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Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities

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Small Business Barriers

- Lack of access to information
- Technical assistance and workforce development needs
- Lack of access to financial resources
- Lack of access to support, opportunity



Barriers Study Recommendation

12. The State should conduct an in-depth, data-driven study in consultation with local business chambers, CBOs, technical assistance providers (such as small business development centers and the Office of Small Business Advocate) and small businesses to determine actions for increasing contracting opportunities for small businesses in low-income and disadvantaged communities. A potential scope of this work is provided in Appendix C.



Guidance to the Panel

- Identify key issues faced by local small businesses in disadvantaged communities and potential solutions
- Focus on action items and solutions that may be implemented in the near term
- Leverage any lessons learned from previous experience and existing programs to increase opportunities/access for small businesses in disadvantaged communities



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Discussion Questions

- What are the best metrics that should be used to track progress on small business contracting in disadvantaged communities? How do we move beyond just dollars received to address tech assistance, small business development needs, and access to credit?
- What lessons can we learn from existing programs that have shown success in engaging with small business in disadvantaged communities?
- How can existing California small business contracting policies be best modified to further benefit local small businesses in low-income and disadvantaged communities?