

Catalyst Jobs First Collaborative Meeting

March 28, 2025

9:00 to 10:00am

Zoom Video Conferencing


<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86993468590?pwd=bkRibjZGaCtoSVFZMTNxNEtwN2ZJdz09>

Webinar ID:

869 9346 8590

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Discussion: Community Enhancing Projects- action item Open Poll
3. Discussion: Job Creating Awardees
4. Collaborative Comments and Updates (*time permitting*)
5. Adjourn

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, featuring a prominent white building with a grid-like facade. The image is overlaid with a blue rectangular frame and two red vertical bars on the left and right sides. The text is centered within the white area of the frame.


**March 28th
Collaborative
Meeting**

Job Creating Projects (\$2.1 Million)

- Primary goal of increasing good paying jobs and/or business development and growth in the industries of tourism and outdoor recreation, medtech, high-tech hardware, semiconductors & microelectronics, advanced manufacturing, precision manufacturing, healthcare, childcare, education, and construction.
- Projects should be focused on the creation, development, or support of businesses and economic activity.
- Stronger projects also demonstrate a positive impact on the climate.

Community Enhancing Projects (\$900,000)

- Address any topic(s) in the Regional Plan Part 2, and/or industries not mentioned in the Job Creating Projects section, and/or could not meet the definition of a good paying job/income.
- Although not exhaustive, these would be topics such as housing, healthcare access, green technologies, childcare and climate adaptation.
- For projects that are not primarily climate focused, stronger projects demonstrate a positive impact on the climate.
- Collaborative decides how this funding gets spent.

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, showing a mix of modern and older buildings, roads, and greenery. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds. A large blue rectangular frame is overlaid on the image, with a white rectangle in the center. Two vertical red bars are positioned on the left and right sides of the white rectangle. The text is centered within the white rectangle.

Community Enhancing Project Selection Process

Community Enhancing Projects Snapshot

- \$5,181,659 Requested
- 9 Business/Business Association/Economic Development Org.
- 8 CBO
- 3 Workforce and Education
- 1 Local Government

- Poll of projects by number released on Friday, March 28th
- Please move your top 3 projects to the top with your highest scored project in first place, your next highest scored project in second place, and your next highest scored project after that in 3rd place.
- Rank Choice. 1st place 5 points, 2nd place 3 points, and 3rd 1 points.
- Cannot vote for a project that you/your organization is directly involved in, or your ballot is invalid.
- Poll closes at 5 pm on Tuesday, April 1st.
- If needed, a follow up poll will be released Wednesday, April 2nd and will close at 5 pm on Friday, April 4th.
- We will fund all eligible expenses starting with the highest vote getter, and then the next highest project, etc. until \$900,000 is exhausted.

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, featuring a prominent white building with a grid-like facade. The image is framed by a thick blue border, with two vertical red bars on the left and right sides. The word "Discussion" is centered in a large, bold, black font.

Discussion

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, featuring a prominent white building with a grid-like facade. The image is overlaid with a large blue rectangle containing a white text box. The text 'Job Creating Project Awardees' is centered in the white box, flanked by two vertical red bars. The background shows city streets, other buildings, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky.

Job Creating Project Awardees

Job Creating Project Snapshot

- \$6,075,090 Requested From Eligible Projects
- 5 Business/Business Association/Economic Development Org.
- 3 CBO
- 7 Workforce and Education
- 4 Local Government

Weatherization Training Center (CAPOC/No. 29)

A dedicated training facility that will serve as the hub for its Weatherization and Healthy Home Technician Apprenticeship programs. Will enable the organization to expand and formalize its Weatherization and Healthy Homes Technician Apprenticeship Programs by securing a dedicated training facility, scaling operations, and obtaining the necessary registration to become an official state-recognized apprenticeship program. Want to grow the program to serve 100 people annually from low-income communities. Apprentices will earn a stipend of \$60,000 annually while in the program. The average starting salary for these roles in Orange County is approximately \$78,748 per year.

What we liked about the proposal

- Apprenticeships
- Targeted At Disinvested Community Members
- Solid Annual Salary
- Environmental Workforce Development

Construction Pre-Apprenticeships (College and Career Advantage, ROP/ No. 03)

Regional pre-apprenticeship construction program for high school and adult students in South Orange County, CA, with a focus on creating pathways to good-paying construction jobs. The program will provide students with foundational construction skills, industry-recognized certifications, workplace readiness, and career exploration, preparing them for apprenticeships and entry-level positions in the construction industry with wages averaging **\$50,000 to \$80,000**. Over the next three years, the program is expected to train approximately 600 individuals and increase the number of underrepresented individuals in the construction workforce.

What we liked about the proposal

- Pre-Apprenticeships
- South Orange County
- Construction Industry
- 200 Individuals Impacted Annually

Workforce Reentry Center (County of Orange/No. 05)

Provide vocational training and transitional housing for adults involved in the criminal justice system or other County systems of care. A two-story, 37,200 square-foot (sf) vocational/office building; a one-story, 16,166 sf retail/culinary building; and a two-story, 26,998 sf supportive housing and service building. The housing building would provide free short term (approximately six months to one year max), on-site housing for 52 program participants. The facility would include teaching skills focused on the retail and culinary industries, including producing goods that could be sold to support ongoing operations. The Project's open market will create a landscape which fosters emerging technologies and innovation and provides an environment for novice chefs to become entrepreneurs.

What we liked about the proposal:

- Targeted to a disinvested population (justice involved)
- Not just a workforce development program, but supports businesses formation
- Complimentary funding

Little Saigon Business Community Benefit District (City of Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Fountain Valley/No. 44)

A regional initiative to promote cultural tourism and create jobs in Orange County under the Little Saigon Business Community Benefit District and Specific Plan Project (LS-BCSP). This project aims to transform designated areas within the tri-cities into vibrant cultural hubs, incorporating streetscapes and urban design elements reminiscent of Vietnam. By enhancing public spaces and connectivity, the project will generate jobs in manufacturing, construction, and hospitality, increase foot traffic to local businesses, attract entrepreneurial ventures, and encourage housing development and investment in each city. Through this initiative, Little Saigon will emerge as a premier cultural and economic destination, driving sustainable development and long-term prosperity across Orange County.

What we liked about the proposal:

- Multi-City Project in Multiple Disinvested Community Census Tracts
- True Economic Development
- Centers OC's Ethnic Diversity

Orange County Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (CSUF/ No. 7)

Goal to strengthen workforce development, accelerate technology adoption, and enhance industry collaboration. By bringing together educational institutions, industry leaders, and workforce agencies, OC-AMC aims to bridge the skills gap, provide hands-on training in cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, and support small and mid-sized manufacturers in digital transformation.

What we liked about the proposal:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Focus on small and mid-sized manufactures
- Only Concept Phase Proposal
- Countywide, but situated in North OC

Autonomous Systems Training Hub (Fullerton College/No. 36)

Provide comprehensive workforce training in autonomous systems maintenance, operations, and integration, ensuring that graduates are prepared for careers in advanced and precision manufacturing. The curriculum will focus on core technical training, industry certifications, work-based learning, and green technology and sustainability. The program aims to directly train approximately 100 students annually, that leads to good-paying jobs with an average starting salary of \$60,000 - \$80,000 per year.

What we liked about the proposal:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Precision Manufacturing
- High Average Starting Salary
- Community College historically serve disinvested communities
- Goal of 50% of participants come from disinvested communities
- North Orange County

Childcare Business Incubator (CIELO No. 30)

Create a network model wherein each childcare business will be owned and operated by an entrepreneur, and bolstered by CIELO, which will provide ongoing support with marketing, outreach, training, and back-office services. Currently, CIELO's Childcare Business Incubator offers education, guidance, and inspiration to start an in-home. In one year of Phase I, 36 have successfully received their license to operate a childcare program in their home, and approximately 400 new childcare slots have been created.

What we liked about the proposal:

- Economic Development/Business Formation
- Childcare
- Focus on disinvested populations (women, immigrant, and BIPOC) in disinvested communities

Next Steps/Round 2

- Fund up to the max amount of pre-development activities
- Ensure funding is as focused on priority industries as much as possible
- The remaining \$6 million will be released by the end of May
- **All** applicants are eligible to reapply, but they must reapply

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, featuring a prominent white building with a grid of windows on the right. The scene is framed by a blue border with two red vertical bars on either side of the central text.

Questions/Discussion