

Redwood Region RISE Catalyst Funding Scoring Draft Criteria Guidelines

The criteria below build from the California Jobs First Implementation criteria created by the State.

This helps the RRRISE Collaborative align pre-development funding awards with Implementation funding opportunities (to be released at the conclusion of the Planning Phase, September 30, 2024). For more information on the difference between Catalyst and Implementation funding, see Appendix A. This scoring criteria has been elaborated by Voting and Equity Council members of the Collaborative.

Target Outcomes:

Economic Competitiveness:

- Projects strengthen the region to compete in the global economy and deliver prosperity. This includes leveraging a region's comparative advantage, diversifying its economy, and training its workforce to prepare for jobs in emerging industries.
- Project activities may include but are not limited to:
 - Expand access to capital.
 - Expand capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - Retain existing businesses or promote new business development or expansion.
 - Build the region's skilled workforce.

Economic Resilience:

- Projects should improve the region's ability to avoid, withstand, and recover from economic shocks. This includes foreseeing, adapting to, and leveraging changing conditions to a region's economic advantage.
- Project activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Build capacity of organizations serving disinvested communities to compete for and administer fed and state grants.
 - Build wealth in disinvested communities.
 - Diversify the regional economy.

Project Criteria

Equity

Please see Appendix B for additional information on designing projects for equity considerations. That guidance was developed by the RRRISE Equity Council.

- At least 40% of funds provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to disinvested communities; applicants will need to identify and explain benefits in their applications.



- Include an applicant or co-applicant located in or serving a disinvested community, and/or meaningful partnerships that empower priority populations to lead and share their expertise.
- Align with EO N-16-22 Racial Equity Executive Order¹
- Include equity impact assessment, which considers universal design.
- Include displacement analysis (and avoidance strategy if necessary)
- Include community engagement strategy with feedback mechanisms.
- The project will intentionally recruit, train, employ, and/or contract with priority populations that have been hardest hit by discrimination, economic exclusion, and exploitation. The project will actively address barriers to inclusive employment and economic opportunity.
- The project will positively impact community health, prosperity, and resilience.

Climate

- Align with major state climate goals and policies (e.g., SGMA, EO N-82-20, EO N-19-19, CARB Scoping Plan)

Job Quality and Access

Please see Appendix C for additional information on Job Quality and Access consideration. This was developed by voting members with strong emphasis on High Road language.²

- Promote the creation of family-sustaining jobs with healthcare and retirement benefits, upward mobility, access to training, consistent/stable scheduling, safe working conditions, opportunities for collective worker input, career pathways, dignity, and agency that result in economic stability and mobility.
- The project supports or promotes small business, self-employment, and/or entrepreneurship.
- The project is majority owned and managed by a local entity.
- Ensure equitable access to quality jobs for communities throughout the region. The project will intentionally recruit, train, employ, and/or contract with priority populations that have been hardest hit by discrimination, economic exclusion, and exploitation. See Appendix B for definitions.

Feasibility

TBD: this criteria will be elaborated with assistance from the RRRISE Economic Development Finance Working Group. The project proposes a credible plan for establishing stable revenue and long-term financial sustainability.

¹*All agencies and departments subject to my authority shall, for any strategic plans applicable during the 2023-24, 2024-25, and/or 2025-26 fiscal years: a. develop or update the strategic plan to reflect the use of data analysis and inclusive practices to more effectively advance equity and to respond to identified disparities with changes to the organization's mission, vision, goals, data tools, policies, programs, operations, community engagement, tribal consultation policies and practices, and other actions as necessary to serve all Californians; and b. as part of the development or updating of the strategic plans, engage and gather input from California communities that have been historically disadvantaged and underserved within the scope of policies or programs administered or implemented by the agency or department, and make the plans publicly available."*

² https://cwdb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/08/OneSheet_Job-Quality_ACCESSIBLE.pdf



Opportunities for additional points

Projects that include any of the following will receive additional points on their application.

- Greater than 40% of funds provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to disinvested communities with points increasing with higher percentages.
- Create assets or programs owned or controlled by members of disinvested communities.
- Project includes local or targeted hiring goals.
- Include a Project Labor Agreement or Community Workforce Agreement, or a Community Benefits Agreement
- Target training and support services to workers with employment barriers as defined in Chapter 2 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code
- Fund alternative models of ownership for land, businesses, or other assets, such as worker owned cooperatives, community land trusts, community investment funds, or others.
- Directly leverage regional assets, investments, and processes which have additional funding attached.

Guidance on Regional and Sectoral Balance of awards, Alignment with Regional Strategies

TBD: To be elaborated by Voting Members with guidance from Equity Council

Appendix A: Understanding CA Jobs First Funding

Catalyst vs Implementation

Catalyst (Predevelopment)

- Mechanics:
 - Catalyst funds go through the convener
 - Convener and collaborative direct funding
 - Convener and collaborative expand on guidelines provided by State:
 - “Projects must align with existing Jobs First priorities of equity, sustainability, job quality and access, economic competitiveness, and economic resilience. Projects must also adhere to federal, program specific Justice40 guidelines”
- State role:
 - State will provide recommended guidelines for project criteria
 - State approval will not be required for projects
 - State will provide examples of scoring processes for the region to adapt

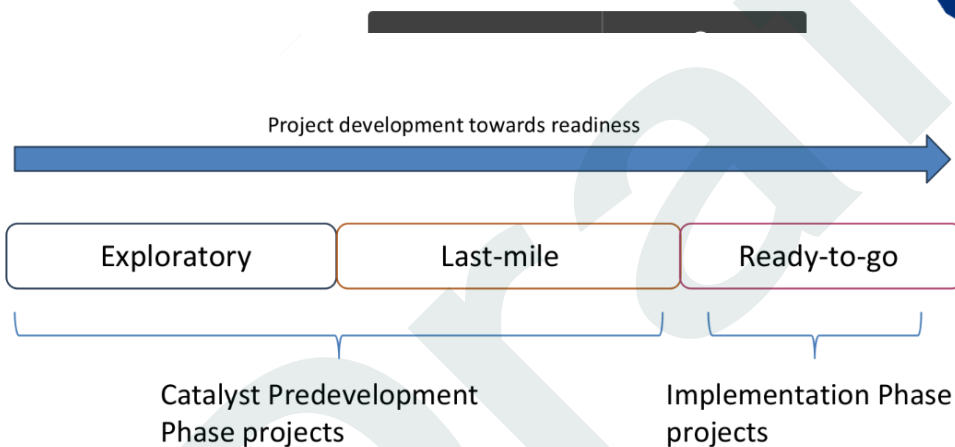
Implementation

- Mechanics:
 - Applicants apply to the state for implementation funds
 - State scores applications to distribute grants
- State role:
 - Set standards on criteria for equity, climate, and job quality
 - Establish project readiness framework and requirements for ready-to-go projects

Catalyst Predevelopment Activities

- Up to **\$9 million** for project pre-development activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feasibility studies; • market analysis; • environmental assessments, surveys, and remediation; • site acquisition; site and development plans; • project designs; permitting; • establishing a regional tax increment financing district (TIF); • drafting and negotiating Community Benefits Agreements and Community Workforce Agreements; • establishing public-private partnerships, Community Development Corporations and Community Development Financial Institutions; • revolving loan funds; • joint powers authorities; • financial planning (e.g., preliminary budget and construction financing); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic environmental infrastructure pre-development, construction, and development of long-term operations and maintenance plans for infrastructure such as: clean water supply systems; wastewater systems; waste disposal systems; pollution control services; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support costs for building and sustaining the capacity of project leads and partners, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investments in partner and local staff development; • funding new and/or critical positions; • acquiring or utilizing tools and resources to increase partner capacity for project planning and implementation; • organizational capacity activities such as access to financial services or legal review; • developing new pilot or demonstration projects and programs; • participation and/or partnership with existing workforce programs; • providing or securing technical assistance for partners.
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Appendix B: Elaboration of Equity Criteria for Project Design

RRRISE has determined that the following populations have been hardest hit by discrimination, economic exclusion, and exploitation: Communities of Color, Tribal Citizens & Tribal Governments (including Non-federally Recognized Tribal Nations), New Citizens and Immigrants with Documentation (e.g., work visas), Individuals without Documentation, Individuals living in extremely remote/rural areas of the Redwood Coast Region, Individuals without Broadband Access, Individuals who were Formerly Incarcerated, Individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, Vision Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Individuals experiencing mental health challenges, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Asexual, Intersex, Two-Spirit + (LGBTQIA2S+) Individuals, Members of religious and ethnic minority communities, Monolingual Hmong and Spanish Speakers, Youth, and Seniors.



Intentional strategies for connecting priority populations with job opportunities is desirable.

This might look like:

- Targeted outreach and recruitment strategies for job openings
- Training programs designed for specific priority populations (we heard through the Empathy Interviews that “Generic support doesn’t translate into useful help”)
- Commitments for contracting with business/organizations that are led by or employ priority populations, like Minority/Women Owned Businesses

Project should actively address barriers to inclusive employment and economic opportunity. Current and potential workers in this region struggle to connect to and retain employment because of barriers like:

- Limited transportation
- The lack of child and family care
- Challenging accessing healthcare and wellness
- The lack of and high cost of housing (and utilities)
- Limited broadband and internet access
- Limited English proficiency

A project might provide direct services that mitigate the impact of these barriers for their specific employees, or a project may address these barriers through its outcomes.

This might include:

- Targeted employee services, such as providing a shuttle or subsidized childcare for employees.
- Developing facilities or infrastructure that advance healthcare, affordable housing, and/or child and family care for the region (like the building of a clinic or affordable housing development)

In line with California Jobs First goals for building a “community led climate forward economy”, the project should positively impact community health, prosperity, and resilience, with special attention to the needs of disinvested communities.

This might look like:



- A plan to clean up a toxic site.
- A community benefits agreement (CBA) to provide specific community assets or services.
- Project outcomes that reduce the negative impacts of climate change, like fire mitigation or flood resilience for communities that are most threatened.

A note on universal design: Projects are encouraged to embrace Universal Design. Universal design is the design of buildings, products, environments, processes, or systems to make them accessible and inclusive of people, regardless of age, disability, background, or other characteristics and experiences.

The project should incorporate the voice of priority populations in meaningful ways. The goal is to build partnerships that can be sustained over time (rather than engage in check-the-box tokenism). These partnerships will allow members of priority populations to shape the project’s strategy, design, and execution from the beginning using universal design principles.

This might look like:

- Deep partnerships with organizations/institutions that serve and represent priority populations.
- Commitment to ongoing listening/learning through strategies like human-centered design, user-research, and community engagement
- Advisory committee of “lived experience experts” to shape the project.

Appendix C: Elaboration of Job Quality Criteria

Element	Examples and Standards
Family Sustaining Wages	High Road language: Family-supporting wages include healthcare, a pension, and paid sick leave and ensure that workers can procure basic necessities such as housing and food for themselves and their families in any location.
Healthcare and Retirement Benefits	See above.
Upward Mobility	Clearly defined career ladder opportunities lead to family-sustaining wages for workers. Workers must have access to quality education, training, and support services that provide the skills to access opportunities to enter and advance within a



	<p>specific occupation. If the firm provides upskilling opportunities, that is valuable. Empowering and nurturing work.</p>
<p>Access to training</p>	<p>See “Safe working conditions”</p>
<p>Consistent scheduling</p>	<p>High Road Language: Work schedules are reliable, predictable, and stable and include enough hours to ensure a family-sustaining income. Workers receive reasonable advance notice of their schedules, clearly defined shifts, and a consistent number of hours.</p> <p>Scheduling changes should give enough notice to accommodate issues like childcare, etc.- two weeks to a month notice of change depending on industry. A good benchmark for overtime is two days’ notice.</p> <p>The project should distinguish between family sustaining and supplemental income opportunities.</p>
<p>Safe working conditions</p>	<p>High Road language: Adequate training and protection reduce the risk of on-the-job injuries, prevent fatalities, and lessen the impact of long-term health conditions. Socially conscious training that incorporates racial equity practices in a community context helps employers make workplaces safer and meet environmental sustainability standards that improve public health.</p> <p>Emotional safety and support.</p> <p>Culturally inclusive and affirming policies, especially for English as a second language and undocumented workers, pro-active supports to make priority populations feel safe and included.</p>
<p>Opportunities for collective worker input; voice, agency, and belonging of diverse workers.</p>	<p>Worker expertise is necessary to the development, design, and implementation of training programs to adequately address industry demand and workforce needs. Workers should also have the right to organize and join unions and other organizations to protect their interest, enter into collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Consideration for undocumented workers safety, integration, and support in the workplace.</p> <p>Workers are encouraged to access support and advocate for themselves. Workplace culture values people feeling satisfied at work.</p>