



Community Economic Resilience Fund Update

Receive and File

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Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

1. Issue:

The Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) is a one-time use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that will distribute \$600 million, in a competitive process, to regions across California. The program will fund planning and implementation efforts to help communities economically recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and advance the transition to a carbon neutral economy. Valley Vision submitted the Sacramento Region's application by the program deadline on July 25.

2. Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

The CERF program supports efforts to plan and implement inclusive and low carbon economic growth strategies. The program is focused on "High Road Transition Strategies", - or the creation of high-quality jobs and inclusive pathways into those jobs, as well as strategies that will support the transition to a carbonneutral future.

The CERF program is being managed by Department of Labor, Go-Biz, and the Office of Planning & Research and fiscally administered by the Employment Development Department. The program was passed in the legislature and signed by the Governor in September 2021, and a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for planning grants of up to \$5 million per region began in January 2022. The parameters for each region have been identified through the state agencies, and the Sacramento region will consist of Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

The CERF program is modeled to support planning and implementation processes similar to our region's Our Path Forward: The Prosperity Strategy. The Prosperity Strategy was developed in 2017-2019 and is our sixcounty region's roadmap to inclusive economic development as well as our region's federally recognized Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Prosperity Strategy is based upon an economic assessment from the Brookings Institute as well as engaging 400+ stakeholders, 25 roundtables with practitioners and experts and briefings to 10 boards of supervisors. The plan was updated in 2020 to create a bridge to recovery from the pandemic. Valley Vision and the Sacramento Metro Chamber received funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to implement the Prosperity Strategy in partnership with the other partners, including SACOG, Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC), and the Sacramento

Asian Chamber.

SACOG's Green Means Go Initiative is a core strategy within the Prosperity Strategy, as is the support of the Health and Life Sciences economic cluster, the Food and Ag cluster, and the Advanced Mobility cluster. Additionally, the Prosperity Strategy highlights transportation, housing, and broadband infrastructure, workforce development, and business support as core strategies to support inclusive economic growth. The Prosperity Strategy provides an important framework for plans and projects that are advanced as part of CERF application.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

As the lead agency in this effort, Valley Vision submitted the final application for the region's \$5 million CERF request on July 25, 2022. Attachment A provides an executive summary of the sub-geographies, partnerships, and goals for the Sacramento Region's CERF Application. As part of the application process, members of the region's Prosperity Partnership provided Valley Vision with Collective Partnership Agreement Letters expressing support and intent to continue to partner with Valley Vision in the CERF Planning Process following receipt of full funding. Attachment B includes SACOG's Partnership Agreement Letter.

The state anticipates reviewing applications and making award recommendations so that work can begin later this Fall. Following the award of these planning funds, the state will develop guidelines and issue a rolling call for applications for Phase 2 Implementation Funds that will help pay for implementation activities identified through these Phase 1 Planning Funds.

More information on the CERF process, including the stakeholder outreach and partnership activities to date, is available on Valley Vision's website at: <https://www.valleyvision.org/projects/community-economicresilience-fund/>.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item does not have immediate impact on SACOG's Overall Work Program or Budget.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Objective 1: Invest in and protect the transportation infrastructure needed to implement the region's economic prosperity plan.