



Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative

Monthly Stakeholder Meeting
September 30, 2026



**BAY AREA
JOBS FIRST**
COLLABORATIVE

Agenda

- Welcome + Agenda
- Evaluation Findings
- Group breakout discussion
- Future Stakeholder Meeting Ideas
- Closing

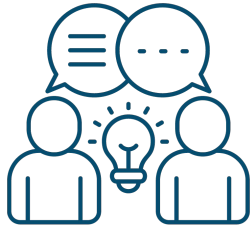
About | CA Jobs First

- In 2021, Governor Newsom launched the \$600 million CA Jobs First to create quality jobs and bolster regions' resilience to climate and global challenges.
- Each region received grants to build a diverse “Collaborative” **tasked with identifying and addressing the challenges and opportunities to equitable job growth in their region.**
- **Goal of establishing economic development planning from the ground up**, with a focus of ensuring disinvested communities are part of the design and benefit from the outcomes of the economic strategy.



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 North State | 7 Central San Joaquin |
| 2 Redwood | 8 Central Coast |
| 3 Capital | 9 Kern County |
| 4 Sierra | 10 Los Angeles County |
| 5 Bay Area | 11 Inland SoCal |
| 6 North San Joaquin | 12 Orange County |
| | 13 Southern Border |

Objectives



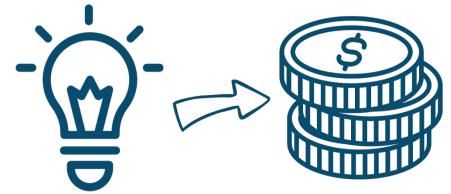
Drive **deep and meaningful community engagement** with a focus on equity.



Identify initiatives **with potential regional impacts** that are aligned with the Collaborative's goals

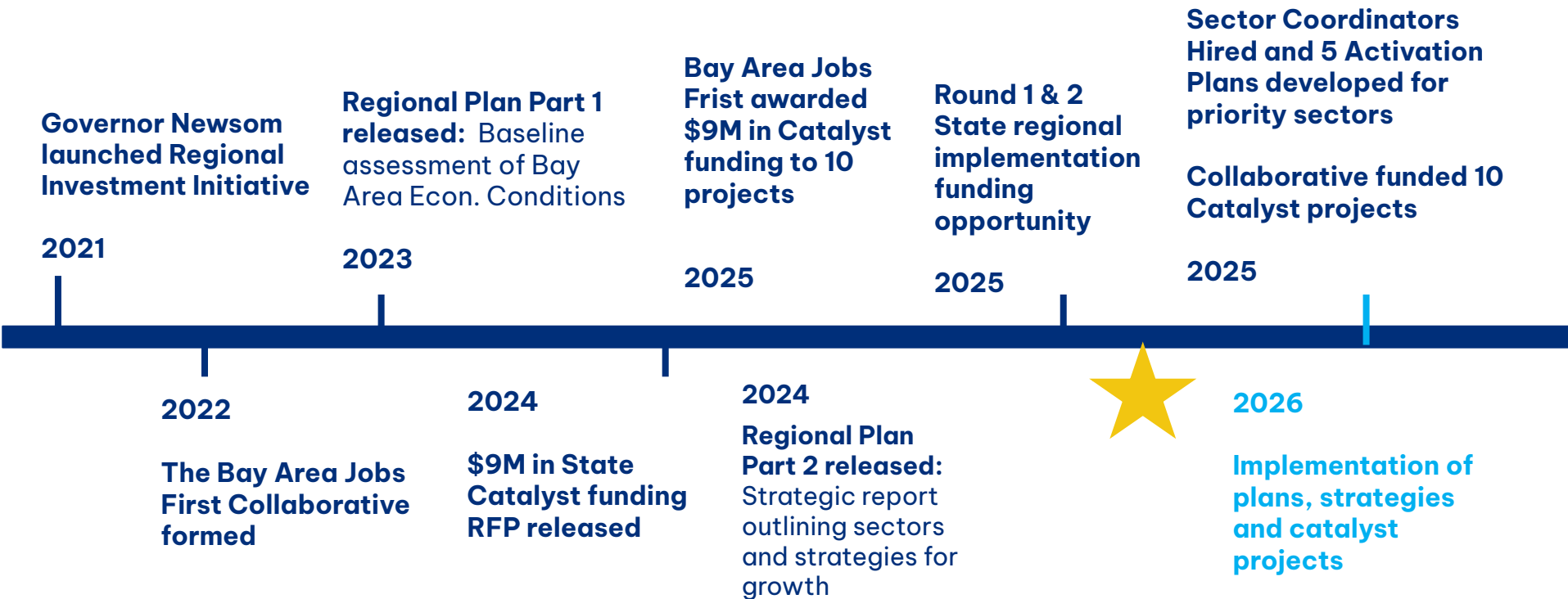


Create a **long-lasting regional economic development infrastructure that will empower communities and workers** across the Bay to lead equitable, high-road climate & economic development projects, beyond California Jobs First.



Identify projects that could potentially **activate capital from sources other than California Jobs First**.

Looking Back: Milestones



Evaluation Takeaways

Takeaways from evaluation led by Third Plateau, impact consulting group

Evaluating our collective based on objectives

Why: Learning, reflection and looking ahead

What: Assessing our role as convener and progress toward collective goals

- Role of regional convener in establishing collaboration
- Convening intersectional spaces for meaningful community engagement
- Fostering collaboration across groups
- Helping identify opportunities to further regional structural change and/or improve job quality
- Supporting project visibility and sustainability

How: Mixed-methods approach that captured feedback from a variety of stakeholders

- **1:1 Interviews** (Eight participants)
- **2 Focus Groups** (16 participants): Catalyst grantee leads and sector investment coordinators
- **Stakeholder Meeting Survey** (29 complete responses)

Establish a collaborative for regional economic development that is shaped by communities and workers

- Clear goals and intentionality guiding the work.
- Some challenges with implementation.
 - Missed opportunity/timeline challenge to better align Catalyst grant opportunities with sector activation plans.
- Several stakeholders shared All Home did a good job as a facilitator.
 - There were some benefits to their more neutral role.

Convene intersectional spaces that include meaningful community engagement, particularly with disinvested communities

- Intentionality around community engagement; opportunities for deeper engagement.
- Structures like sub-regional tables and working with CBOs who represented communities helped raise community voice, but engagement could have been more direct.
- Engagement with tribal communities was named and explored but community perspectives felt lacking from the process.
- All Home tried to uplift community voices and Catalyst grants supported programs supporting disinvested communities.

Identify projects aligned with guiding principles and cross-cutting strategies that could lead to structural change and improved job quality

- Stakeholders noted there was good effort and intentions, but they were not sure how much investment was actually fostered to date.
 - Sustainable investment was particularly challenging.
 - There were a lot of one-time programs that were difficult to keep going without continued investment.
- Some stakeholders shared that Catalyst grants helped support work, such as innovative pilot programs, more high-level strategic work, and direct services.

Share opportunities with communities and amplify projects to support project awareness and sustainability

- All Home has helped spotlight and support projects, particularly through site visits and connecting with funders.
- A few stakeholders shared that while there are helpful connections with funders and other organizations, it is difficult to realize progress in current climate.
 - Several stakeholders said sustainability feels challenging when there is so much uncertainty and a lack of additional funding.

Hearing from Catalyst awardees

Takeaways from a survey presented and completed by all Catalyst awardees

Catalyst Impact

PEOPLE

Workers, young people, jobseekers, cooperative members, residents, contractors, and employers were engaged across the region.

PATHWAYS

Projects created or strengthened routes into construction, clean transportation, decarbonization, regenerative work, manufacturing, and climate resilience.

SYSTEMS

Catalyst supported worker-informed research, implementation blueprints, cooperative development, employer engagement, and regional sector strategies.

LASTING CAPACITY

Curricula, partnerships, cooperatives, training models, and implementation plans are positioned to continue beyond the grant.

Catalyst projects translated our regional priorities of job quality, equity, and climate resilience into tangible workforce strategies and infrastructure.

Outreach & Participant Outcomes Across Catalyst

1300+

Participants served

575

People Trained in a
workshop or
structured learning
opportunity

12

New Curriculum

400+

Organizations were
newly engaged

38

Entered
employment

57

Entered an
apprenticeship/pre-a
pprenticeship

216

Earned a
credential/certificate

Data points are from 9 out of the 10 Catalyst Projects

Catalyst Created Opportunities and On-Ramps to Quality Careers

EXPOSURE

Career awareness and hands-on exploration

TRAINING

Technical skills and workshops

CREDENTIALS

Certifications and documented skill attainment

CONNECTIONS

Employers, unions, workforce partners, and career pathways

OUTCOMES

Employment, continued training, cooperative ownership, and job search

We asked...

What happened because Catalyst funding made this work possible?

Impacted presence in the community and partnership with administrators

Solidifying a regional manufacturing collaborative

Training instructors learning from the participants too & learning more about the trades

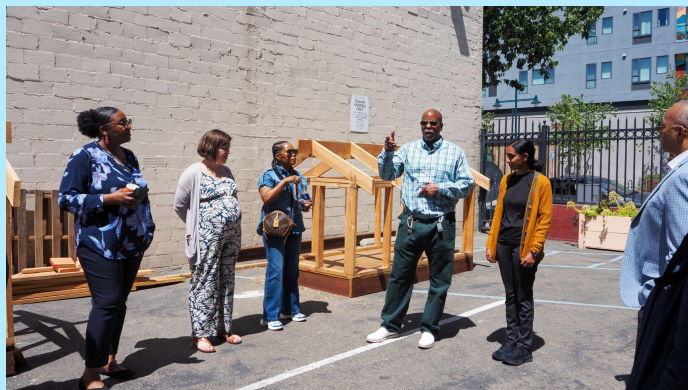
A worker co-op was formed that was never imagined

The human impact of the project: seeing the change in the women who participated - seeing their confidence grow and being empowered

Build partnerships with employers with time *before* a program launch - not something always feasible with workforce funding

New partnerships and connections made given the network of jobs first

Opened up a career pathway into regenerative jobs that wasn't considered before & participants continued in this field



From Findings to Action

What changes or actions can strengthen our work moving forward

Group Breakout discussions

Based on evaluation findings and impact of Catalyst projects, what can we be doing to continue the work that's been started and strengthen the collaborative?

- **Next Month**

- What could we be doing differently right away?
- What is within our control now?
- Who's at the table and who's missing?

- **Next Year**

- What should we establish, strength, or change?
- What infrastructure or partnerships are needed?

- **Next 3-5 Years**

- What should regional collaboration look like over the long term?

Shaping Future Stakeholder Meetings

- What topics would you like to see in future meetings?
- What would make these meetings worth prioritizing on your calendar?
- What would you like to hear less of or spend more time on?
- How can these meetings better help you connect with organizations across the region?
- Zoom poll – pick your top 3!



Regional Announcements



Ritu Mahajan Estes
Directing Attorney, Community Development
Public Counsel

Know your rights at work: What Employees and Small Business Owners Need to Know

Thursday, October 1, 2026
11:00am - 12:00pm

Join us to learn about key workplace rights and responsibilities, explore legal resources, and discover new grant opportunities for small businesses and workers.

Spanish and Vietnamese interpretation available!



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