

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**
 - o Promote a sustainable & equitable recovery that creates high-quality, accessible jobs for all Californians
 - o 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**
 - o 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
 - o 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**
 - o Carved out by the state to promote economic development & maintain consistency w/ existing efforts
 - o All regions received planning & implementation dollars through competitive processes
 - o Regions
 - Bay Area
 - Central Coast
 - Central San Joaquin Valley
 - Eastern Sierra
 - Inland Empire
 - Kern County
 - Los Angeles County
 - North State
 - Northern San Joaquin Valley

- Orange County
 - Redwood Coast
 - Sacramento
 - Southern Border
- **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