hardships due to construction delays in the district.

Project New Village

Community Beautification and Placemaking

Project New Village's mission is to serve as a catalyst for resident-led, community-rooted experiences that build stronger neighborhoods; improve the neighborhood food supply chain; stimulate collective investment in better health; and maximize the impact of investment to address social inequities. Project New Village led the Enhancing Encanto Village placemaking project focused on creating a welcoming environment in the Black Arts & Culture District. Grant funds supported monthly maintenance, art murals, in addition to equipment and cleaning expenses.

RISE Urban Leadership Institute of San Diego

Supporting Artists and Creatives

RISE San Diego's mission is to elevate and advance urban leadership through dialogue-based civic engagement, dynamic nonprofit partnerships, and direct training and support to increase the capacity of urban residents to effect meaningful community change. RISE offers training and technical assistance opportunities for small businesses including Arts (for individual artists developing their small businesses) and Trainings and Partnerships for small businesses. Grant funds this year's cohort program expenses such as cover consultant costs, training supplies, marketing materials, and software subscriptions.

San Diego Made

Technology Supporting Affordable Workspaces

San Diego Made serves as an incubator for local artists, makers, creators, remote workers, small businesses, and as a facilitator of arts-driven events that connect local creatives with the public. The Sliding-Scale Workspace Rentals and Factory Access Memberships Initiative offers affordable workspace solutions to artists, makers, and small businesses. Capacity Building Grant assisted with the organization's infrastructure efforts by supporting their IT needs including software subscriptions and bookkeeping services to better track memberships.

San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition, Inc.

Enhancing Sustainability In Local Businesses

The San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition unites San Diego's Communities of Concern to promote equitable, long-term strategies for creating sustainable environments, innovative businesses, and vibrant, healthy communities. The STORM and the Climate Ambassador Programs provide training, resources, and technical expertise to help individuals and small businesses adopt sustainable practices. With Capacity Building Grant funds, their organization organized a community education event, marketing and outreach materials, and contracted with green screeners.

Somali Family Service of San Diego

Microenterprise Program

Somali Family Service of San Diego is committed to creating an inclusive environment that fosters economic empowerment for all, recognizing the unique challenges refugee and immigrant owned businesses face. This project scope focuses on networking support and technical assistance. Grant

funds supported a Business Expo and its event expenses such as the venue, marketing materials, and technological equipment.

Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego

Accelerator Program for Refugee Entrepreneurs

Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego is the fiscal/lead agent for the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition whose members include Horn of Africa, Haitian Bridge Alliance, United Women of East Africa Support Team, Somali Bantu Community of San Diego, Karen Organization of San Diego, and Southern Sudanese Community of San Diego. The Coalition oversees the Refugee Entrepreneur Accelerator Program Project which focuses on training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities for small businesses. Capacity Building Grant funds covered a program graduation and its event expenses such as the venue, consultants assisting with event planning and bookkeeping, among other items.

The International Rescue Committee, Inc.

Refugee and Immigrant Owned Business Support

The International Rescue Committee, Small Business Development Center supports San Diego's immigrant and refugee communities through programs that promote health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and autonomy. The IRC SBDC developed a Resilience Bootcamp program to help small businesses improve their bookkeeping practices and strengthen their online presence. Funds covered expenses for the cohort such as laptops and software.

Via International

Supporting Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations in Barrio Logan

Via International promotes sustainable development by engaging and supporting leaders in emerging communities. A key focus of our work is to support the development of small businesses through training, marketing, and networking efforts. Via International works with a collective of women bakers, known as Pan y Paz, with the intention of starting an artisan bakery. With Capacity Building Grant funds their organization purchased baking equipment and supplies in addition to marketing materials like business cards for participating businesses.

Viet Voices

Little Saigon District Business Spotlights

Viet Voices is dedicated to serving the Vietnamese community by bridging resources, programs, and services into the community. This project scope focuses on sharing the stories of local Vietnamese/Asian American and Pacific Islander restaurants in City Heights. Capacity Building Grant funds covered contractor expenses for the cultural interviewer, videographer, photographer, website developer, and more.