Meeting: 4/25/23

Meeting Goal:
Level-setting to see what needs to be done moving forward

Lavera Alexander:
- Community Economic Resilience Fundt (CERF) came into existence in 2021; legislation advanced by CA FWD and its partners in 2019 paved the way for CERF
- In 2019, CA FWD partnered with the Newsom Administration for Regions Rise Together – to advance inclusive economic development region by region. The goal was to establish and execute strategies that create more high-paying and promising jobs and cultivate social equity and environmental sustainability for jurisdictions that share economic connections and concerns.
- CERF: a $600m fund established by the state in 9/21 & administered by the state’s CERF Leadership Team consisting of the CA Labor & Workforce Development Agency, the Governor's Office of Planning & Research, & the Office of Business & Economic Development
- CERF Objectives
  - Promote a sustainable & equitable recovery that creates high-quality, accessible jobs for all Californians
  - Support development of regional economic roadmaps that invest in industries that will thrive in a carbon-neutral future & build sustainable economic growth
- CERF Program Phases & Funding Availability
  - Phase I: Planning
    - Support HRTC
    - Foster partnerships & collaboration
    - Development of regional economic plans
    - Planning efforts will inform regional investment opportunities during Phase II
    - $20M allocation for CA Native American Tribes
    - Focuses on data & strategies
  - Phase II: Implementation
    - $500M total to fund implementation of projects
    - Applicants for Phase II grants must participate during the Phase I phase or receive letter of support from HRTC to be eligible for funding
    - Focuses on projects
- CERF’s 13 Regions
  - Carved out by the state to promote economic development & maintain consistency w/ existing efforts
  - All regions received planning & implementation dollars through competitive processes
  - Regions
    - Bay Area
    - Central Coast
    - Central San Joaquin Valley
    - Eastern Sierra
    - Inland Empire
    - Kern County
    - Los Angeles County
    - North State
    - Northern San Joaquin Valley
- **The Opportunity**
  - Once-in-a-generation opportunity to maximize funding by synchronizing CERF w/ current & new strategic funding opportunities
  - Workshopped at the Summit
  - Pots of funding, including K-16 Collaborative and Climate Collaborative funding, are supposed to work together with CERF funds to ensure money is maximized in the region
  - The promise of CERF is that regional, inclusive economic development will be long-lasting and grow over time

- **Role of Philanthropic Sector in CERF**
  - We’ve seen philanthropy show up in a number of ways - many options are on the table as we collaborate in this space, including capacity building, awareness and education training, etc.
  - Leverage philanthropic resources to maximize regional impact
  - Build funding pipelines to sustain CERF efforts beyond CERF funding
  - Advance equity & elevate voices from communities of color, marginalized & disinvested populations, & other underrepresented demographics in Orange County
  - Facilitate conversations on community & regional priorities & challenges

- **Immediate Next Steps for Philanthropic Sector**
  - Make sure communities know about CERF
  - Make sure peers are being brought to the table
  - Make sure people have the funds to get to meetings – supporting capacity building and technical assistance efforts
  - Attend 2023 CA Economic Summit where the work of the work groups, including the work group focused on CERF and Beyond, elevate work and advance policy and practice agendas

- **Long(er)-Term Next Steps for Philanthropic Sector**
  - Continue to collaborate w/ regional CERF partners on a multi-year effort to fund large-scale, multi-sector inclusive economic development initiatives
  - Organize philanthropic consortia to pool resources to maximize local & regional impact
  - Develop funding models to help Orange County communities achieve greater shared prosperity – this is not short-term or one & done – this is built to be long-term and to continue the work of regional, inclusive economic development after CERF