



# Turning the Tide

## Public Counsel's Response to the Economic Crisis

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### Information and Resources for Small Businesses

#### Information Sheets

- [Employment](#)
- [Lease Modifications](#)

#### Helpful Resources

- [Business Opportunities from ARRA](#)
- [Free Legal Assistance](#)
- [Issues Faced By Small Businesses](#)
- [Technical Assistance](#)



## Public Counsel Information Sheets

Public Counsel Information Sheets were prepared by expert attorneys addressing timely legal issues that small businesses may be facing during these difficult economic times. Topics include the following:

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	LAST UPDATED
<a href="#">Employment</a>	In this information sheet, applicable California employment laws are explored through a series of questions addressing many common concerns of small businesses. The answers offer a starting point for a small business to evaluate alternatives designed to reduce expenses, including reductions in salaries, work hours or benefits, as well as layoffs.	August 2009
<a href="#">Lease Modifications</a>	In this information sheet, the topic of lease modifications is explored through a series of questions that address many of the common experiences and concerns of organizations leasing commercial real estate in these economically challenging times. The answers offer a starting point for a small business to evaluate whether it can achieve a more sustainable economic future through rent abatement, rent deferral, sub-letting, or other lease concessions.	August 2009

[\[Return to top\]](#)



## **Helpful Resources**

Below are additional resources that may be helpful for small businesses in our challenging economic environment. Resources are listed in alphabetical order.

### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT ( "RECOVERY ACT")**

Contracting businesses may visit the following websites related to government contracting to determine opportunities for additional business arising out of recovery funds:

#### **Local**

City of Los Angeles Contracting Opportunities,  
[http://business.lacity.org/discover\\_opps/la\\_city\\_opps/index.htm](http://business.lacity.org/discover_opps/la_city_opps/index.htm)

Listing of various city and county contracting websites - [www.wifcon.com/stsol.htm](http://www.wifcon.com/stsol.htm)

#### **California**

California Department of General Services, [www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/default.htm](http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/default.htm)

California Department of Transportation, [www.dot.ca.gov/doingbusiness.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/doingbusiness.htm)

California Economic Recovery Portal, [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov)

#### **Federal**

Office of Federal Procurement Policy, [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement)

Federal Business Opportunities, [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)

Federal Government Acquisition Forecast, [http://acquisition.gov/comp/procurement\\_forecasts/index.html](http://acquisition.gov/comp/procurement_forecasts/index.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**Public Counsel**, [www.publiccounsel.org](http://www.publiccounsel.org)

In this period of economic downturn, small businesses are facing increasing financial challenges. Trying to address these challenges without legal advice could put the small business and your livelihood at greater risk. Public Counsel's **Community Development Project (CDP)** provides [free legal assistance](#) with a variety of [transactional issues](#) to small businesses and low-income entrepreneurs located in, and employing residents of, underserved communities in Los Angeles County. For further information, please call us at (213) 385-2977, extension 200, or visit our [website](#).

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## ISSUES FACED BY SMALL BUSINESSES

### Employment

*Choosing alternatives to layoffs*, Los Angeles Times,  
[www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz21-2009apr21,0,6496081.story](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz21-2009apr21,0,6496081.story)

*Keeping Good Employees When You Can't Pay Them More*, New York Times,  
[www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/business/smallbusiness/18toolkit.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/business/smallbusiness/18toolkit.html)

### Financing

*Financing your firm with a credit card? Bad Idea*, Los Angeles Times,  
[www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz18-2009aug18,0,2231646.story](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz18-2009aug18,0,2231646.story)

*Steps to Take When Your Credit Line Is Pulled*, All Business,  
[www.allbusiness.com/banking-finance/banking-lending-credit-services-commercial/11683607-1.html](http://www.allbusiness.com/banking-finance/banking-lending-credit-services-commercial/11683607-1.html)

### Foreclosure

*After the Bank Failure Comes the Debt Collector*, New York Times,  
[www.nytimes.com/2009/04/17/business/smallbusiness/17debt.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/17/business/smallbusiness/17debt.html)

### Leases

*Negotiating the Best Office Lease for Your Business*, New York Times,  
[www.nytimes.com/allbusiness/AB12317629\\_primary.html?ref=smallbusiness](http://www.nytimes.com/allbusiness/AB12317629_primary.html?ref=smallbusiness)

*Rent relief often gives tenants new lease on life*, Los Angeles Times,  
[www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz16-2009jun16,0,4984170.story](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-smallbiz16-2009jun16,0,4984170.story)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Los Angeles Office of Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business

In July, Los Angeles will open the doors of its Office of Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business. The new city office will help small businesses navigate the many rules and benefit programs scattered throughout different city departments. For more information, [click here](#).

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**, [www.sba.gov/recovery/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/recovery/index.html)

Visit this website for updates on loans to start or expand your small business, surety bonds for supply, service or construction firms, government contracting opportunities, and training programs. The SBA and its resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Women's Business Centers and Veteran Outreach Centers can provide technical, financial and contracting assistance to small businesses. For lists of such organizations please click on the links below:

- [Business Consulting](#)
- [Contract Procurement](#)
- [Individual Development Accounts](#)
- [Loan Services](#)
- [Training Programs](#)
- [Workshops](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)