

Glossary of Key Terms

Activation Plan

A project management tool used by California Jobs First regions to prioritize tactics, assign tasks, and outline budget needs for target sectors.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, ARP Act)

A \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus program enacted by the U.S. Congress in March 2021. The EDA was charged with administering \$3 billion of the ARP Act.

Benchmarking

Quantifiable measures of economic competitiveness and quality of life that can be collected on a regular basis. They are used to measure a region's economic status and progress against comparable regions.

California Jobs First Economic Blueprint

A first-of-its kind, bottom-up strategy for creating good-paying jobs and regional economic development. Made up of ten key industry sectors, this framework will help streamline the state's economic, business, and workforce development programs to create more jobs, faster, as part of the California Jobs First initiative.

- **Strengthen:** Tradable sectors where California has an established competitive position and/or significant employment, but where there is leveling growth or wages
- **Accelerate:** Tradable sectors with moderate to high projected growth that are ready for expansion, where additional investments (e.g., capital, infrastructure) could “bend the curve” to generate growth
- **Bet:** Emerging tradable sectors with significant investment or high strategic importance to the innovation ecosystem
- **Anchor:** Foundational local sectors that are critical for attracting and supporting industry and community activities

Carbon-neutral Economy

An economic model focused on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy, efficiency, and carbon offset projects.

Catalyst Pre-development Funds

Grants supporting early-stage (exploratory) or near-ready (last-mile) projects to prepare them for future funding and implementation.

Cluster / Industry Cluster / Innovation Cluster

Clusters are groups of companies and organizations in the same industry that are located near each other. By working together and competing, these businesses can achieve more and grow faster as a group than they could on their own. Examples of well-known clusters include Silicon Valley (technology), Detroit (car manufacturing), and Boston's Life Sciences Corridor (biotechnology and pharmaceuticals).

GO-Biz (Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development)

A California state agency that serves as the state's lead entity for business development and job creation.

Implementation Funding

Funds designated for projects that are prepared to commence construction or operations after completing the pre-development phase.

Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA)

A California state agency that oversees workforce development programs, labor law enforcement, and the state's labor market information.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The official announcement of the availability of grant funding. Most competitive U.S. government grant opportunities have a NOFO that includes the grant's evaluation criteria, applicant eligibility, submission deadline, and other pertinent information.

Pre-Development Phase

This stage involves defining project goals and creating initial plans, with additional efforts needed to secure complete funding or transition to the implementation phase.

Good-Paying Jobs

Good Paying Jobs in Orange County as it applies to the Regional Investment Initiative are occupations that offer baseline annual earnings of \$48,353, receive employer-sponsored health care, have full time (35 hours/week) and full-year appointment (50 weeks or more).

Regional Investment Initiative

A California Jobs First program focused on funding sector-based strategies in specific regions.

Regional Plan Part 2

The section of the regional plan that contains detailed strategies and ideas for regional economic development initiatives.

Resilience

In the context of economic development, resilience is the ability of a business, sector, or area to avoid, withstand, and recover from a major disruption to its economic base.

Economic resilience is different from, but can be related to, environmental resilience.

Recovery and resilience are one of U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) seven investment priorities.

Regional Economy

A regional economy is a subnational economy defined by its spatial characteristics, or the geographic proximity of its components to each other. By contrast, a sectoral economy is defined by shared business activities.

Strategic Sectors

- **Strengthen:** California has an established competitive position and/or significant employment, but leveling growth or wages
- **Accelerate:** Moderate to high projected growth that are ready for expansion
- **Bet:** Significant investment or high strategic importance to the innovation ecosystem
- **Anchor:** Foundational local sectors that are critical for attracting and supporting industry and community activities

** High chance that Implementation RFP will only apply to Accelerate and Bet*

Sustainability

A concept that emphasizes three pillars of equity, environment, and economy. It focuses on equitable economic development that is self-sustaining and aims at a carbon-neutral economy addressing the needs of diverse communities including disinvested communities. Sustainable approaches should decrease reliance on fossil fuels and increase water and/ or energy efficiency.

Target Sector

A specific industry or economic sector that has been identified for strategic investment and development in a region.

Workforce Development

Economic development planning or implementation projects that support workforce education and skills training activities directly connected to the hiring and skills needs of the business community and that result in quality jobs. Workforce development is one of EDA's seven investment priorities.