Pacific Community Ventures (PCV) helps small business owners grow and create good local jobs through a “Good Jobs, Good Business” model that combines affordable loans with pro-bono advising, tools, and incentives to create quality jobs, our national BusinessAdvising.org mentoring platform, and social impact evaluation and field-building research. PCV’s programs empower small business owners and help impact investors make investments that create shared prosperity and sustainable communities.

PCV’s small business loan program provides affordable small business loans from $10,000–$200,000. PCV loans are often used to secure or expand a space, purchase equipment, or increase inventory to meet demand. PCV doesn’t require a minimum credit score and specializes in working with small business owners who’ve had a hard time accessing capital, like female entrepreneurs, immigrant entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs of color, and borrowers who have been turned down for SBA or traditional bank loans.

Success Story: Cupcakin’ Bakeshop, Berkeley, CA

Lila Owens of Cupcakin’ Bakeshop in Berkeley, California, started her business from her home. As Cupcakin’ grew, she opened a storefront and had even more opportunities to expand. When she was turned down for a traditional bank loan, Lila got a free business advisor from PCV to support her growth. In the last year, Lila’s expanded her business to another storefront in Oakland, has a third in the works, and qualified for a $200,000 business loan as part of PCV’s Good Jobs, Good Business program. In 2019, Lila increased revenue by 99%, with 57% job growth. She offers:

- A living wage
- Career-building opportunities
- Wealth-building opportunities
- A fair and engaging workplace

Financial and Social Impact

- More than 3,000 companies assisted since inception
- 88% of funding went to women and people of color in 2019
- More than 25,000 jobs created or retained since inception
- $22/hour (full-time) and $18/hour (part-time) average wages at supported small businesses
- 52% of PCV portfolio businesses providing workers health insurance
- 11% job growth of PCV clients in 2019
- 12% average revenue growth among PCV clients in 2019