



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF)

VISION

- Promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19 by supporting new plans and strategies to diversify local economies and develop sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians.
- Support communities and regional groups in producing regional roadmaps for economic recovery and transition that prioritize the creation of accessible, high-quality jobs in sustainable industries.
- Align and leverage state investments (e.g., High Road Training Partnerships, infrastructure investments, community capacity building programs), federal investments (e.g., Economic Development Administration's Building Back Better Regional Challenge), and philanthropic and private-sector investments to maximize recovery efforts.

WHAT DOES CERF FUND?

1. **Regional Planning Grants** (13 regional collaboratives*, \$5M each):
 - a. Development of localized integrated recovery and transition plans, including analysis of industry sectors and labor markets, with actionable research and consultation from expert institutions.
 - b. Embedded local coordinator to facilitate ongoing engagement, partnership, and relationship-building activities with business, labor, community, government, education, economic development, and other key stakeholder groups.
 - c. Creation of 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).
2. **Regional Implementation Grants** (Approximately \$500M total):
 - a. Support economic recovery and transition for populations and/or industries disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
 - b. Promote economic diversification, sustainability, and equity. Drive the growth of globally competitive, sustainable industries with well-paying, accessible jobs. Bolster equity outcomes by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography.
 - c. Example projects include, but are not limited to, the following:



- i. Infrastructure that supports economic diversification and the development of sustainable industries.
- ii. Entrepreneurship and commercialization programs.
- iii. Programs to connect small-and-minority owned businesses to industrial hubs and research institutions.

*Regional collaboratives are inclusive planning groups that include representation from balanced representation from labor, business, community, government, indigenous communities, economic development, philanthropy, education, workforce, and other partners.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Non-profit organizations, District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD), Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education, and Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes.
- *More detail is forthcoming in November 2021 draft guidelines.*

TIMELINE

Late October 2021	Release of proposed regions for public comment
Late November 2021	Draft guidelines for Planning Grants released for public comment
December 2021	Informational webinar for interested parties
January 2022	Planning Grant solicitation released
February 2022	Draft guidelines for implementation grants released
March 2022	Planning Grant finalists selected and grants awarded
June 2022	Implementation grant solicitation released
October 2022	Begin awarding implementation grants
June 2024*	Funds must be encumbered
October 2026*	Funds must be expended

*Contract terms will be negotiated at the time of award.



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- **Planning phase** – 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.
- **Implementation phase** – Implementation strategies that advance globally competitive and sustainable industries and high-quality jobs with clear employment pathways for underserved and incumbent workers facing industry disruption after COVID-19.

RESOURCES

- [SB-162 Community Economic Resilience Fund Program](#)