



One Small Business at a Time

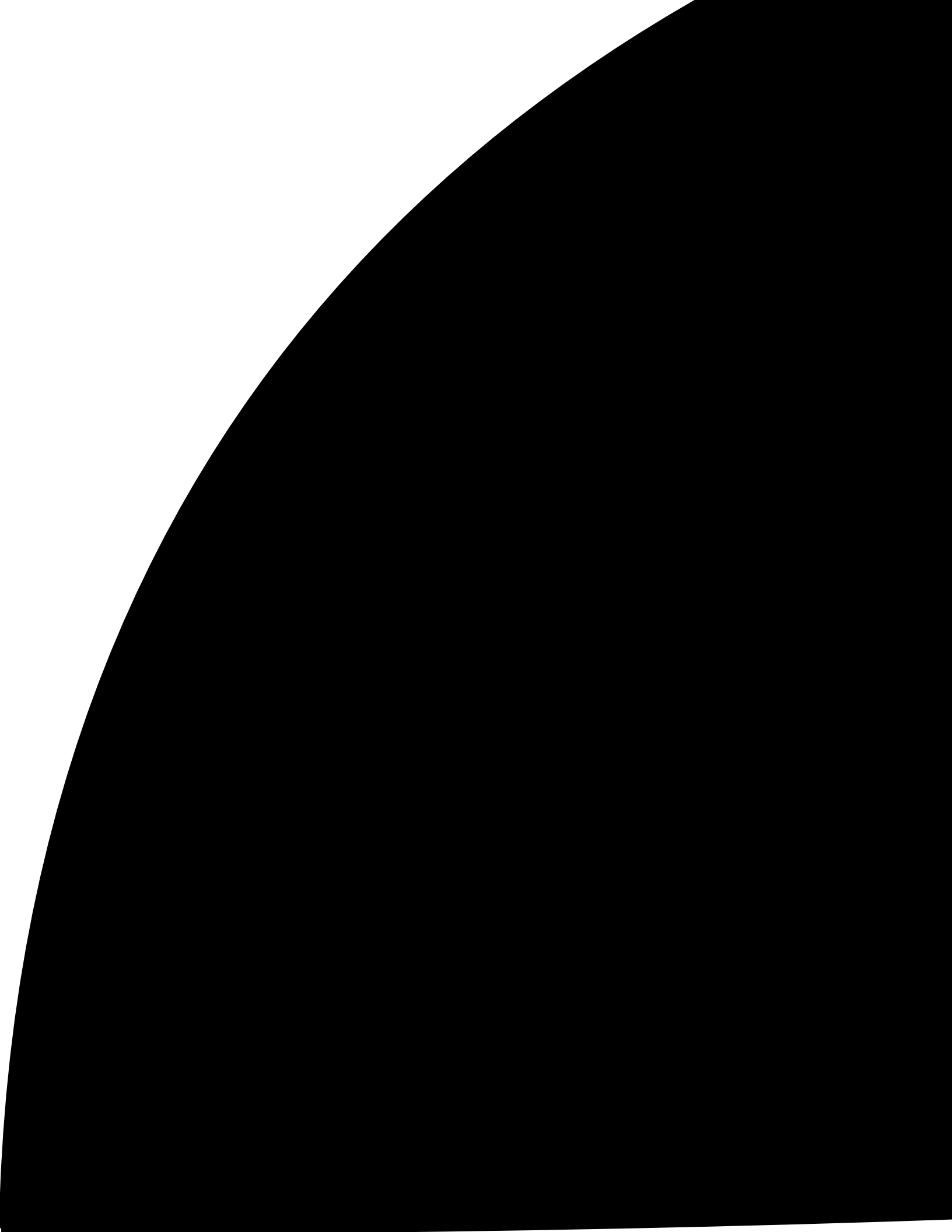
Building Economic Opportunity in America's Communities

Libraries propel entrepreneurship and economic opportunity across the United States. To research or brainstorm new ideas or markets, develop business plans, gain access to emerging technologies, leverage local business resources, and sustain an enterprise, the 123,000 libraries across the country are ideal partners. Libraries offer a cost-effective national network that can be leveraged to support both aspiring and existing business owners—including those not traditionally served by business support networks. To advance economic opportunity for all, we urge decision makers in the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and other federal agencies; the White House; U.S. Congress; business-related associations, foundations and corporate philanthropy; think tanks; and other organizations to include libraries in their plans to promote and advance entrepreneurship and small business development.

Library support for small businesses

Nearly all public libraries offer baseline support for entrepreneurs by providing meeting spaces, public computers, and internet access, as well as access to e-books, magazines, and newspapers. Many libraries of all types offer introductory to advanced support such as locally relevant business start-up classes, market research help and database access, and guidance in

leveraging social media and other online tools. The LA Law Library (CA), for example, offers a class series to take budding entrepreneurs from business idea to business plan, and provides legal perspective on starting and operating a business. In Pennsylvania, small business



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