

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENT SUMMARIES

Summaries from Fiscal Year 2026 Small Business Enhancement Program (SBEP) funded projects, pages 1–5.

Summaries from 2025 San Diego Promise Zone Community Partner Growth Fund (now Community Growth Fund), through the City's partnership with California Coast Credit Union, pages 6–11.

FY2026 SBEP OVERVIEW

13 Organizations	Amount Awarded
Access, Inc.	\$14,994.00
Akitso	\$14,689.88
All For Logan	\$15,000.00
Barrio Logan Association	\$9,735.54
Bayside Community Center	\$13,580.58
Black Tech Link	\$15,000.00
Logan Heights Community Development Corporation	\$15,000.00
Outside The Lens	\$15,000.00
RISE Urban Leadership Institute of San Diego	\$15,000.00
San Diego Made	\$15,000.00
Somali Family Service of San Diego	\$15,000.00
The International Rescue Committee, Inc.	\$15,000.00
Via International	\$7,000.00
Total	\$180,000.00

The Economic Development Department values the commitment to invest and collaborate in the San Diego Promise Zone. In Fiscal Year 2026, \$166,419.42 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 were used on the following: events equipment, marketing materials and supplies, as well as food industry permits.

[Akitso](#)

Marketing Services for Immigrant Owned Businesses

Akitso's mission is to advance equity in the food industry through design and supporting immigrant owned businesses. Through creative services such as branding, signage, marketing, and placemaking, their organization helps businesses strengthen their identity and visibility. The Capacity Building Grant funds helped cover software and digital access tools as well as event supplies and contractor support for creative services.

[All For Logan](#)

Community Beautification

All For Logan empowers the Barrio Logan community through various business programs with a focus on celebrating the community and preserving the rich history. Through the Capacity Building Grant, the organization focused on community beautification to support maintenance of the business corridor. Funds also covered key cultural event expenses such as wayfinding and marketing materials in addition to office supplies for the organization.

[Barrio Logan Association](#)

Promoting Cultural Identity

The Barrio Logan Association is committed to preserving Barrio Logan's cultural heritage while advancing equitable economic development. Their mission is to strengthen community vitality through beautification and maintenance efforts, cultural events, district branding and identity, resources, education, and community partnerships. Grant funds supported the organization's efforts in planning an annual event as well as creating a bilingual business directory for local businesses and artists.

[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, including those who are vendors in the Linda Vista Farmers Market. The Capacity Building Grant funds provided programmatic expansion through software and hardware upgrades, increasing their ability to reach more microentrepreneurs in Linda Vista.

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 and trainings. With Capacity Building Grant funding, Black Tech Link contracted consultants who can deliver the technical assistance hours including graphic design and content creation support for small businesses.

Logan Heights Community Development Corporation

Community Infrastructure and Business Promotion

The Logan Heights Community Development Corporation serves the Greater Logan Heights area through economic and community development. The organization used the Capacity Building Grant to invest in community needs including banner installations along Imperial Avenue to help provide a cohesive community identity. Funds were also used for business services including workshops and covering business permits.

Outside The Lens

Business Development Support for Neurodiverse Entrepreneurs

At Outside The Lens, they ignite confidence in young people to pursue creative pathways through their Media Makers program. The organization supports young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by offering a program that develops their creative work into a marketable product which then allows them to establish a small business. The Capacity Building Grant funds helped cover equipment infrastructure, product supplies, and marketing materials.

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/partnerships for small businesses. Grant funds covered this year's cohort program expenses such as consultant costs, training supplies, and marketing materials.

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 AV equipment and bookkeeping services to better track memberships.

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 event supplies.

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, marketing materials, and a showcase event space.

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 contracted consultants to lead events and workshops and covered event/vendor fees for participating businesses.

2025 SAN DIEGO PROMISE ZONE COMMUNITY PARTNER GROWTH FUND OVERVIEW

11 Organizations	Amount Awarded
Accessity	\$10,000.00
Black Tech Link	\$10,000.00
Classics 4 Kids	\$10,000.00
Computers 2 Kids	\$10,000.00
In Good Company	\$10,000.00
Mission Edge	\$10,000.00
Monarch School Project	\$10,000.00
Travelers Aid Society of San Diego	\$10,000.00
Urban Collaborative Project	\$10,000.00
United Way of San Diego County	\$10,000.00
Workshops for Warriors, Inc.	\$9,000.00
Total	\$109,000.00

The Community Growth Fund was formerly known as the San Diego Promise Zone Community Partner Growth Fund, through the City's partnership with California Coast Credit Union.

SUMMARIES

[Accessity](#) | Microlending Program

Accessity is a dynamic nonprofit lender committed to unlocking financial opportunities for individuals who are frequently left out of traditional economic systems. Their mission centers around elevating underserved entrepreneurs—specifically those who are low-income, people of color, women and immigrants—by providing them with tools and resources to build thriving businesses. These efforts contribute to the broader goal of strengthening families and catalyzing the growth of local communities.

Thanks to the \$10,000 grant, Accessity will enhance its capacity to serve small business owners located within the San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ). This funding supports outreach, education and technical assistance efforts that will introduce approximately 100 entrepreneurs to critical small business knowledge and access to capital. Ultimately, the initiative is expected to generate \$450,000 in disbursed microloans, providing tangible pathways to economic self-sufficiency and community development.

[Black Tech Link](#) | Geographic Information Systems Training Program

Established in April 2020, Black Tech Link focuses on the economic advancement of Black communities by providing technical education, workforce solutions and networking activities to help close the workforce gap of the Black population. Black Tech Link is committed to equipping members with resources and launching platforms to advance their careers and businesses.

With the \$10,000 award, Black Tech Link is developing a Geographic Information System Training Program to serve unemployed or underemployed individuals with in-demand Geographic Information System skills and industry-recognized certifications. The project will provide a hands-on training program that will not only provide technical skill development but also remove systemic barriers to economic opportunity.

[Classics 4 Kids](#) | Equitable Access to Music Education

Classics 4 Kids has been serving San Diego County elementary students since 1994. This organization provides critical music education for students between TK and 6th grade through professional orchestra concerts, in-school

assemblies and teaching residencies in San Diego County, and virtual programs with nationwide impact. Programs are carefully crafted to remove barriers for students in under-resourced Title 1 schools, helping ensure that all children meet state academic standards.

With the \$10,000 award, Classics 4 Kids will provide high-quality, bilingual educational orchestra concerts to approximately 1,230 Title 1 elementary students in the SDPZ during the 2025–26 season. The concerts will integrate STEM, literacy, social-emotional learning and diverse cultural themes. The program will also offer subsidized tickets, free transportation and in-school assemblies to ensure equitable access for students living in the SDPZ.

[Computers 2 Kids](#) | TECH UP

Computers 2 Kids' (C2K) mission is to bridge the digital divide and reduce racial and economic inequities by providing underserved families with technology access, training and sustainable solutions that build healthier communities. C2K's Workforce Development Program welcomes youth from SDPZ neighborhoods to train in logistics and information technology (IT), enabling them to build job skills while giving back to their communities.

With a \$10,000 grant supporting its mission, C2K will train 72 youth in digital careers, provide IT Certifications, distribute devices and deploy a Digital Navigator to SDPZ neighborhoods to expand digital access for job readiness and education. From July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, C2K will expand economic mobility in San Diego by training youth through paid internships and distributing 10,000 refurbished computers to low-income families.

[In Good Company](#) | Carbon Literacy in San Diego's Promise Zone

In Good Company (IGC) exists to repair systemic injustices through climate education that drives community-led action. IGC's work aims to increase access to opportunity among San Diego's Communities of Concern. Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion form the core of IGC's ethos, which is evident in the Board composition, program content and community engagement. IGC is committed to shifting power and resources to historically excluded communities, repairing structural harms and ending racism.

With the \$10,000 award, IGC will expand participation in its Carbon Literacy certification in the SDPZ. This will bolster community-led climate action and workforce development. Early evidence shows that within 12 months of earning the certificate, 50% of survey respondents received a job offer,

promotion, or pay increase, which was attributed to the program. Continuing this successful effort, half of this grant would fund scholarships to waive the \$295 course fee for 16 SDPZ residents. The other half would support an intern to lead a comprehensive outreach strategy to engage residents, local businesses and corporations.

[Mission Edge](#) | Impact Lab Community Outreach in the Promise Zone

Mission Edge empowers nonprofits, small businesses and social enterprises through financial stewardship, operational support, technical assistance and capacity-building expertise. Their mission is to catalyze systems that drive lasting social impact and build thriving, equitable communities.

With the \$10,000 award, Mission Edge's Impact Lab, in partnership with California Coast Credit Union, will implement a targeted community outreach and education initiative to support early-stage small business owners in the San Diego Promise Zone. The goal is to expand equitable economic opportunity by delivering culturally responsive business education, increasing access to capital through financial literacy and building a collaborative, community-rooted support network. This work directly supports Promise Zone goals by advancing equitable access to resources, addressing systemic barriers and investing in long-term, community-based solutions.

[Monarch School Project](#) | Equitable Education and Career Readiness for Unhoused Youth

Monarch School Project nurtures resilience in unhoused youth and their families. They empower students to influence their own growth in the areas of academic success and social-emotional learning, reinforcing the existing strength of families so that students can thrive in school and in life.

The \$10,000 award will provide support for Monarch School Project's College and Career Readiness program, which removes barriers to secondary education and employment. It provides students with paid internships, mentorship, financial literacy, scholarships, resume/interview practice, and help applying to college. Support for its Life Skills program is an investment in core Monarch School Project programs, designed to build on student resilience and long-term economic stability.

[Travelers Aid Society of San Diego](#) | Senior Solutions

Travelers Aid Society of San Diego (TASD) has been serving San Diego's most vulnerable populations for over a century. Their mission is to provide connections and solutions to prevent or address crisis, with transportation at the core. TASD serves low-income older adults, homeless individuals and survivors of domestic violence.

With the \$10,000 award, this grant will be used for capacity building in expanding existing successful programs, SenioRide and Senior Solutions. The Senior Solutions Promise Zone program will offer various transportation solutions, including day passes and monthly bus passes, to promote access to medical and housing appointments for older adults ages 55+. In these programs, clients seeking services request transportation, and once it's determined that they're qualified (income level, residency, housing status, disability, age, etc.), case management staff will work with them to determine the best transportation solutions for their essential trips.

[Urban Collaborative Project](#) | 5th Annual Transportation Justice Expo & Green Corridor Holiday Event

The Urban Collaborative Project (UCP) builds a self-healing community by addressing health and the built environment in partnership with Southeastern San Diego (SESD) residents and adjacent communities. Data helps design action plans and solutions in tackling disparities, focusing on health, infrastructure, environmental justice, transportation and art. UCP advances awareness, civic engagement, neighborhood beautification and the development of sustainable infrastructure. In the upcoming months, UCP is focused on a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Urban Greening Plan, environmental justice work, and building community through events and community engagement.

With the \$10,000 award, UCP will host the Green Corridor Holiday and 5th Annual Transportation Justice Expo events that prioritize safety and economic development, supported by extensive community outreach, involvement, and planning, ensuring initiatives are for and by the community.

[United Way of San Diego County](#) | STEAM-to-Career

United Way of San Diego County's (UWSD) mission is to spark breakthrough community action that elevates every child and family toward a brighter future. United Way of San Diego County has been a partner organization of the San Diego Promise Zone since 2018. As a partner, UWSD contributed to

the Promise Zone's goals to "Improve Educational Opportunities," "Increase Economic Activity," and "Create A Priority of Safety" for Promise Zone youth.

The \$10,000 grant funding will support the STEAM-to-Careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) program, which specifically focuses on youth in the Promise Zone. It will provide them educational opportunities through career and workforce development training and provide them with a path of upward economic mobility as they receive hands-on training leading to higher-paying jobs and careers in local STEAM industries. STEAM-to-Careers develops the next generation of leaders by preparing low-income students at Lincoln High School to become more confident, connected, and engaged in the STEAM curriculum and workforce opportunities after high school.

Workshops for Warriors, Inc. | Promise Zone Recruitment Efforts for Advanced Manufacturing Program for Youth

Workshops for Warriors' mission is to provide quality hands-on training, STEM educational programs and opportunities to earn third-party nationally recognized credentials to enable veterans, transitioning service members and other students to be successfully trained and placed in their chosen advanced manufacturing careers.

With the \$9,000 award, funds will support recruitment efforts in the San Diego Promise Zone and the advanced manufacturing training program. Recruitment staff will work with the San Diego Promise Zone and its partners to create open houses or career fairs, support attendance at existing career fairs or help with the staff and recruitment costs to speak to groups of young adults.