# CERF Request for Information

CERF has two phases:

* **Phase 1: Regional Planning Grants.** Thirteen regional collaboratives will receive $5M each for the development of localized integrated recovery and transition plans, including analysis of industry sectors and labor markets, with actionable research and consultation from expert institutions. The collaboratives will create a holistic investment strategy that addresses disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 by diversifying the economy, and developing or growing sustainable industries that create accessible, well-paying jobs. Strategies should complement or expand on plans such as Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). Collaboratives consist of inclusive planning groups that include meaningful representation from labor, business, community, government, indigenous communities, economic development professionals, philanthropy, education, workforce, and other partners. An embedded local coordinator will facilitate ongoing engagement, partnership, and relationship-building activities with business, labor, community, government, education, economic development, and other key stakeholder groups. Success in this phase would include inclusive, diverse, transparent, and accountable regional planning that results in a holistic strategy and recommended series of investments to recover from COVID-19, grow sustainable industries, diversify regional economies, and increase access to high quality jobs.
* **Phase 2: Competitive Regional Implementation Grants**. Upwards of $500M will be distributed to regions across the state to fund projects that support economic recovery and transition for populations and/or industries disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The investments should promote economic diversification,  sustainability and drive the growth of globally competitive, sustainable industries with well-paying, accessible jobs. Investments should bolster equity outcomes by race, ethnicity,  gender,  and geography.

 Example projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Projects that support economic diversification and the development of sustainable industries.
* Entrepreneurship and commercialization programs.
* Programs to connect small-and-minority owned businesses to industrial hubs and research institutions.

## Information Requested

LWDA/OPR seeks comments on any or all of, but not limited to, the following topics:

* Proposed metrics for phase 1 and 2 of the program as they relate to inclusivity, equity, sustainability, economic competitiveness, and ARPA requirements. Per ARPA guidelines, this project is categorized as “2.13: Other economic support.”
* Considerations for approaching research in phase 1 (e.g., what are novel ways to gather existing information on labor market/industry analysis across the state, potential for the creation of tools, consideration of researchers in these fields, iterative means to approach lessons learned, etc.)
* Considerations for approaching phase 2 (e.g., approach to feedback loops for learning and improvement throughout the program, best practices and lessons learned, analogous place-based investments to inform the work, tracking state investments alongside similar federal, private-sector, and philanthropic investments etc.)
* Types of evaluation (e.g., impact, process, implementation) recommended
* Cost estimates

## Disclaimer

Responses to this RFI are voluntary. This RFI is issued for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation. The state reserves the right to use any submitted information on public websites, in reports, in summaries of the state of the science, in any possible resultant solicitation(s), grant(s), or cooperative agreement(s), or in the development of future funding opportunity announcements. No basis for claims against the state shall arise as a result of a response to this request for information or from the state’s use of such information. A response to this RFI is not an offer and cannot be accepted by the state to form a binding contract. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. Participants are advised that the responses to this RFI may be subject to the Public Records Act. Please do not include any proprietary, classified, confidential, trade secret, or sensitive information in your response to this RFI. The responses will be reviewed by LWDA/OPR staff, and individual feedback will not be provided to any responder. LWDA/OPR will use the information submitted in response to this RFI at its discretion and will not provide comments to any responder’s submission. Responding to this RFI creates no obligation on the part of any Respondent to the state. Conversely, issuing this RFI and considering the responses creates no obligation on the part of the state to any Respondent. Submitting a response to this RFI will not enhance the review of that Respondent’s proposal(s) to any future solicitations. Not submitting a response to this RFI will not prohibit a response to any future solicitation, nor disadvantage the evaluation of a response to any future solicitation. No basis for claims against the state shall arise as a result of a response to this request for information or from the state’s use of such information. By submitting a response to this RFI, a Respondent is implicitly agreeing with these conditions.

## General Provisions

The following terms and conditions, or their successor, will be incorporated into any solicitation resulting from this RFI. The state will not modify these terms and conditions. The following General Provisions are not included in hard copy, but may be viewed on the [Required Language for Solicitations and Contracts](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/Page-Content/Procurement-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Model-Contract-Language) website.

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to **WSBCERF@edd.ca.gov**.

To ensure consideration, responses must be submitted by**January 20, 2022.** Early submissions are appreciated.

## Inquiries

Mary Collins, Program Manager, OPR: Mary.Collins@opr.ca.gov

Kimberlee Meyer, Central Office Workforce Services Division Chief, EDD: Kimberlee.Meyer@edd.ca.gov