

**Catalyst Pre-Development NOFO
Question and Answer (Q&A)**

Last Updated: February 14, 2025

Will travel be required to attend an in-person convening during the project period?

Answer: There is no expectation that the regional convener will be requesting travel.

Is there a map where it is easier to tell which cities these census tracts fall under?

Answer: Yes, there is another map on the ocbc.org/cjf website that has the census tracts with city boundaries. Please make sure that you have map 2 of 4, 3 of 4, or 4 of 4 to see the census tracts in blue and/or green.

What's the difference between Job-Creating and Community-Enhancing Projects?

Answer: The key difference lies in their primary focus:

- Job-Creating Projects emphasize economic growth and creation of good paying jobs in priority industries.
- Community-Enhancing Projects focus on quality-of-life improvements, such as housing and environmental sustainability, or projects that create good paying jobs in non-priority industries.
- Both types of projects can overlap but have distinct goals, one focuses on job creation, while the other aims for holistic community development. If you are unsure which category your project would fall under, please contact staff at jobfirst@ocbc.org.

Does the restaurant and food services industry fall under the Tourism and Outdoor Recreation sector for the Jobs First Catalyst application?

Answer: Yes, the restaurant and food services industry is included under the Tourism and Outdoor Recreation sector.

Is it permissible to include more than one letter of reference?

Answer: Yes. We just ask that every applicant provide one.

Is there a preferred number of letters of interest?

Answer: No. We just ask that every applicant provide one.

What is the max number of letters of reference that can be included?

Answer: No. We just ask that every applicant provide one.

Is there a page limit on letters of reference?

Answer: No. We just ask that every applicant provide one.

If we include cited references for the application, does that go towards the 10 page limit count?

Answer: No, however, overly lengthy applications go against the intent of a 10-page application to ensure that applicants who aren't as experienced in grant writing aren't disadvantaged and to allow for an efficient review process of applications.

On page 4 of the NOFO, under the ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES, is it allowed to include more than one category of activities. For example, could we propose a pilot project and also include feasibility study as an additional activity? Or are the activities listed mutually exclusive?

Answer: Applicants are free to include multiple predevelopment activities, regardless of category, as part of their workplan. The activities just need to be advancing the same project. If the activities are meant for different projects, then they need separate applications.

NOFO says, "All entities are eligible for funding, with the exception of applying as an individual. The individual can be involved in an application, but the applicant must be

a legally recognized entity." Can an existing not developed licensed business with a single owner apply? Can you elaborate on what legally recognized mean?

Answer: Yes, a business with a single owner can apply as long as it is legally recognized, meaning it is registered to operate in California and has documentation such as a business license and tax ID number. For more details, refer to page 21, Applicant/Organization Documentation for Contracting, where required documentation is outlined, including evidence of eligibility to conduct business in California, financial statements, and insurance certificates.

This item is listed as a requirement on the application form. Can you elaborate on what this entails? Please also explain what type of partnerships are these and whether or not they should be paid (or can be collaborators)?

Answer: They are not a requirement, because the answer to the question in the application "Are there additional organizations who are co-applicants or partners in your proposal?" could be no. However, the intent of this documentation is to verify that organizations mentioned in the proposal have agreed to participate in the way it is stated in the proposal. Therefore, any documentation that attests to that will suffice. Any documentation that clearly states the partnership or collaboration and is signed by the party mentioned will suffice. Partnerships and collaborators could be paid or unpaid.