

For the past few months, the Thrive research team has been hard at work on CJF strategy development. Before we get any further, we'd like to share what we've learned so far, the insights and possibilities we've identified, and the questions we plan to explore in the coming weeks.

We've put together these 15 summaries to give you the opportunity to step inside the process and help shape the region's CJF strategies while they're still in development. Each SRT has expertise on its subregion's priorities, opportunities, and needs. This local knowledge will help the research team strengthen and tailor strategies to better reflect on-the-ground realities across the region.

A few recommendations before you review the strategy summaries:

- Set aside sufficient time to read through the summaries. You might want to break up the task into a few chunks.
- As you read the summaries, write down any questions, comments, and ideas that come to mind. Be sure to note:
 - Any existing or planned activities in your subregion that relate to the focus areas
 - Concerns or priorities in your subregion related to the focus areas that the research team should know about
- Bring your notes with you to the next SRT meeting, which will focus on providing feedback for the research team.
- Share your insights, questions, and ideas in the SRT meeting discussion.

Why these focus areas?

The focus areas emerged from CJF Phase 1 research findings as well as the Phase 2 parameters set forth by the state. Using this information, the research team determined where strategic action could make the biggest difference in advancing Inland Southern California's transition to a more inclusive and carbon-free regional economy (that is, how best to advance the goals of California Jobs First).

We've divided the focus areas into two categories, both which are essential for inclusive regional economic development:

- *Sector-specific strategies for priority tradable clusters*, chosen for their ability to create quality jobs, bring money into the region, and provide sustainable economic growth

- *Sector-neutral strategies for wealth-building and economic mobility* that expand residents' access to quality jobs and encourage entrepreneurship and small business success

Examples:

- Talent pipelines to quality jobs in other sectors
- Entrepreneurship and small business supports [particularly for business owners from historically underrepresented communities]
- Childcare availability and accessibility
- Employer-supported workforce housing

Please see the CJF Strategic Plan Outline handout for more detail on the structure and content of the final report.

What about topics of concern beyond these categories?

While many factors affect people's quality of life and financial stability, the state has limited the CJF focus to those issues with a direct connection to quality job creation and access. Critical issues such as food security, mental health, affordable housing, and parks and libraries—though vitally important—are beyond the scope of the CJF initiative.

What's next?

- Review the summaries, make some notes, and share your thoughts at the next SRT meeting
- CSE will work with the SRT leads to gather feedback from all of the SRT conversations and share it with the research team.
- The research team will review all feedback and continue working on strategy development.
- A second round of progress summaries from the research team will be shared with SRTs in mid-May.
- The full report draft will be shared with SRTs and other key stakeholders in June.