

# CA Jobs First

## Catalyst Phase - Midterm Overview



### CA Jobs First

CA Jobs First (CJF) is a ground-up statewide economic development initiative that seeks to center disinvested communities in economic development planning, with the long-term goal of creating high-quality jobs and building a climate-friendly economy.

#### Catalyst

The Catalyst Phase is a **\$9 million** seed funding initiative that supports collaborative, community-driven predevelopment projects with strong potential for climate impact and the creation of high-quality jobs.



26

Catalyst Projects



8

Service Planning Areas



6

Industry Sectors

The breadth of Catalyst project activities advances organizations toward **implementation readiness** and aligns within one or more of the following overarching thematic focus areas:



#### ORGANIZATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening organizational readiness for implementation

12

Feasibility Assessments

8

Stakeholder Groups

7

Work Resource & Training Centers



#### INDUSTRY-ALIGNED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Skills training that aligns job seekers with employer needs

22

Industry-Aligned Curriculum

9

Career Awareness & Exploration Programs



#### WORK-BASED TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS

Paid, hands-on training in partnership with employers

195

Industry Recognized Certifications

186

Work-Based Learning & Training Slots

94

Partnerships: Non-Profit & Employers/ Industry





### CA JOBS FIRST

CA Jobs First (CJF) is a ground-up statewide economic development initiative that seeks to center disinvested communities in economic development planning, with the long-term goal of creating high-quality jobs and building a climate-friendly economy. In April 2025, LA County's [CJF Regional Report – Part 2](#) was among the 13 regional plans formally accepted as [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies \(CEDS\)](#) by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), marking the first time in California's history that all 482 cities and 58 counties hold a federally recognized strategy for securing economic development grants.

### CATALYST PHASE

The Catalyst Predevelopment Phase is a \$9 million seed funding initiative that supports collaborative, community-driven predevelopment projects with strong potential to create high-quality jobs. In May 2025, a 10-member review committee -composed of [LA CJF Collaborative Partners](#) - operated independently to review, score, and recommend 26 projects for funding. Catalyst awards range from \$140,000 to \$400,000 and are in the early stages of development or need additional steps to be implementation ready.

### Pre-Development Projects | Industries & Service Planning Areas

Catalyst projects are dispersed throughout all eight (8) SPAs, with several project activities impacting multiple SPAs and representing the diversity of LA County's six (6) target sectors.

- LA County is divided into 8 Service Planning Areas (SPAs), including Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Metro LA, West LA, South LA, East LA, and the South Bay.
- LA County's [CJF Regional Report – Part 2](#) outlines strategic priorities for seven (7) high-growth potential target sectors including Aerospace Manufacturing, Bioscience, Clean & Renewable Energy, Construction, Healthcare, Transportation & Logistics and Video Production & Distribution.

### PRE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS | THEMATIC OVERVIEW

The breadth of Catalyst project activities advances organizations toward implementation readiness and aligns within one or more of the following overarching thematic focus areas: (1) strengthening organizational readiness, (2) aligning talent development with industry demand, and (3) translating training into real-world career opportunities through employer engagement. Through their period of performance, Catalyst projects will continue to be equipped with early-stage support to achieve equitable, sustainable and impactful results over time.



#### ORGANIZATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening organizational readiness for implementation

Organizational infrastructure refers to the tangible (i.e. facilities, equipment, technology) and intangible elements (i.e. policies, protocols, organizational culture) of an organization. Catalyst project activities under [Organizational Infrastructure](#) include:

#### 12 Feasibility Assessments

Conducting a **feasibility assessment** to identify employer demands, inform workforce development activities, and improve access to workforce services

#### 8+ Stakeholder Groups

Engaging **Community Stakeholders** through roundtables, listening sessions and councils to identify workforce training gaps, opportunities, and priorities. Stakeholder groups may include



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workers, workforce training providers, business, owners, and industry representatives and are convened to inform program services, strengthen collaboration, and share resources.

*Examples of stakeholder groups include: The ASCEND industry focus groups · The Restaurant Worker Council · The Gateway Cities Workforce Collaborative*

### 7 Site Locations

Securing a site location for a **Workforce Resource and Training Center** to support training and career opportunities for surrounding community members.

*Examples of resource and training centers include: Creators @ Lab studio · Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) and Clean Fuel Infrastructure (CFI) Workforce Hub · Clean Energy & Transportation Resource Center · Regional Skilled Trades Center · Mobile EVSE training lab*

Additional organizational infrastructure preparation activities include streamlining data systems and reporting, growing staffing capacity, and enhancing technical assistance and coaching hours for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

**Organizational Infrastructure Preparation - 21 Catalyst Projects** | Alliance for Community Empowerment · Allie Kits Network Inc. · AltaSea · Bioscience LA · BRIC Foundation · Cal State LA · Community Build Cooperation LA · Destination Crenshaw · Educating Young Minds · Gateway Cities · COG · GRID LA · KIWA · LA Commons · LARC · Pasadena CC · Rising Communities · Start Here Empower · Miguel Contreras Foundation · Venice Arts



### INDUSTRY-ALIGNED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Skills training that aligns job seekers with employer needs

Industry-aligned workforce development refers to skills training and education connecting current and future job seekers to opportunities that align with employer needs. Catalyst project activities under [Industry-Aligned Workforce Development](#) include:

### 22+ Industry-Aligned Curricula

Developing **Industry Aligned Training Curriculum**, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship learning modules in technical skill areas, industry-recognized credentials (IRC), and mentorship.

*Examples include a Community Health Worker curriculum aligned with CA Dept. of Health Care Services core competencies (AMAAD Institute) · An EV Conversion Certification Pathway with industry-aligned credentials and safety training (Miguel Contreras Foundation) · An environmental justice and climate resilience workforce curriculum focused on community health (Rising Communities), among others.*

### 9 Career Awareness/Exploration Programs

Coordinating **Career Awareness and Exploration** activities, including career exploration workshops, lecture series with business and industry representatives, and industry site visits.

*Examples include Bioscience LA's Bioscience Career Pathways Initiative · Cal state LA's outreach activities promoting Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) and Clean Fuel Infrastructure (CFI) careers · Venice Art's youth-focused workshops and mentorship to introduce careers in media and creative industries.*

**Industry-Aligned Workforce Development – 20 Catalyst Projects** | Allie Kits Network Inc. · Anchor of Hope International Ministries, Inc. · Bioscience LA · BRIC Foundation · Cal State LA · Coffee with a Cause · Community Build · Compton CC · Educating Young Minds · In the Mix · KIWA · LA Commons · LARC · Pasadena CC · Peregrinos De Emaus · Start Here Empower · The AMAAD Institute · Miguel Contreras Found. · Venice Arts



### WORK-BASED TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS

Paid, hands-on training in partnership with employers

Work-based training prepares individuals with hands-on training through paid internships, apprenticeships, and fellowships, facilitated by partnerships between workforce training providers and employers. A final progress report will include projections for career training-to-career opportunities. Catalyst project activities under **Work-Based Training and Employer Partnerships** include:

#### 195 Industry Recognized Certifications

Providing **Industry Recognized Certification** support to validate technical skills and experience needed for a specific job.

*Examples include*

- **Ready, Set, Hire** (Coffee with a Cause): Supporting 30 industry-recognized certificates in barista service, fitness training, and dog grooming.
- **Paint on Purpose** (In the Mix): Certifying over 100 program participants in surface coatings, construction trades, project management, and entrepreneurship

#### 186+ Work-Based Learning & Training Slots

Developing **Work-Based Learning** opportunities, including pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, internships and fellowships to support near-term, good-paying job placements for youth and community members, with the intention to scale up training slots.

*Examples include*

- **Greenworks LA** (Anchor of Hope): Creating 50 pre-apprenticeship slots in EV charger and heat pump installation for justice impacted individuals
- **Building Resilient Futures Fellowship** (LARC): Supporting 36 community college student fellows in construction, architecture, and facilities management
- **Hollywood Producer Incubator Program** (Peregrinos de Emaus): Supporting 20 underrepresented young creatives fellows in the entertainment industry

#### 94 Partnerships: Non-Profit & Employers/Industry

Formalizing **partnership, articulation, and hiring agreements** with regional employers, labor unions and workforce agencies to support job placement for program participants.

*Examples include*

- **Workforce Recovery Initiative** (Pasadena CC): Expanding partnerships with labor unions and employers to create an apprenticeship to career pipeline in construction and skilled trades.
- **Bioscience Career Pathways** (Bioscience LA): In collaboration with an advisory board, developing an industry-aligned biotech Career Technical Education high school-to-community college pathway.

**Work-Based Training & Partnerships – 18 Catalyst Projects** | Allie Kits Network Inc. • Anchor of Hope, Inc. • Bioscience LA • BRIC Foundation • Cal State LA • Coffee with a Cause • Compton CC • Destination Crenshaw • Educating Young Minds • In the Mix • LA Commons • LARC • Pasadena CC • Peregrinos De Emaus • Rising Communities • Start Here Empower • The AMAAD Institute • Miguel Contreras Foundation