



# Catalyst Request For Proposals

## Application Questions

The [Central San Joaquin Valley Jobs First](#) initiative (formerly Valley CERF) is an inclusive economic development planning process funded by the State of California's Jobs First program and involves stakeholders from four "Local Tables": Madera, Kings/Tulare, Fresno County, and Fresno DRIVE. The Valley Jobs First Coalition (Coalition) represents over 130 organizations from diverse stakeholder groups, including Community Based Organizations, Education and Workforce Training, Employers and Businesses, Environmental Justice, Labor & Worker Centered Organizations, Tribal Entities, and Local Governments. The Coalition advances the following vision:

***"to foster an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economy that creates quality jobs and provides equitable economic access to all across the Central San Joaquin Valley."***

In 2023, the Coalition launched an intensive, community-driven process to identify regional goals and economic opportunities in alignment with the State of California's 'Jobs First' objectives. Through this engagement, research, and discovery, the Coalition developed the Valley Jobs First framework to foster a "Community-Led, Climate-Forward Economy" that catalyzes inclusive, regional economic development. For more information on our framework and the 2024 timeline to develop a regional plan, please visit: ["Drafting the Central San Joaquin 'Valley Jobs First' Plan."](#)

Building a climate-forward economy requires efforts at the local and regional level. Like an accordion, our planning processes must flexibly reach both local and regional needs; honing in on the unique aspirations of local communities and expanding regionally to meet the need for comprehensive regional planning and projects. **In recognition of the need to support both regional and local efforts, the Coalition is issuing this Catalyst Request for Proposals (RFP). Proposed projects can have a local or regional scope; should support our disinvested and disadvantaged communities; and aim to attract additional state, federal, or philanthropic funding.**

Proposals must be received by **April 30, 2024 at 4:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST)**. Please use this form to complete Sections 1 and 2. Responses to Section 3 may be submitted on a separate document, **should not exceed 5 pages, and must use Calibri 12-point font**. Please submit your completed proposal to [valleyjobsfirst@centralvalleycf.org](mailto:valleyjobsfirst@centralvalleycf.org).

## SECTION 1: BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

The following questions help us get a sense of your organization and project topic.

1. Organization Name:
2. Project Name:
3. Name of Contact Person:
4. Email:
5. Phone Number:
6. Select the "Local Table"/county where your proposed project is intended to occur. If your proposed project is intended to occur in multiple counties, select all that apply.
  - Madera
  - Fresno County (rural)
  - Fresno DRIVE (urban)
  - Kings/Tulare
7. Select the priority area(s) under which your project should be categorized. Please [click here](#) (starting pg. 3) for more information on each priority area.
  - Climate Solutions
  - Responsible Food & Agriculture Systems
  - Circular Manufacturing
  - Water
  - Broadband
  - Small Business & Microenterprise for the climate economy
  - Community Health
  - Education & Skill Building
8. Select the Regional Principle(s) that this project embodies.
  - Equity
  - Environmental Stewardship
  - Quality Job Creation
  - Strong and Resilient Economy
  - Data Informed
9. Explain how your proposed project advances the regional principle(s) previously selected:



## SECTION 2: ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

One goal of the Catalyst Program is to prepare projects to attract State and Federal funding in the future. The questions below are designed to gauge the extent to which your proposed project aligns with State and Federal policy requirements.

10. Does this project support equity and prosperity for all, in alignment with the Governor's [Executive Order N-16-22](#)?
  - Yes
  - No
11. Does this project advance the protection of groundwater resources in alignment with the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
12. Does this project align with the objectives of the [Executive Order N-82-20](#) to participate in diverse stakeholder collaboratives to combat the climate and biodiversity crises across California.
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
13. Does this project advance California's strategy to mitigate climate change and achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets in alignment with the [California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan](#)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
14. Do at least 40% of project funds provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to disinvested communities? (Please use the [CalEPA's map of disadvantaged communities](#) to answer this question.)
  - Yes
  - No
15. Is the applicant or co-applicant located in or serving a disadvantaged community, as defined by CalEPA?
  - Yes
  - No



## SECTION 3: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**In this section, we present Catalyst RFP application requirement questions to ensure clarity and alignment with objectives of the RFP.**

16. Provide a description of your organization's work and mission.
17. Provide an overview of your project with clear objectives, scope, and what it aims to deliver.
18. Provide a clear explanation of what project success looks like and how success will be measured.
19. Provide a work plan with a timeline of your project.
20. Download and complete the budget template linked [here](#) and provide information on how funds will be utilized for this project.
21. Who are the intended recipients of this project? Provide information on geographic location and demographic profile. How will they benefit from this project?
22. Who is the project sponsor or individual within an organization who will be the primary driver and support the development of the project? What experience do they have in driving and supporting projects like the one being proposed?
23. Provide information on the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including internal staff and external partnerships. Letters of Commitment and/or Memorandums of Understanding may be uploaded to demonstrate external partnerships.
24. Explain whether your project is “Exploratory,” “Last-mile,” or Ready-to-go,” based on the “Stages of Readiness” definitions provided in the RFP.
25. What are some potential risks to the implementation or delivery of project outcomes?
26. What type of evaluation mechanisms will be used to measure the project's impact?



27. Will this project or the phase of the project which you are seeking funding be completed by September 2026?

Yes

No

28. Submit one letter of recommendation from an organization or partners who have worked closely with your organization on related projects in the last 3-5 years to [valleyjobsfirst@centralvalleycf.org](mailto:valleyjobsfirst@centralvalleycf.org).

