



## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF)

**OVERVIEW:** CERF's planning phase will establish regional, inclusive planning tables to develop blueprints and align resources for each region's economic future. These regional tables will result in recommended investments throughout the region that will build economic resilience, bolster equity outcomes, and facilitate the transition to carbon neutrality.

**PROGRAM VISION:** Deliver a sustainable and equitable economic future that meets communities and regions where they are by supporting new regional plans and investing in strategies and projects that help diversify regional economies and develop or expand environmentally sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians.

### *Program Objectives*

- Support the development of meaningfully inclusive regional planning processes that produce regional roadmaps for economic development efforts that prioritize the creation of accessible, high-quality jobs in sustainable industries.
- Invest in projects proposed by regional planning tables that align with regional strategies and meet criteria for equity, job quality, and sustainability, among others.
- Align and leverage state investments (e.g., High Road Training Partnerships, community capacity building programs), federal investments (e.g., Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), and philanthropic and private-sector investments in regions to maximize economic development efforts.

### *What Does Success Look Like?*

- **Planning phase.** Inclusive, diverse, transparent, and accountable regional planning that results in a holistic strategy and recommended series of investments to grow sustainable industries, diversify regional economies, and increase access to high quality jobs.
- **Implementation phase.** Projects throughout the region that advance globally competitive and sustainable industries and high-quality jobs with clear employment pathways for underserved and incumbent workers, and bolster equity, climate, and health outcomes for all Californians.

### *Program Detail*

1. **Phase 1—Regional Planning Grants:**
  - a. Create 13 Regional Collaboratives that will receive ~\$5M each.



- b. Establish new, inclusive regional planning tables starting in summer 2022. Much like a “team of teams,” they will incorporate existing local efforts to address planning on a broader regional scale.
- c. Develop tailored economic transition plans that meet regions where they are. Plans will include analysis of industry sectors and labor markets, with actionable research and consultation from expert institutions. Strategies should complement, incorporate, or expand on existing plans such as Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs), as applicable and relevant.
- d. Embed locally-hired coordinators to facilitate ongoing engagement, partnership, and relationship-building activities with business, labor, community, government, education, economic development, federally and non-federally recognized tribes, and other key stakeholder groups.
- e. Support participants to increase access and broaden participation in the planning process.
- f. Provide technical assistance to guide convening, evaluation, research priorities, and other needs during the planning phase.
- g. Recommend investments that diversify the economy, and develop or grow sustainable industries that create accessible, well-paying jobs, especially for disinvested communities.

## 2. Phase 2—Implementation Grants:

- a. Provide approximately \$500M in rolling, competitive grants from fall/winter 2022 to October 2026. Includes reserve funding for each region for competitive bidding.
- b. Fund projects in localities across the regions based on regional plans developed and criteria outlined.
- c. Ensure projects support economic resilience and transition for regions, while promoting economic diversification, sustainability, and equity. Outcomes will drive the growth of globally competitive, sustainable industries with well-paying, accessible jobs and bolster equity outcomes by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography.



## Best-Case Scenario Timelines

Month	Program Progress
February/March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to develop guidelines with stakeholder input</li><li>Conduct focused listening sessions</li></ul>
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Release Planning Phase Draft Guidelines for Round 2 Public Comment</li><li>Host Regional Guidelines Workshops</li></ul>
May/June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Incorporate comments from Round 2 Public Comment Period</li><li>Release Planning Phase Solicitation</li><li>Bidder's Conference</li></ul>
Summer 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planning Phase Solicitation Awards and Initiate Contracting Process</li></ul>
Fall 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Release Implementation Phase Draft Guidelines for Public Comment</li><li>Incorporate comments on Implementation Phase Guidelines</li><li>Host Guidelines Workshops</li></ul>
Winter 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Release Implementation Phase Solicitation</li><li>Bidder's Conference</li></ul>
October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Encumbrance deadline</li></ul>

## Resources

- [SB-162 Community Economic Resilience Fund Program](#)
- [Community Economic Resilience Fund - Office of Planning and Research \(ca.gov\)](#)

## Contact Information

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