



Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Community Enhancing Application Webinar



May 29, 2025

Overview of Community Enhancing Webinar

- [Regional Investment Initiative Informational Webinar](#)
- **California Jobs First Objectives**
- **Community Enhancing Focus**
- **Project Phases & Scoring Criteria – Understanding how applications are evaluated.**
- **Next Steps & Support for Applicants – Key deadlines, resources, and where to get help.**
- **Q&A**

California Jobs First Objectives

At the core of this initiative:

Build a Community-Led, Climate-Forward Economy by investing in key sectors to drive sustainable economic growth, innovation, and access to good-paying jobs.

**Statewide CA Jobs First webpage can be accessed [here](#).*



California Jobs First Objectives (formerly CERF)

Community Economic Resilience Fund:

Supporting innovative plans and strategies to diversify local economies and develop sustainable industries that create family-sustaining, broadly-accessible jobs for all Californians

**Statewide CA Jobs First webpage can be accessed [here](#).*



Catalyst Funding

- Funding already available just for Orange County
- \$9 million for Pre-Development Activities
- \$4.6 million available through this round 2 NOFO
- \$1 million available for Community Enhancing Projects



Community Enhancing Projects

- **\$1 million will be spent on activities for projects that address any topic(s) in the Regional Plan Part 2 and/or industries not mentioned in the Job Creating Projects section**
- **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.**
- **The industries mentioned in the Job Creating Project category are tourism and outdoor recreation, medtech, high-tech hardware, semiconductors & microelectronics, advanced manufacturing, precision manufacturing, healthcare, childcare, education, aerospace and defense, hydrogen, and construction.**
- **Please take a look at page 10 & 11 in the NOFO packet for information on the Community Enhancing Projects focus.*

Project Phases

- **Concept** - Early stages of Development. Recommend not to request over \$50,000.
- **Accelerator** - Beginning to take shape through early planning and analysis. Funding for activities in this phase will include studies, detailed planning, and solutions to potential challenges. Recommend not to request over \$250,000
- **Last Mile** - Feasible and viable. Require funding to clear final hurdles. Recommend not to request over \$750,000
- **Project Phases can be found on pages 6 & 7 in the NOFO packet*

Scoring Criteria

- **Project Impact** (30 points)
- **Equity** (30 points)
- **Work Plan** (20 points) - Focus on the [Pre-Development Activities](#)
- **Organizational Qualifications** (10 points)
- **Proposed Budget and Budget Narrative** (10 points)
- **Scoring Criteria can be found on pages 16 & 18 in the NOFO packet*
- **Catalyst Application can be accessed [here](#).**

Proposers' Webinars

- For an overview of the foundational work leading to the Catalyst pre-development Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), watch the Regional Investment Initiative Informational Webinar found [here](#).
- To access the Job Creating Project Application Webinar please visit the link [here](#) within the next few days.



Next Steps

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- \$4.6 million in funding available in this second round
- \$1 million available for Community Enhancing Projects

Application Details and Rating

- Application Deadline
 - June 20, 2025 by 5:00 pm
- Apply through the grant web portal [here](#)

Support for Applicants: Grant Writing Mentors

- Request up to five hours of mentorship by emailing jobsfirst@ocbc.org.

Financial or Contract Related Questions

- Email subcontracts@charitableventuresoc.org





Thank you!

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