



Opening July 2009! Oakland Business Assistance Center

Starting this July, doing business in Oakland will be easier than ever with the opening of the City of Oakland's first one-stop Business Assistance Center.

Staffed with experienced professionals, the Oakland BAC will offer the following services to help entrepreneurs and existing business owners streamline the process of starting, relocating and growing your business in Oakland:

As your central source for comprehensive information on City regulations and services specific to business development, the Oakland BAC will:

- ▶ Help guide prospective and existing business owners through sometimes complex issues ranging from license and permit requirements to the zoning codes by coordinating interface with the various City agencies and departments.
- ▶ Serve as a clearinghouse for a wide range of business support services provided by the City of Oakland and its various agency and nonprofit partners. Provide information, referrals, guidance and face-to-face interaction to resolve the challenges businesses face in today's economic climate.
- ▶ A self-administered assessment form will identify areas of concern for business owners and assist center staff in creating a customized service path.

The Oakland BAC will also have **an interactive Web site for online assistance accessible 24 hours a day**. City forms will be available for completion and submission online. The website will also provide links to outside agencies as well as State and Federal resources.

Specifically, the Oakland BAC can assist you through:

- Individual face-to-face meeting to assess need and identify appropriate course of action
- Guidance to the appropriate City department or Agency with a specific contact name
- Referrals to more than 40 external business support service partners
- Assignment to an industry specific specialist within the Economic Development or Redevelopment staff for specific industry sector related inquiries
- Step-by-step flowcharts outlining City permitting, licensing, regulatory approvals
- Courteous, responsive service

Oakland Business Assistance Center
270 Frank Ogawa Plaza - Downtown Oakland
(Entrance off Clay Street, between 14th & 16th streets)
www.OaklandBusinessCenter.com

Questions? Contact Michael McPherson, City of Oakland, 510-238-4727