



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COMMUNITY INVITED TO RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW
BUSINESS OUTREACH OFFICE INSIDE HANFORD AMTRAK STATION**

SBDC Hanford Outreach Office to serve Hanford, Kings County business community

HANFORD, CA – The City of Hanford and Valley Community Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will hold an open house and ribbon cutting next Thursday, March 14 to celebrate the SBDC's new Hanford Outreach Office at the Hanford Amtrak Station.

In December, the Hanford City Council approved an in-kind, two-year facility lease agreement with the SBDC to occupy Suite E, located on the south side of the Hanford Amtrak Station.

"We are so excited and grateful for our partnership with the City of Hanford that made our Hanford Outreach Office a reality," said Valley Community SBDC Executive Director Rich Mostert. "Our goal is to increase our awareness and impact by providing no-cost business counseling and training directly to entrepreneurs and small business owners in Hanford!"

Since last August, the SBDC has held several free small business workshops inside the Hanford City Hall Training Room. There are plans to hold more of these events in 2024.

"Not many people are aware that the City of Hanford owns the Hanford Amtrak Station building, which was originally built in 1897," said Hanford City Manager Mario Cifuentez. "The SBDC Hanford Outreach Office will breathe new life into part of the building and serve as a tremendous resource for our City's valued small business owners and contribute to overall economic development in the City."

The SBDC Hanford Outreach Office is open by appointment only. Mostert says anyone who may need help with starting, growing, expanding, or strengthening a business should visit www.valleycommunitysbdc.com and select "Get Started."

Open House and Ribbon Cutting Event Details

WHO: City of Hanford officials, SBDC officials, local business owners and organizations representing small businesses

WHEN: Thursday, March 14, 12 – 3 p.m.

WHERE: Hanford Amtrak Station (200 Santa Fe Avenue, Suite E)

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About Valley Community SBDC

The Valley Community Small Business Development Center (SBDC) promotes the development, growth and success of small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs throughout Fresno, Tulare, Madera, and Kings Counties.