



INITIAL GRANTEES NAMED FOR STATEWIDE INITIATIVE—COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND—IN ORANGE COUNTY

The one-year planning grant supports the creation of a High Road Transition Collaborative, research efforts, and county-wide engagement

IRVINE, CA (June 30, 2023)—[Orange County Business Council](#) (OCBC) and [Charitable Ventures](#) today announced the 27 Orange County-based organizations as initial grantees for Phase I funding from the [Community Economic Resilience Fund](#) (CERF), a statewide initiative created to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19. OCBC serves as the regional convener and Charitable Ventures serves as the fiscal agent.

Orange County is one of only 13 regions statewide to be part of the CERF initiative designed to diversify local economies and to develop sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians.

In Phase I, a multi-sector group called the High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) will map regional strengths and opportunities to design a new economic development plan for Orange County. The collaborative represents labor, business, community, philanthropy, government, education, workforce development and other sectors.

“This is an important opportunity for our region to build a healthier economy as we have emerged from the pandemic,” said Jeffrey Ball, President and CEO of Orange County Business Council. “We are proud to be the regional convener for Orange County and this diverse group of partners working with us. Together, we are taking a high-road approach to economic development that supports the creation of good-paying, quality jobs, while centering community and worker voices in the planning process.”

The High Road Transition Collaborative has awarded a total of nearly \$900,000 to 27 Orange County-based organizations for outreach and engagement purposes. Over the next couple of months, grantees will conduct outreach with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, with a focus on disinvested community members. Feedback collected, including information about community assets and needs, race and systemic barriers that have prevented individuals from accessing economic opportunities, and an assessment of local health and environmental equity, will inform and influence Orange County’s new economic development plan. Orange County CERF Outreach & Engagement grantees are:

Abrazar	Cooperación Santa Ana
Ahri Center	CREER Comunidad y Familia
Banning Ranch Conservancy	Delhi Center
BPSOS Center for Community Advancement, Inc.	Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County
California Forward	Goodwill Industries of Orange County
CEO Leadership Alliance Orange County (CLAOC)	HOPE Community Services
Climate Action Campaign	Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County
Community Action Partnership of Orange County	Latino Health Access

OC Coastkeeper	Commerce (OCIACC)
OC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Sustain SoCal
OC Labor	The Kennedy Commission
OCCORD	THRIVE Santa Ana
OMID Multicultural Institute for Development	VietRISE
Orange County Iranian American Chamber of	Vital Access Care Foundation

“As a member of the HRTC and someone who cares deeply about inclusive economic development, I’m thrilled with our roster of grantees,” said Iosefa Alofaituli, Executive Director and Co-Founder of [CIELO](#), a small business support system for Orange County’s under-resourced communities, immigrants, and people of color. “These organizations will engage disinvested communities across our region. I know the insight and perspective we’ll gain from outreach efforts will greatly contribute to building a more equitable economy in Orange County.”

Following Phase I Planning, remaining allocated state funds will be awarded in Phase II, the Implementation Phase. To learn more about the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) and to receive news alerts, visit www.ocbc.org/cerf.

About Orange County Business Council

For over 25 years, Orange County Business Council (OCBC) has been representing and promoting the region’s business community together with government and academia to enhance Orange County’s economic development. The Council’s core initiatives include advocating for adequate investment in regional and statewide **infrastructure**, education development that leads to a competitive **workforce**, advocating for a range of **housing**, and developing pro-business solutions that lead to **economic growth** for the nation’s sixth largest county. Member organizations include businesses and local organizations representing a diverse cross section of industries including biomedical, construction, education, financial services, health care, manufacturing, municipalities, nonprofit, real estate, technology, tourism, transportation and utilities. For more information, visit ocbc.org.

About Charitable Ventures

Charitable Ventures is a non-profit that strengthens communities in Orange County by addressing critical social issues through collaborative efforts, incubating new ideas and supporting community projects to empower the families and residents served by local non-profits. For more information, visit charitableventuresoc.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lizz Mishreki, APR
Vice President of Communications, Orange County Business Council
Lmishreki (at) ocbc (dot) org