

## North State CA Jobs First: Catalyst Pre-Development Fund Process

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The CA Jobs First Initiative (formerly CERF) is a catalytic investment for California's 13 regions, designed to spur systemic change to build a more equitable, resilient economy. To ensure the program affects systemic changes in regional economies, the Catalyst Program will support HRTCs to invest in pre-development activities, enabling regions to develop projects and maximize investment opportunities. Too many communities across California lack the funds necessary to move projects through the development process (e.g., conducting feasibility or environmental studies, identifying and controlling sites for development, negotiating Community Benefits Agreements), disqualifying them from many funding opportunities.

Disinvested (often rural) communities have suffered the most from this dynamic, while better-resourced communities are able to allocate capital to developing projects that are 'ready-to-go,' or ready for immediate implementation. Allocating funds for a Catalyst Program will accomplish two core goals: strengthen HRTC social infrastructure to allow for continued regional inclusive planning and enable regions to build a pipeline of viable, ready-to-go CA Jobs First-aligned projects.

Total North State Catalyst Allocation: \$9 million

Catalyst Fund Expenditure Deadline: September 2026

### **Project Review Process**

- Submitted project application revisions due by Friday, June 28, 2024 by 5pm
- Revised project application technical review – Co-Convening team
- Revised project application scoring – Advisory Committee
- HRTC review and voting process

### **Proposed Project Distributions and Parameters: Post Application Scoring**

Catalyst Fund Award Range:

- Maximum catalyst award is \$1 million

### **Proposed Decision rules:**

- \$3 million dedicated to projects < \$300,000
  - Option: Award funding to the highest scoring projects under \$300,000 until the \$3,000,000 total is reached. At that point, the remaining projects under \$300,000 will compete with larger projects.

- North State Catalyst funds will be allocated for impact in each of the 10 counties
- 70% of North State Catalyst funds will support projects that will primarily impact rural communities in the North State Jobs First Region
  - The U.S. Census Bureau defines “rural” as counties with no metropolitan areas with a population greater than 50,000. Butte and Shasta Counties both have cities with over 50,000 people. We understand, however, that there are many rural communities and areas within those counties. Unlike the Census Bureau, we are classifying all those areas within Butte and Shasta Counties outside of the two metropolitan statistical areas along with all other counties in the ten-county North State Jobs First Region as rural.

**Catalyst Fund Pre-development activities may include, but are not limited to (from State guidelines):**

- i. 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); with the goal of establishing long-term funding opportunities for implementation of Planning Phase regional strategies;
- ii. Basic pre-development plans for environmental infrastructure, 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;
- iii. Support costs for building and sustaining the capacity of project leads and partners, such as: 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.



## **North State CA Jobs First Catalyst Request for Proposals (RFP) – Supplemental Questionnaire**

**Submission Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2024 – 5pm PST**

**Submission Delivery: Submit an electronic response to: [hmccafferty@csuchico.edu](mailto:hmccafferty@csuchico.edu)**

**Submission Requirements: PDF, 12 pt. font, not-to-exceed 4 pages**

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**Project Name:**

**Project Location:**

**Project Partners:**

1. Please describe your project, including key project objectives.
2. Please describe planned beneficiaries of the project. Include information on geographic benefit and how will the project benefit underserved and/or under resourced communities
3. Describe how the project impacts the regional economy (e.g., quality jobs, new market opportunities etc.)?
4. Describe how this project builds community and economic resilience.
5. Describe how the project will advance the North State regional economy in regard to fostering sustainable and renewable industries, and climate adaptation and resilience.
6. Describe your organizations capacity and strategy to achieve and sustain project objectives.

**Budget Narrative:**

What is the overall budget for your project? What percent are you asking for through the Catalyst Fund?

\*note there is no match requirement but please share if you plan to use match funds\*



**Budget:**

- Staff & Fringe
- Travel
- Operating Expenses
- Equipment
- Subcontracts
- Other (please explain)
- Indirect cost rate not to exceed 10%

\*Please list amount and source of any match funding.

North State CA Jobs First Project Scoring Rubric - June 2024						
Project Criteria	Project/activity objectives based on CA Jobs First Criteria	Score on a 1-7 point scale, 1 = does not meet criteria 7 = meets all criteria	Scoring			
			1	4	7	
			Low	Medium	High	
1	<b>Equitable:</b> Project serves disinvested communities or populations.	Proposed project objectives serve disinvested communities within the North State. Proposed project clearly articulates approaches to remove unintentional and intentional barriers arising from systemic structures and historic underinvestment.	Project does not mention nor include disinvested communities or populations and does not address intentional and/or unintentional barriers that may hinder project and community outcomes.	Project includes disinvested communities or populations and to some degree addresses intentional and/or unintentional barriers to advance a project.	Disinvested communities or populations are the primary focus and beneficiary of the project; project addresses intentional and/or unintentional barriers and historic underinvestment.	
2	<b>Project Sustainability</b>	Proposed project clearly identifies and explains how it will have long term and sustainable positive impact within the North State. Proposed project outlines how its objectives consider long term availability of North State resources, including human capacity and natural resources.	Project does not address nor mention long term or sustainable impacts. There is no discussion of utilization of North State resources, natural resources or capacity.	Project incompletely addresses long term or sustainable impacts. There is limited discussion of utilization of North State resources, natural resources, or capacity.	Project clearly describes long term and sustainable impacts and directly addresses them.	Project clearly describes and utilizes North State resources and builds capacity.
3	<b>Project Resilience</b>	Proposed project clearly addresses how it will respond to climate change and build resilience into project objectives and activities. Project addresses how it will be nimble to respond to biophysical, economic and social shocks (e.g., wildfire, Pandemic shutdown, and other climate-related impacts), adaptable (e.g. use of tech, re-skilling of workers), trustworthy (e.g. community input and collaboration) and responsible (e.g., optimizing use of natural resources, exhibits high regard for social needs of region).	Project resilience is not discussed nor linked to climate impacts, there is no discussion of response to biophysical, social and/or economic shocks, nor is there any discussion of adaptability and responsiveness to workers, community and other needs of the region.	There is discussion of project resilience and it is loosely linked to climate change although discussion of project response to biophysical, social and/or economic shocks is incomplete or uneven, and discussion of climate adaptability and responsiveness to workers, community and other needs of the region is incomplete or uneven.	Project response to climate change and resilience is clearly articulated, there is clear discussion of project response to biophysical, social and/or economic shocks, and there is clear discussion of adaptability and responsiveness to workers, community and other needs of the region.	
4	<b>Job Access and Job Quality</b>	Proposed project clearly identifies a strategy for job access for unemployed, underemployed individuals or individuals wishing to make a career pivot. Proposed project clearly identifies opportunities for job creation that include potential for: a living wage, career-building opportunities, wealth-building opportunities, social mobility, predictable hours, learning/training, job security, benefits, and support of quality of life.	Job access for unemployed, underemployed individuals or individuals absent. Proposed project does not identify opportunities for job creation nor mention living wage, career-building opportunities, wealth-building opportunities, social mobility, predictable hours, learning/training, job security, benefits, and support of quality of life.	Job access for unemployed, underemployed individuals or individuals mentioned but incomplete. Proposed project includes but incompletely describes opportunities for job creation, jobs with living wages, career-building opportunities, wealth-building opportunities, social mobility, predictable hours, learning/training, job security, benefits, and support of quality of life.	Job access for unemployed, underemployed individuals or individuals clearly described and achievable. Proposed project clearly identifies opportunities for job creation, jobs with living wages, career-building opportunities, wealth-building opportunities, social mobility, predictable hours, learning/training, job security, benefits, and support of quality of life.	
5	<b>Economic Opportunity &amp; Competitiveness</b>	Proposed project has potential or has already evidenced high level economic competitiveness by demonstrating a viable market, or market opportunity for a quality good or service within the region. Project demonstrates innovation, and considers increased quality of life within the region, along with economic viability. Project demonstrates potential for continued future support through tax policies, product development, and grant funding.	Proposed project does not discuss or shows little evidence of economic competitiveness; does not describe or demonstrate a viable market, or market opportunity for a quality good or service within the region; demonstrates little to no innovation; and does not consider quality of life within the region nor economic viability. Project does not demonstrate potential for future support.	Proposed project discusses and provides some evidence of economic competitiveness and a viable market, or market opportunity for a quality good or service within the region; demonstrates some innovation; and shows some consideration for improved quality of life and economic viability in the region. Project demonstrates some potential for future support.	Proposed project discusses and provides strong evidence of economic competitiveness and a viable market; or market opportunity for a quality good or service within the region; is innovative; and consider increased quality of life within the region nor economic viability. Project does not demonstrate potential for future support.	
6	<b>Scalable impact</b>	Proposed project has multi-community impact AND/OR presents a scalable model. Project presents processes to promote and support expansion.	Proposed project benefits one community or limited area and has no multi-community impact. Project does not lead to a scalable model benefitting other communities and counties. No processes to promote and support expansion of the project are presented.	Proposed project describes some multi-community impact and some potential for a scalable model that benefits other communities and counties. Some processes to promote and support expansion of the project are presented.	Proposed project describes robust multi-community impact and a scalable model that benefits other communities and counties. Processes to promote and support expansion of the project are clearly presented.	
7	<b>Feasibility</b>	Project sponsor and/or key project partners have demonstrated track record of success. Project partners have demonstrated capacity to implement project activities and have community input strategy or community/county support.	Project sponsor and/or partners have no track record of previous project success. Project partners appear to lack capacity to implement project activities and describe no community input strategy or community/county support.	Project sponsor and/or partners have a record of some project success. Project partners have some experience and capacity to implement project activities and have generally described a community input strategy and/or community/county support.	Project sponsor and/or partners have a strong record project success. Project partners have both the experience and clearly described the capacity to implement project activities, and have clearly described a community input strategy and/or documented community/county support.	

Activity	Date	Content Notes
Revised Rubric by conveners	By May 17, 2024	<b>Draft of rubric revisions by conveners May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>  <b>[completed]</b>
Advisory Committee Meeting	May 21, 2024	Share agenda & plan for HRTC virtual meeting where we cover the final rubric and funding distributions and parameters  <b>[completed]</b>
HRTC Virtual Meeting	June 6 <sup>th</sup> 10am - noon or 2-3:15  Comments accepted until June 12 <sup>th</sup> , COB	Share rubric for final comment, reflecting subcommittee input, advisory committee input, state criteria changes, and our synthesis  Share additional Catalyst Fund project and funding parameters for final comment  <b>Comments accepted until June 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 – 5pm</b>  <b>[completed]</b>
Catalyst Fund Proposals	June 14 <sup>th</sup> Catalyst Fund Request for Proposals sent to regional project sponsors who have entered their preliminary information into the project portal	Project Proponents submit second round applications  <b>Catalyst Fund Request for Proposals to regional project sponsors (projects in portal) June 14<sup>th</sup> and due June 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 – 5pm</b>
Technical Review of revised Catalyst proposals	June 29 <sup>th</sup> -July 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	Review for application completeness

<b>Scoring by committee</b>	<b>July 8- July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024</b>	<b>All projects scored by at minimum three scoring committee members</b>
<b>In person HRTC meeting (Confirmed @ Gaia hotel in Anderson)</b>	<b>July 31, 2024</b>	<b>Share findings from regional process Regional Jobs First Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Catalyst Fund Award Process</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	<b>Project awards will be notified in mid-August</b>
<b>Regional Plan Part II – Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Due August 31, 2024</b>	<b>Discussion and input session during the HRTC July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 meeting</b>