



LA HRTC Partners Meeting Summary Notes and Transcript September 8th, 2023

[PowerPoint](#) [Meeting Recording](#)

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Meeting Summary Notes:

The CERF team introduced the new Research Analyst: Arman Koohian.

CIV:LAB PRESENTATION

- Alex Bell and Vijeta Narang from CIV:LAB did a presentation about CIV:LAB's Climate Action Fund that they are launching in LA County. They explained their organization's background, funding themes (climate education, workforce development, technology), grant criteria, impact assessment criteria (environmental impact, economic impact), application process timeline (applications open on October 2nd), and invited applicants to join their advisory committee or additional reviewer bodies.
- The speaker mentions the need to take advantage of opportunities to marry funds with the CERF process. There is excitement about bringing more funding to efforts focused on sustainability and climate change.

CIV:LAB Resources:

[Presentation Deck](#) that was presented on the call
[Eventbrite link](#) for our upcoming open houses
[Application](#) for Advisory Committee and Additional Reviewers

CERF LA HRTC UPDATES:

- Updates are given on the election results for affinity hub leads and steering committee positions.
- Research updates include the selection and scoring process for research, proposal reviewers, and upcoming interviews for research applicants.
- Bylaws will be put in place to ensure smooth processes going forward, guidance will be sought from other regions and states and will be worked on by the Steering Committee.
- Process mapping is still being worked on by The Mark USA vendor, they will meet again next week with draft process maps expected soon.
- Training and capacity building contractors are being sought. Suggestions were made to include training around shared power dynamics. If you are interested in applying for the Training Capacity Contract, please email CERF@LAEDC.ORG.
 - The possibility of additional training needs for the HRTC is discussed, with potential funding adjustments.
- The stakeholder analysis was presented and showed an increase in partners and progress towards the target number of organizations engaged.
- Meeting dates and formats are announced, with a move to monthly webinars discussed but met with concerns about limited interaction.
- The decision on webinar format will be taken up by the steering committee, which will have decision-making authority going forward.
- Concerns are raised about lack of voice and inclusion if meetings transition solely to webinars.
- The discussion in this part of the transcript revolves around the selection process for table partners and labor representation in the HRTC. Participants discuss reaching out to various labor groups, such as

California teachers and SEIU, to ensure broad representation. There is also mention of ongoing communications with La County Fed, which represents multiple unions. The need for strategic partnerships throughout LA County is emphasized, as planning efforts are just beginning. The reasons behind some labor organizations not participating fully are unclear but efforts continue to engage them. The meeting concludes with plans for next steps and well wishes for the weekend.

Meeting Transcript:

05:34

Speaker 1

I'm going to let everyone in now.

05:39

Speaker 2

Sounds good. All right. Good morning, LAHRTC. I see my favorite smile and name here, rhonda love. How are you?

07:03

Speaker 3

Good morning, Charles. Good morning, everybody. Happy Friday, right?

07:09

Speaker 2

I'll give it another minute or so, let some more people in, and then we'll get started. Okay, let's go ahead. And Alan, if you don't mind, going to the next slide, I want to go over the agenda really quickly. We're going to do a quick intro of the new partners and the new CERF research analyst. We have a presentation by a very important organization. We're glad to have them here. Siblab, we're going to have some updates on the election, updates on the research RFPs about the bylaws a little bit, information about that, and then our usual updates with the process mapping stakeholder updates for now. If there are any new partners that have been onboarded to CERF, please take time to introduce yourself. Don't be shy. You have the floor.

08:31

Speaker 3

Well, good morning. My name is Phyllis Junior, and I represent Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

08:39

Speaker 2

Glad to have you.

08:40

Speaker 3

Thank you.

08:45

Speaker 2

Anyone else? Okay, I'd like to take one more moment here. We have the new research analyst dedicated just for CERF. This young man has he beat out close to 500 candidates for this role. And Armand, I don't want to mispronounce your last name. Can you state it again?

09:18

Speaker 1

Hello, everybody. Yeah, armand kuyan.

09:21

Speaker 2

Okay, Armand, please take a moment. Introduce yourself to the CERF. HRTC.

09:28

Speaker 1
All right. Thank you, Charles.

09:30

Speaker 3
Yeah.

09:30

Speaker 1
Hello, everybody. I'm very happy to be on this call and part of LADC and also part of my team working on CERF, which I think can be such an impactful project for La. County. My working background is mostly in data analytics. That's after graduating with a degree in economics, and before that, I worked everywhere in La. Restaurant, flower shop, soccer coach. So I've just been trying to get back into research since I graduated, and I'm an La. Native. My whole life has been spent living here, and I love La. So I'm very proud to be working on this project with everybody that I think could advance La. County. So thank you very much, and I look forward to working with everyone.

10:13

Speaker 2
Thank you. Armand, very happy to have you here. So, SIV Lab, I'd like for you guys to introduce yourselves. I'm not exactly sure which representative we have here to do a presentation, and if you have a deck that you would like for us to if you like to share your screen, we can make sure that we give you that it. Alex, did you want to go ahead and introduce yourself? And you have the floor afterwards.

10:48

Speaker 4
Thank you so much. Hi, everyone. My name is Alex Bell. I'm the Climate Co labs manager at Civ, and I'm going to share my screen. So in the meantime, I'll let my colleague Vijeta introduce herself.

11:02

Speaker 5
Hi, everyone. It's nice to meet you all and thanks so much for having us on today to just talk about our work a little bit. My name is Vijayta Narang. I'm the climate fund program manager at Civ. So we're going to try to make our presentation as quick as possible. The reason that we are on here today is to tell you all a little bit about the Climate Fund that we are launching in La County this fall and just talk a little bit about the fund's ethos and just spreading the word a little bit about what we're hoping to do in La County. So I think I'll go ahead and get started in just telling you a little bit more about who we are as an organization. Alex, if you wouldn't mind going to the next slide. So we are a 501 C, three nonprofit that has a presence in New York City and Michigan, soon to be La this fall.

11:57

Speaker 5
Before I get into the fund specifically, I'll give you a bit of a background on the work we had been doing historically. We work as bridge builders in the urban, tech and economic development spaces in New York and Detroit. Essentially we try to de silo the ecosystem of actors working on smart and sustainable city mandates and issues, trying to create platforms and strategic engagements to help people to work together across stakeholder lines. So thinking nonprofits, private sector, public sector, academic organizations, city government trying to create platforms where they can come together to coordinate agendas and resources. Because I think we all can acknowledge that collaboration is very important to actually create meaningful impact in cities or any place but it's easier said than done. So we are sort of like that connective tissue organization that tries to get people to work together. So we created the Climate Fund, which is a place based grant making fund through a combination of our ability to be agile in noticing and responding to needs within the ecosystem, but also an opportunity to channel private sector.

13:12

Speaker 5
And bigger philanthropy funding into place based climate initiatives from people who wanted to give money to the climate space but didn't really have a good understanding of what was happening on the ground. So we launched the first iteration of the fund in New York City and Michigan because we had a presence and an existing ecosystem in both places and we didn't really want to pilot it in a place that we didn't already have a

presence. We didn't want to just come in and start making decisions or building something and we are hopefully coming to La. Or we are coming to La in the fall and are just in the process of meeting people and understanding the climate ecosystem in La as we think about adapting the funds mechanism to La County. So to tell you a little bit about the fund, as it says on the slide, we are distributing grants to La county organizations working in climate education, workforce development and technology.

14:09

Speaker 5

So essentially it is a grant making fund or a grant giving fund that gives grants to place based climate action initiatives under these three themes. And we believe in the significance of context based climate action, especially in New York and Michigan. We interact with a lot of frontline communities who have a very specific confluence of environmental and infrastructural realities that lead to very unique climate contexts and realities. And a lot of this also stems from climate racism and exclusion in the building and running of a city. And so we want to channel as much as possible funding into initiatives that are grown from these climate realities and go directly to these communities. And we also believe in unrestricted funding. We believe that people should be given funding to use as they see fit. So these grants are unrestricted and they're one time grants that range between ten and 100K.

15:20

Speaker 5

Alex, could you go to the next slide please? I think it's known to everyone that an appallingly small amount of grant funding the world over goes to climate work and even less so goes to context and place based climate action. So we just hope to be a part of ensuring that some funding goes to this space and we're just trying to respond to this need. Could you go to the next slide, Alex? And so we want to embody this ethos as we build the fund and also expand it to different places around the US. Could you go to that?

16:00

Speaker 2

Yes.

16:00

Speaker 5

And so one big thing that influenced the way we built the fund was the participatory grant making movement. And so as we set up the fund in each place, new York City first, and then Michigan and now La County, we want to involve the climate community from an industry and a community representation perspective in every aspect of decision making. So in different have, alex will talk a little bit more about this, but we do have two bodies of local climate representation who make the ultimate grant decisions in every single place. So we have a different body in New York City, we have a different body in Michigan, and we are hopefully creating one in La as well that can speak to La County's climate realities and priorities that will decide where the funding ultimately goes in the decision making process. We are just a neutral entity that facilitates the movement of funding and the overseeing of the funding mechanism itself.

17:09

Speaker 5

But as much as possible we want to ensure that funding decisions and allocations are made by people who can best speak to the climate context of each place that we are think. Can we go to the next slide, Alex? So who we support through our grants? Actually anyone who works on climate education, climate workforce development, or climate technology. Acknowledging that there is oftentimes overlap between these three buckets. So this could look like a startup, academic programs, government programs, nonprofits, community based organizations. I think the main thing is that everyone who applies is working on a climate solution that impacts some part of the population. Under La County, who we can't support scholarships or support for individuals, we only support organizations, we can't support major capital investments, land purchase or real estate acquisitions or initiatives or lobbying efforts. We can support advocacy, but we just can't support lobbying directly.

18:19

Speaker 5

And I'm going to hand it over to Alex to talk a little bit more about the specifics of the fund and the criteria itself.

18:26

Speaker 4

Wonderful, thank you. So, yeah, as Fajetta already mentioned, our funding themes fall under these three buckets. So climate education, climate, workforce development, and climate technology. We understand that a lot of projects and initiatives overlap in these three themes, so we just ask that grant applicants select one and our primary areas of impact. So, as Vajetta mentioned, this fund is really done in a participatory manner. So in addition to an advisory committee in each locality, we also have additional reviewers who kind of provide the first level review of the grant applications that come in and they assess it based on the environmental impact, economic as well as societal impact. So for environment, that can include climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation or a broader environmental impact, economy could be an increase in fair jobs or improving the economic conditions within the city or county. And then for society thinking about governance and diversity, equity and inclusion, community resilience along those lines.

19:49

Speaker 4

And so once the additional reviewers provide their review of grant applications, it essentially helps to funnel down the pool that is then passed on to the advisory committee who, as Vijeta said, make these ultimate funding decisions. And so there are some questions within the application about the organization, just some general informative questions, of course, questions around the budget, the requested amount and how the operating budget of the project as well as project information. So who are the stakeholders involved, who are the key partners that the organization plans to work with, the core activities and expected outcomes and the timeline as well. And what's very critical to highlight within the grant application is impact. So how are you hoping to measure your impact and what do you expect that to look like with this funding proof of concept? So meaning that we're not in a position to fund brand new ideas, rather there should be some demonstrated success or outcomes already and just some extra funding is needed in order to take this initiative to the next step and help it scale and of course the budget.

21:19

Speaker 4

So what does that exactly look like? How will the funds be used for the project? And so for our timeline, for the La Climate Fund, which we're very excited about, applications will open October 2 and they'll close December 15. The advisory committee will make decisions in early March and then the grantees will be notified in mid March and we have all this information on our website listed below here@civlab.org, apply and I'm going to stop it there. We have some FAQs in case folks don't have any immediate questions, but just want to pause and open up the floor in case there's any questions or reactions.

22:13

Speaker 5

Thank you, Alex. Also, before that, I just wanted to we are new to La County, so we're in the process of just talking to people to understand what the priorities of the climate ecosystem are, how it works, because we have seen that it is very different in each place we're in. So we just want to learn about as much as we can and also think about how we can structure our application and processes to sort of be very specific and responsive to La County specifically. And so we're just looking to get the word out about the fact that our application is launching and invite applicants. And we're also looking to get people to join our advisory committee and additional reviewer bodies. So we are happy in whatever way is easiest. Charles Jermaine to send our email addresses, this deck, any other information. We have a whole communications toolkit, so we're happy to follow up with anything that might make it easier to find us in the future.

23:11

Speaker 5

I know that there's been a couple of people who were asking and I'm happy to share it in whatever way is easiest for the group. So that I defer to you, Charles. Thank you all so much.

23:25

Speaker 6

Real quick, I just wanted to thank you both for presenting today and thank you to Sivlab for the opportunity and for HRTC partners on the call and those that will tune into the recording. This is a great opportunity, right? We know that La hasn't gotten our fair share in retrospect to what we thought were going to be getting. So anytime that we have the ability to marry funds to the CERF process in general, I think we need to definitely take advantage of it, especially for our partners that are working in this space and can essentially be. In a position to take some of their projects that are going on right now that align with the CERF initiatives and objectives

overall to the next level. And so we'll certainly, definitely post this on the CERF website. It'll be memorialized, obviously, in this recording as well, because for Civ, for both of you that are on the call, I mean, there's 400 plus stakeholders, 350 plus organizations involved in this effort as of now.

24:25

Speaker 6

And so while there's only 66 folks on the call, I can assure you there's a lot of folks involved in this effort and a lot of folks that will take advantage of this opportunity. So this is a great thing and just wanted to say thank you.

24:38

Speaker 2

If I can add to that real fast, I think Alex and Vizetta, you guys done a great presentation. I remember you guys given when we first began talking and there was an organization I believe is a startup in Detroit that won a grant from you guys and they were geared around something with environmental racism. They had a solution for it. Can you give an example of an awardee and what their strategy was and what their focus was? Maybe that could help the LAHRTC understand who could apply and what the outcome could be.

25:20

Speaker 5

Absolutely. We're also happy to follow up with an entire list of grantees from New York City and Michigan as well, just to give you an idea of what they're doing. But in New York, for example, we have a grantee called Reborn Farms and the founder, Henry is basically focusing on creating a food security based infrastructure in the Bronx, which is a food insecure neighborhood or borough within New York City. So his whole aim is to make the Bronx food secure and sustainable internally within itself. And he's using a combination of both hydroponic agriculture that is city based as well as food stewardship and employment for use in the Bronx to sort of help this and scale it. We also have in Detroit or sorry, Michigan, we have a grantee, Darren Riley, who runs a startup called Just Air and his whole project. And I think maybe that's the one you're thinking of that is encouraging community based air quality monitoring education and systems in neighborhoods and communities within Michigan that are notoriously the victims of bad air quality as a result of industry and big industry pollution.

26:48

Speaker 5

So it's kind of thinking about how can you put knowledge and therefore advocacy and policy change in the hands of residents themselves. I'm happy to share more information on all of these organizations. We have four grantees currently in New York City, soon to be joined by maybe four more because we had a second round that just concluded in New York City and our New York City Advisory Committee is actually meeting right now to continue deliberating and we have ten grantees in Michigan. So yeah, I'm happy to share an overview of all of their work if that would be helpful.

27:28

Speaker 2

Thank you. I think that would be I see we have a hand up. Stella, would you like to ask your question?

27:33

Speaker 3

Thank you Charles, and thank you for the very interesting presentation and it's timely because obviously we're going to get started with our work here and we have one affinity group that's going to be focusing on sustainability and climate change and the I'm just, I'm really excited that there's another opportunity to bring more funding to our efforts. Obviously there's a lot of money right now out there. The IRA bill, the Solar for all grant that's coming up. So I see this just as another layer that we might be able to add leverage funds perhaps, that we can add to our efforts, whatever those eventual projects will be so thank you. And do you have contact information? I didn't see anything here.

28:26

Speaker 5

I'm happy to drop both of our email addresses in the chat right now if that helps. Everyone perfect.

28:32

Speaker 3

Thank you. Appreciate it. Thank you for the presentation.

28:47

Speaker 2

Probably help if I unmuted myself. Thank you Siblab, for your presentation. If we don't have any more questions, we can just move forward. Alex, if you don't mind. There we go.

29:06

Speaker 3

There we go. Hi, good morning everyone. Thank you Siblab, for just a really great presentation and opportunity for our CERF partners. I would like to share just our election results. I believe we've had about five rounds of elections, successful elections now to be able to seat our steering committee as well as electing our affinity hub leads. So in regards to the vacant seats that we had for our affinity hub leads, due to low levels or not having enough applications in the beginning round, we have our two winners now for the remainder seats of academia, which will be Andreas Slater with UCLA Labor Center. And representing the immigrants affinity hub will be Sajal Patel with rising communities. Formerly Community Health Council. So just congratulations to our affinity hub lead election winners and for our steering committee if we can move. Thank you so much. The next slide for municipal partners.

30:05

Speaker 3

We do have Rita, I don't want to mispronounce your last name, but she is with the La County Chief Sustainability Office and that will be our municipal partner. Under our general steering committee position and under resident workers we do have Jennifer Zalett, Kevin Clark, Sam Lewis, Dr. Najuma Smith and Stephen D. Turner who will our representatives under the resident workers seat within our steering committee. So as of now, we have formally completed our affinity hub leads as well as our steering committee positions. We do have our outstanding labor seats that is separate and will be dealt separately as we continue to have our conversations with labor partners. And so that as of now, does complete the outstanding seats that we did have. And so just want to congratulate all our partners who participated in this process and as well as the winners. And we will be moving now with research updates.

31:10

Speaker 3

I believe this is Charles.

31:13

Speaker 2

Thank you Scarlett. And the state is still working with the labor unions to find ways to bring them back to the table. The CERF team has also reached out to labor. We've had a discussion with them and they're having some talks internally as well with the state. So it's all this cycle. But we'll have some updates for the Steering committee on the status of labor coming back to the table. The research RFPs have there was a bidders conference on the three scopes of work on the 16th of last month and those three research scopes of work, just as a reminder is the labor market analysis, the industry clusters and the climate report. And there were a few bidders who came through. And at this point, the next step is to actually, which we just finished a few days ago, was identifying the five proposal reviewers, the panelists and Shannon Sedgwick from LADC.

32:26

Speaker 2

Our institute applied. Economics will be one. Matt Horton from the Milken Institute, who's also one of the steering committee members. Sean Randolph from La and Sink. Gigi Moreno and Eduardo Martinez we're very happy to get from Skag and from SoCal gas Company. Those will be the five reviewers. Excuse me. So they went through training yesterday exactly how to review. And then starting today through next week, they'll be reviewing the applicants and we'll be making the determination of who is chosen from there. And then there will be an interview process of the finalists from that point going forward. The steering committee, now that we're formed, still trying to get obviously labor back to the table. However, there will need to be some bylaws put in place so we can make sure that the CERF process going forward is smooth. Everyone's on the same page. There's a live document that everyone can refer to make sure that decisions that were made in the past are adhered to.

33:47

Speaker 2

We are looking for guidance from other regions and from the state of how they've done it that's been successful. I believe. Alan, was the southern border bylaws posted already?

34:01

Speaker 1

Yes, I believe we also shared it in the last meeting as well.

34:04

Speaker 2

Okay, that's right. All right. Getting old. Yeah. So the steering committee members, they'll have a blueprint or possible template that they can use or Blueprint in order to create their own template. But we'll be feeding more information from the state and from other regions as we get them to Chioma.

34:34

Speaker 1

Yep.

34:35

Speaker 3

Well, good morning, everyone. My update for process mapping is similar to the previous update. We're still in the process, so we're still working with our vendor, the Mark USA, and working with their team to create the process map. And this week they had the opportunity to meet our new staff member, our new research analyst, Armand. And so we'll have another meeting next week with the Mark, and so we can get more of a feel of what the draft and the final process map will look like. But it's still in the works.

35:13

Speaker 2

I second Chioma. I want to make sure that we add to that, making sure that the process mapping company, The Mark, will at some point be talking with the steering committee in order to make sure that we're all on the same page. So the process mapping, the eventual capacity development vendor that will be hired, the researchers for the three RFPs and Armand, our new research RFP, will all be working together to try to streamline a very nice, smooth process for you guys. So everyone's still working together in the markets. As Chioma stated, they're still putting everything in place.

35:59

Speaker 3

Thank you for that. Charles and Tony, your question the estimated due date is the end of September. So the end of this month is still the earlier updated estimated timeline around the 25th or so of the month, but the last week of this month. Thank you.

36:24

Speaker 1

All right, thank you, Chioma, for that update. So I'll go ahead and go into our training and capacity building contractor. So we talked about this at the last meeting and we did solicit some feedback on what HRTC members wanted to see in that training and capacity building contractor. However, I'm excited to say that now that the steering committee is seated and our affinity hub leads are seated, it sounds like the work is going to actually begin, which means we need to find a vendor for this contract. So the money value for this contract will be \$75,000 to provide training to strengthen the capacity of community residents to take part in the CERF planning and decision making. There may be some wiggle room on this value. However, once that is finalized, we'll go ahead and provide those details later on. And again, we have started to look for potential vendors.

37:21

Speaker 1

So if you are interested in this opportunity or if maybe if you know a potential organization that might be able to carry out this work, please feel free to reach out to us at CERF@laudc.org and we'll go ahead and set up a meeting with you. I see. Kevin, you have your hand up?

37:38

Speaker 2

Yeah.

37:38

Speaker 7

Quick question, Alan. So the training capacity building contractor that will be outside the steering committee, is that correct?

37:47

Speaker 1

Yes. So I think people might have a different understanding from the original proposal. The training and capacity building lead was put as a part of the stewardship committee, so hopefully nobody is kind of confused about that. But the training capacity building lead is no longer part of the stewardship committee. Instead, they would be separate as a contractor carrying out this work. And Tony, you have a question.

38:21

Speaker 8

And a comment. When we talked about this in the Outreach Committee, we talked about also seeing if there was money somewhere to I in no way want to distract from this activity. It's very important. But we did talk about that even the most experienced nonprofit organization leaders maybe could be helped by some training around shared power sharing, power, inclusive meeting activities, things like that. Because often in the sectors that we work in, we may be the dominant player where we're facilitating others. But sometimes I'm speaking for myself, I don't always have the opportunity where I among peers. And there's 20 of them and they are also all super competent and they're leaders. And so anyway, shared power is just something I'd like to put on the table that might be helpful for all of us.

39:26

Speaker 1

Awesome. Thank you, Tony. I think that's a really important thing to distinguish, especially because it's one of a kind. This has never been done before, so a lot of these dynamics we're seeing kind of for the first time. And so I'll take note of that. But if you can send me an email or send the CERF email with that suggestion, and then once we have those meetings with the potential vendors, we'll go ahead and take that in consideration when we're talking to them about what the scope of work might look like.

39:56

Speaker 8

Well, or it may be a different grant. I don't want to detract from the money that's been set aside for disinvested community members, but it just realized that we had kind of said all of us probably could have a little training, too.

40:13

Speaker 1

Got it. So you're saying, just to clarify, you're saying it's separate from the training capacity contractor?

40:19

Speaker 8

Yeah, I don't know what the total dollar amount is. I apologize, but I don't want to distract from dollars that have been dedicated for disinvested community members. Just raising the issue that there is other training needs for the HRTC and the topic might be helpful.

40:40

Speaker 2

All right, Tony, that's a great point. I think, Alan, there was a document that we put out where everyone could post suggestions of what to look for. Is that correct? Okay, so this is part of that. I'm not sure if you missed it, but we can certainly add what you're saying to that. Listen, the \$75,000, as Alan mentioned, at the top of this, there is some wiggle room to increase that. So what we're doing is we're waiting for there's a couple of regions that's already done, already hired their capacity development organization, and we're going to be looking to them to see what their process was, to see exactly what they did. What I do know is some of them, they've gone

on field trips. They've taken some of these guys on field trips. So if there's anything that's going to help this process move smoother, where the HRTC steering committee affinity leads, table lead, anyone can learn to kind of build skills in order to make this move smoother.

41:42

Speaker 2

We're going to make sure that we can squeeze it in there. So there is some wiggle room in that budget for exactly what you're talking about. Thanks.

41:53

Speaker 1

Thank you, Charles, for that. So I'll go ahead and move forward. Thank you again, Tony, for that as well. So moving on to our usual stakeholder analysis. So this stakeholder count is as of yesterday. So over the past two weeks, we've had an increase of four partners. For our new partners that are on the call, I'll go ahead and explain what these numbers mean on the screen here. So total number of organizations engaged. So whether they're onboarded or not, if they've been engaged in the process, they're included in that 519 number, the number of organizations officially onboarded. So these are our official members is 405. I think I mentioned it last time, we're maybe, I think, 401. So again, round of applause to everyone doing outreach because we're getting close. To that 500 number, which was the original target, and the number of organizations not fully onboarded.

42:47

Speaker 1

That red number is the difference between our engaged pool versus our officially onboarded members. We're always looking to decrease that red number there to try to get all of our partners or non partners who are engaged become official partners. And in terms of our geographic breakdown of HRTC members based on their headquarters of their service planning area, we did have an increase in the Spa Four metro area six B, which is a southwest area, as well as six A southeast and Spa one, Antelope Valley. Counting our entity types within the HRTC, the increase was actually only in the grassroots and community based organizations, community organizers and community members category. And finally, for our upcoming meeting dates. So we do have the steering committee's first meeting coming up, as we mentioned earlier. So any steering committee members on the call right now, just please note that you will receive an email today to get that first meeting coordinated.

44:05

Speaker 1

That way you all can start doing the work that needs to be done. And our HRTC biweekly partner meetings will now be moving to a monthly format. So our next meeting, we've decided that we would hold these meetings every second Friday of each month. So the next meeting will be held on October 13 at the same time, 09:00 A.m.. So October 13 is a Friday, and we will be moving from this Zoom format. It'll still be on zoom. However, we'll be moving to a webinar format. So we'll go ahead and update the calendar invite as well. So feel free to just look out for that. With that said, I'll go ahead and pass it back to Charles and he's going to go ahead and close us out.

44:50

Speaker 3

Before you go, I was just wondering what was the reason for webinar format, because I think being able to see each other is helpful. So is there a reason for.

45:05

Speaker 1

Oh, sorry, I was going to say the reason we're moving to the webinar format is because since our affinity hub leads and steering committee are now seated, most of the updates that we're going to be given that we're going to give are not necessarily as they were before, where a lot of more collaboration was happening on these HRTC calls. Obviously there will be collaboration, but they would be more done within the affinity hub leads and the steering committee, and they will also be holding their own meetings. So a lot of the updates that will be more just informing the HRTC.

45:43

Speaker 3

Maybe I misunderstood. So the HRTC meeting is a webinar, and then the steering committee meetings will be still in this kind of a Zoom meeting format.

45:55

Speaker 1

We'll have to see exactly what the details are on the steering committee meeting, which we're going to coordinate today. So we'll release some details on exactly what those meetings will look like and details will be forthcoming.

46:09

Speaker 3

Right. Maybe again, I might have missed it. Can you go to the prior slide? No. Yeah. Okay, so the steering committee meeting is first. When will that be?

46:29

Speaker 1

So if you're on the steering committee, you will receive an email today to coordinate that meeting. We don't have a date set yet because we'll be reaching out today to the steering committee members to go ahead and find a date and time that.

46:42

Speaker 3

Works for okay, I mixed the two. Thank you.

46:47

Speaker 1

And Libby, you have a question?

46:50

Speaker 3

Yeah, actually, my question was along the same line. As he says about having the regular meetings or the monthly meetings as a webinar. Webinar basically means that people don't get to speak. Right. It can only be in the chat that we can put questions in if we have them. And it's really more as if you're doing a class and you're presenting something out, but not looking for interaction between the people who are on the line. Correct.

47:17

Speaker 1

I believe the chat feature will still be available.

47:20

Speaker 3

Right, the chat feature. But as far as people being able to come off mute and have actual input verbally and have discussion, you're not looking to have that type of engagement any longer. It's just going to be, as you said, updates, and if people have questions, they can put them in the chat.

47:36

Speaker 2

Correct.

47:37

Speaker 3

Okay. I, for one, don't like that style. I think that we should leave it as zoom, that we all have the ability and with strong lead, like you are, Charles, to be able to move the agenda along so that we don't get too caught off subject or have people going too long on a particular topic. But I don't feel comfortable with us removing the ability for us to be able to speak as opposed to putting everything in chat. Just my opinion. Others might feel differently, but I would prefer that we keep all of the meetings in the zoom format and not go to webinar. I just wanted to put that out there. Thanks. And I just want to maybe second it. I mean, I know that because I am on the steering committee that I would have some voice, but I could see for maybe other members who may have been active but not been elected or whatever, that to go straight to webinar.

48:30

Speaker 3

It seems inconsistent with the idea of inclusion and equity, et cetera. So I would like to also kind of, again, advocate, and I may change my mind eventually, but it's something I want to say for now, I too agree with Hyphen and Libby's sentiment because I didn't think that the purpose of the steering committee was to essentially eliminate the voice of the community and the other members. A webinar format essentially does that. So I don't understand why we would make that change.

49:12

Speaker 2

Okay, duly noted. Are there any more comments or questions? Okay. Are we going to the webinar or staying with the current system? I'm sorry, are we going to the webinar after all or staying with the current system? Well, that decision is not going to be made right now. Who's going to make it and when's it going to be made? It's just duly noted at this point. So we have a steering committee that has just been formed and once that can be taken up with the steering.

49:49

Speaker 3

Committee, oh, Charles, going forward that means the steering committee makes all the decisions about everything that represents Los Angeles CERF. Does that mean that the rest of the committee does not have a voice?

50:03

Speaker 2

The steering committee? Essentially what happens is up to this point the CERF team has been kind of facilitating a lot of different things and then we reach out, we have votes. Essentially the steering committee is now going to be that vote, be that voice. So a lot of the decisions will be facilitated through those guys and they should be consulting with you guys with the HRTC. Does that make sense?

50:32

Speaker 3

Yes, but are we meeting with them to be able to voice our so.

50:39

Speaker 6

A couple things real quick guys, all great comments. What I would say is this whole effort is about to be exponentially greater. And what I mean by that is it's not just the steering committee. The steering committee is decision making body and validation body. Essentially, however they're governing the process. But you have affinity hub leads that are going to be holding planning meetings, you have table hub leads that are going to be holding planning meetings. That's 20 different entities that are going to be having meetings for everyone in the HRTC to collaborate on. There's also going to be obviously other meetings that happen subsequent to those as well because you have community participants and you're going to have micro grantees that are all part of this effort. And so I think the piece here is we'll definitely bring this up to the steering committee whether or not we should go on a webinar format versus the zoom format.

51:34

Speaker 6

But these Friday meetings essentially are just going to be just updates, a lot of the information, all of the planning, everything is happening with the HRTC and will continue to happen and it'll continue to be an open process. And so we have a lot of new individuals that come on to these Friday meetings. And so what that can do from time to time is really extend an agenda very long because we have a lot of folks that are just now getting introduced to a very strategic process that has a lot of different moving pieces. And so that is the whole purpose of those affinity hubs and those table hub leads is to engage those individuals and make sure that their questions are answered and their voices are heard. And so I hope that makes a little bit more sense. And that's not to say that we're going to move to Zoom for sure.

52:24

Speaker 6

But as of right now, Charles is basically just saying, hey, do we note it? We understand your concerns and we'll take it to the steering committee and move from there.

52:36

Speaker 2
I see your hand is up.

52:43

Speaker 5
Yes.

52:43

Speaker 3

Good morning. I just put it in the chat so I won't go over it too much. I honestly think that this is an area that falls within the purview of the convener and not necessarily the steering committee. And I want to be careful about making sure that we've been pretty clear about what is the role of the steering committee and it is not to make decisions about everything associated with SERP. But there are some discrete areas, so we should revisit those areas when we convene. And then there are other areas that I think we need to make sure are clear in terms of who and where other decisions get made.

53:29

Speaker 2

Duly noted. Were there any more comments or questions regarding this issue? Okay, so the next steps, as we kind of mentioned earlier, is to create establishments for the bylaws the steering committee's first meeting. We're going to be finalizing that through an email that should be coming out, going out shortly after this meeting. And at some point we're going to be meeting with the state to discuss bringing labor back to the table. And I believe that they would like to talk with the steering committee members or at least a subset of the steering committee members maybe regarding their expectations and not really sure they're kind of closed lipped on that. But that is coming up subregional table selection process. So they maybe start thinking about I know the outreach and engagement has mentioned their wish list of the table partner entities, but that is going to be a topic of discussion also with the state as well.

54:50

Speaker 2

And yeah, actually it's kind of the same thing, table partner lead selection. Oh, actually no, that's different. The process for selecting what the table partner leads is that going to be yet another election. So we're going to have to figure that out as well. But obviously that's along with the steering committee. So those are our next steps. I see mr. Portillo's hand is up. Just a quick question on the labor representation. I know that the person who spoke with us was from, I think the La County Labor Federation. Right? La Fed? Yes. Okay. Have we reached out any other labor groups, whether California teachers, SCIU, a lot of the plumbers? There's a whole number of labor groups that represent critical industries and so I think it may be in the interest again if we've done our part. I think we've created the seats. The seats are available.

55:50

Speaker 2

Anybody wants to take them, the table is open for them. But I think we shouldn't lock ourselves into one particular labor group. Labor is a pretty broad category and so to the extent that there may be other groups who may be interested in the work that we're doing, whether the California Faculty Association, I think could be helpful to this group, and I think we shouldn't lock ourselves into one particular entity. Sure, I understand. That's a great suggestion, and I believe that the HRTC would be open to that. I know that the state is still talking with those labor organizations, and I believe they're trying to work diligently to get them back to the table, especially being that there was a pretty contentious debate about allowing them to have those five additional seats, and then a second contentious debate about increasing the number of seats overall to accommodate that.

56:57

Speaker 2

So I don't think that they want to it could be counterproductive if those labor organizations who walked away to this point, we give those seats to another group of labor organizations while we're still in discussions. So I think we should just hold off and wait to see what the state is going to do, what their status is. They should be giving some type of update on that soon. And then from that, I think maybe having that discussion with the state at that point with your suggestion will probably be the best bet. But I would caution against jumping the gun before those discussions are finalized. Okay. Any more questions or comments, mr. Harbor?

57:57

Speaker 7

Yes, Charles. To Lewis's point and to your point, I understand that just in terms of integrity, it makes sense to proceed as you've described. But to Luis's point, know that it's always good to have another card in your pocket, because if the mission is to make sure that labor is included and for whatever reason the talks don't work out, you do have other options, and I can help you with those options. In terms of labor associations, I got a plethora of organizations that are labored that I can refer you to.

58:36

Speaker 2

I think that's great. Well, you're on the steering committee, so that's a good thing, too. But, yeah, having the backup plan in case the labor it just doesn't work out, I mean, that's perfect. You guys want to start putting a plan in place, and any way that the CERF team can know, let us know.

58:52

Speaker 1

And just to chime in with Tanua's, some insight from Tanua in the chat, she mentioned how La county Fed is the umbrella entity to which many, if not all the unions just mentioned are members of and are represented by La County Fed. And they'd likely want to speak with one voice. So just to put Tanua's comment out there as well.

59:18

Speaker 3

Alan, and also to add to that, Chris comment added a comment below mentioning that the state is engaging with multiple labor organizations to ensure the success for CERF here in La. So just want to make sure we recognize all the comments.

59:37

Speaker 1

Thank you. Thank you, Chris. Antonio.

59:43

Speaker 6

One thing to add too, on the labor mean, we've been continuously in communication with La Fed and they are one of the original CERF partners prior to even the proposal going out. And so that being said, those communications are continuing. What I would share though is that outside of La Fed, there may be other labor organizations that are either unaware or not knowledgeable about the CERF process in general. And I think there may be a thought that things have moved forward and I just kind of for the record because this is being recorded. And for those that may tune into this, I just want to make sure that folks understand the planning efforts haven't begun.

01:00:27

Speaker 2

Right.

01:00:28

Speaker 6

We just now seated our steering committee, just now seated our affinity hub leads. We have table leads that are going to be coming thereafter, and then from there that's when those planning tables start to convene and that's where the information is coming from that is going to go into the regional plan. So now more than ever, we definitely need labor at the table and we need to continue to develop partnerships that are strategic throughout La County and across La County. I do know there's a few spas that are a little bit still underrepresented and so we need to uplift those spas and make sure that they have good representation in this process because this is now when the real work actually begins. A lot of this has just been pre planning, to my knowledge, to be quite honest, because of the fact that the planning meetings haven't actually happened with the community members and the CBOs and all the organizations that are involved in this effort.

01:01:21

Speaker 6

So please come to the table. Now is the time and your voices definitely need to be heard so that we can help push this initiative forward collaboratively.

01:01:32

Speaker 2

Does anybody know what's the problem? Because they wanted the five seats. They got the five seats. What is it that they don't have now that they want?

01:01:40

Speaker 6

So Luis, I think that's to be determined. I don't know that they're asking for more seats or anything of that nature, but we're going to continue to work through it, if that makes sense.

01:01:53

Speaker 2

But something's got them upset because they obviously don't want to come to the table. So I'm curious what that issue is and does anybody know what the issue is?

01:02:03

Speaker 6

Yeah, it's a little vague right now and so we'll continue to work with them. There's a couple of state representatives on here that have kind of mentioned that they've been having their communications with them. I have personally reached out to La Fed myself and kind of highlighted where we're at in the process and urged them to come back and join the HRTC in terms of actually participating. What I will share is this no one from La Fed or no one from labor in general has stated they do not want to be part of the La County HRTC anymore. They just are kind of standing still in terms of engagement as an affinity hub and or table league, whatever happens with that process and or the steering committee at this juncture. So we'll continue to work with them, and hopefully they will come back to the table so we can move forward with this process.

01:02:55

Speaker 6

But thank you all. And I know many of you have communications with various labor affiliates, and there's a lot of labor affiliates that probably don't even know about CERF. So let's continue to engage them and just make it an open process, that's all.

01:03:12

Speaker 2

Libby.

01:03:14

Speaker 3

Yeah, I just had a question. The representative that came to that last meeting before were starting to do the voting process, who let us know that labor requested additional five seats, does she participate anymore? I don't recall her name, so I don't know if she's on, but is she still participating with our bi weekly meetings or bi monthly meetings?

01:03:34

Speaker 2

Are you referring to Crystal Romero?

01:03:36

Speaker 3

Is that who it was? The one who said that they needed five?

01:03:40

Speaker 2

Yeah. Yeah. Crystal. Romero. I'm not exactly sure if she's on. Crystal, if you're on the know, you can say anything, but I don't know for sure if she's been attending regularly.

01:03:52

Speaker 3

Okay. Just wondered if she was and perhaps she could share with us and give some insight, since that was the request that she made. Okay, thanks.

01:04:00

Speaker 2

Sure. Okay, if there's nothing else, 2 minutes left, I guess I can adjourn this meeting. Guys, have a great weekend, and we'll be in touch with next steps.

01:04:21

Speaker 1

Have a great weekend.

01:04:23

Speaker 3

Thank you, Charles. Thank you, La. Thanks, everybody. Have a good weekend. Bye.