

UTILIZING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Some organizations that specialize in providing assistance to small businesses are discussed here:

The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies

The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies is a program utilizing senior undergraduate and graduate business students as a part of class projects aimed at helping a small business client. Problems associated with existing businesses and those just starting will be analyzed. The students doing the work are monitored and given direction by Business School instructional staff. The program is sponsored by the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Since the Center program is limited in size, a requesting client should get in touch with the program's director. With specific U.S. government funding no longer available, some charge to the client could be expected.

For more information contact the following:

Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Orfalea College of Business and Economics
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo CA 93407
(805) 756-5172

SCORE

SCORE is national non-profit organization of retired business owners and executives, sponsored by the U. S. Small Business Administration. SCORE offers a wide range of knowledge and experience through counseling, workshops, and seminars. Counseling, confidential and without fee, is available to small business owners and potential business owners, and deals with all aspects of business. For more information on SCORE in San Luis Obispo contact:

SCORE®
1228 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401
805 547-0779
www.sanluisobispo.score.org
info@sloscore.org

In other areas of the county you can contact SCORE through your local Chamber of Commerce. See page 84 for your local Chamber of Commerce address and telephone number.

Economic Development Resources

San Luis Obispo County, its cities and many separate areas of the county, provide a variety of resources for business firms which are starting up, relocating into the county or seeking to expand locally. Services offered fall under the headings of:

- Advisory
- Business Attraction
- Business Incubator

- Business Retention/Economic Development
- Community Improvement
- Education
- Job Placement
- Land use
- Networking
- Public Relations
- Recreation
- Regulatory
- Research
- Revolving Loan Funding
- Tourism
- Training
- Transportation

The Economic Development Corporation
 4111 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, Ca 93403
 805 785-2014
www.sloevc.org

Small Business Development Center

The local Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is a program of the Institute of Professional Development of Cuesta College. The SBDC provides business counseling to businesses currently located in, or planning to locate within, San Luis Obispo County. The SBDC utilizes local business owners to provide one-on-one counseling and conduct seminars and workshops.

For more information contact the following:

Cuesta College
 Small Business Development Center
[www.smallbusiness
 info.org](http://www.smallbusinessinfo.org)

Other Sources

There are many more resources available to prospective business owners. Financial planners and marketing researchers can provide extensive market analysis tailored to the needs of the business. Selection of a consultant or advisor can be a critical step. Most of the assistance groups mentioned and even some others can be reached through industry organizations, telephone directories, etc.

California Polytechnic State University
 San Luis Obispo, Ca 93407
 805 756-2649 (Reference Desk)

Cal Poly's various libraries contain reference books, current periodicals, current demographic data, and other items of interest to those starting a business or those already in business seeking to expand. Librarians, particularly those in the reference sections are a ready source of information, or can direct you to the proper source on or off the campus.

Various professional level courses are available in many areas that are relative to business. These courses are given as part of the regular curriculum, or of the Extended Education Program offered throughout the year.

Cuesta College

PO Box
8106
San Luis Obispo CA
93403-8106 (805) 546-
3100
www.cuesta.cc.ca.us

Cuesta College has numerous course offerings to benefit persons who are thinking of setting up or expanding a small business. The college operates on a semester basis. Refer to their catalog for time, dates, and cost of courses. Their library, open to residents of the county, also contains information to help the new business start-up as well as those seeking to expand their business.

**San Luis Obispo City/County Library
System**

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo CA
93401 (805) 781-5989
(Reference Section)
www.blackgold.org

This library provides a variety of interesting materials to those starting or expanding a small business. The collections of the Library contain many circulating books on starting specific kinds of businesses as well as books on various topics, e.g., financing, personnel management, etc. There are current reference materials covering such matter as labor law

and taxation. The Reference Librarians are very knowledgeable and can direct the inquirer to specific reference materials.

**Mission Community Services
Corporation (MCSC) Information Center**

71 Zaca Lane Suite 130, Sa Luis Obispo, Ca 93401
805 595-1357
www.mcsccorp.org

Mission Community Services Corporation is dedicated to enhancing opportunities for potential entrepreneurs and small business owners to become self-sustaining,

successful contributors to their communities, with special assistance for low-income, minority and non-profit businesses. MCSC focuses on financing and technical knowledge, which are two major components of small business success.

America's Job Center

880 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

805 903-1400

www.americasjobcenter.ca.gov

America's Job Center is a private non-profit corporation that assists low income individuals facing barriers to employment or workers displaced because of economic reasons (e.g. layoffs). Job preparation, vocational training and job placement are offered to provide these individuals with an opportunity to become productive taxpaying citizens.

America's Job Center functions as a local "broker" by helping employers attract and retain employees while also helping people obtain training and jobs. It is a staffing resource for employers who may need pre-screened employees, possible training subsidies, and job ready applicants.

Local agencies, businesses and organizations have joined together to establish a "One-Stop Career Center System." It is a career center in a single location that has all the information for local residents who are seeking:

- Work: a first job, a new job, a better job, or just a job.
- Training: what is available, where, when and what it would cost.
- Education: what is available, where it is available, how long it takes, what it costs, past performance, etc.?

The America's Job Center is a place for local employers to recruit employees, access employee training, and learn more about the local labor market and employment trends.