



CJF Catalyst Phase Pre-RFP Release Q&A

Webinar Recording: [Webinar Recording link](#) Passcode: u19&mt3P

Who is part of the California Jobs First (CJF) Los Angeles Collaborative?

The California Jobs First LA Collaborative includes a 38-member Steering Committee, a Stewardship Committee comprising the LA Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) and the California Community Foundation (CCF), a Sector Investment Coordinator led by HR&A Advisors, and over 800 onboarded partner community organizations. For more information on the CA Jobs First LA Collaborative Governance Model please visit the [LA Collaborative's website](#).

How does California Jobs First define “disinvested communities”?

California Jobs First seeks to center disinvested communities in economic development planning. The Catalyst RFP will prioritize projects that benefit disinvested communities, as defined by the State of California, which includes:

- Census tracts identified as “disadvantaged” by the CA Environmental Protection Agency
- Census tracts with median household income at or below 80 percent of the statewide average median household income, or household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development
- “High poverty area” and “High unemployment area” as designated by the CA Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- CA Native American Tribes as defined by the CA Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

How will you ensure that Catalyst funds benefit underrepresented communities and communities of color?

The Catalyst RFP will prioritize projects that benefit disinvested communities, as defined by the State of California, which includes the categories listed in Question 2. Additionally, the Sector Investment Coordinator, HR&A Advisors, and the LA CJF Outreach and

Engagement team will develop an equitable and transparent process for soliciting projects from the LA CJF Collaborative and from the public. The outreach and solicitation plan will be shared with the CJF Steering Committee for review and comment.

My organization is fiscally sponsored by another entity – are we still eligible to apply for the Catalyst Request For Proposals (RFP)?

Yes, if your organization is fiscally sponsored by another entity, you are eligible to apply for Catalyst funding provided that your fiscal sponsor meets the eligibility requirements listed in the RFP. If your proposed project is selected for funding, the funding agreement (contract) will be executed between the California Community Foundation and your fiscal sponsor. The lead applicant must be onboarded by January 27th. Fiscal sponsors are not required to onboard the LA Regional Collaborative.

Does my fiscal sponsor need to be located in LA County?

No, the fiscal sponsor does not need to be located in LA County.

Will there be multiple rounds of solicitations for the Catalyst Phase?

No, there will only be one round of solicitations for Catalyst phase funding. The Catalyst RFP will be released on Monday January 27, 2025, and will close on Monday March 10, 2025

Is there a public list of entities that have been onboarded to the LA HRTC/LA Jobs First Collaborative? How do we confirm if we are already onboarded with the collaborative?

Yes, there is a [public list](#) of entities that have been onboarded to the LA HRTC/LA Jobs First Collaborative on the [LA Collaborative's website](#). Lead applicants for the Catalyst RFP must be onboarded to the [L.A. County California Jobs First Onboarding Form](#) by Monday, January 27, 2025 to be considered. For additional questions about onboarding, including confirmation about whether you have been onboarded with the collaborative, please contact: cerf@laedc.org

Are for-profit entities eligible for onboarding to the LA HRTC/LA Jobs First Collaborative?

For-profit entities are not eligible to receive funding directly. However, they can be onboarded as partners within the LA HRTC/LA Jobs First Collaborative and participate in applications, but they cannot act as the lead applicant for funding opportunities.

My organization received funding for a previous phase of the California Jobs First program – are we still eligible to apply for Catalyst Funds?

If you have already received funding from the California Jobs First Planning Phase and/or Economic Development Pilot Projects, you are still eligible to apply for Catalyst funds so long as you meet all the eligibility requirements listed in the Catalyst RFP.

My organization is interested in submitting more than one application for Catalyst funding. Is there a limit to the number of applications one organization can submit?

There is no limit on the number of applications that one organization can submit, so long as the organization meets the eligibility criteria to apply.

My organization is interested in submitting an application with a group of other organizations – how do we determine who the lead applicant should be?

The decision on who should serve as the lead applicant should be made collaboratively among the organizations involved. It is essential to ensure that the selected lead applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

If my project does not align with the targeted industries listed in the CJF LA Regional Plan, am I still eligible to apply?

Catalyst Phase applications must align with the 7 target industries and/ or 3 sector-neutral and economic mobility strategies identified in the CJF LA Regional Plan [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

The 7 target industries include:

- Aerospace Manufacturing
- Clean/ Renewable Energy
- Transportation & Logistics
- Construction
- Bioscience
- Healthcare
- Video Production & Distribution

The 3 sector-neutral and economic mobility strategies include:

- Enhancing the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem
- Building and Aligning Career Pathways
- Transitioning Industries into the Carbon-Neutral Economy

We encourage all potential applicants to review the [CJF LA Regional Plan Part 2 report](#) to assess how their potential projects align with the strategies in the report. Project application reviews will consider the project's alignment with the target sectors and whether it implements one or more strategies in the report.

Questions not addressed in General Q&A/ Specific Questions:

Does Hydroponic greenhouse farming align with Bioscience or Healthcare target industry?

Applicants must ensure their project aligns with CJF regional priorities, such as creating high-quality, sustainable job opportunities, and with the identified industry sectors outlined in Part Two of the Regional Plan. For additional support, please utilize Technical Assistance when it becomes available during the application process.

Would adaptive reuse projects be eligible to apply to Catalyst Funding?

As long as the project meets the eligibility criteria, then it may be eligible for funding.