



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CHICOSTART AWARDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TAP) GRANT THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE (CALOSBA)

November 15, 2023 – **ChicoSTART** is pleased to announce it is one of 40+ Technical Assistance Center Providers in California who have been allocated funding from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. TAP Centers provide technical assistance to small business and entrepreneurs focused on women, minorities/people of color, veterans, low wealth, communities, rural communities, and disaster-impacted communities. The grant program runs October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024.

About the Technical Assistance Program: (TAP) is a state-funded program which awards approximately \$23 million each year to expand free consulting and low-cost training services through federally and privately funded small business assistance centers. The program, launched in 2018, is focused on providing programming and outreach to under-resourced small businesses, including women, minorities/people of color, and veteran-owned businesses, and businesses in low-wealth, rural, and disaster-impacted communities. The program allocates funding through a competitive process.

Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director, ChicoSTART says, *ChicoSTART is very fortunate to add this TAP grant funding again to support programs and services to share with a myriad of under-resourced entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses in the North State who deserve equitable access. These programs and services will be concentrated on business consulting and training in order to continue to strengthen our local entrepreneurial ecosystem to complement our 20+ county region in the North State.*

Read more about the 2023/24 Technical Assistance Program:

<https://calosba.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023-24-TA-Awardees.pdf>

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About Chicostart: Chicostart supports and enriches Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a GO-BIZ iHub for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors. ##

