



TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Business Officers

FROM: Lizette Navarette, Ed.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor, Institutional Support & Success

RE: Community Economic Resilience Fund Program Information

This memo provides information on a potential funding opportunity. Districts may wish to monitor program development to provide feedback and consider further participation.

Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)

The CERF program is developed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Governor's Office Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), and the California Labor Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) to support resilient, equitable, and sustainable regional economies.

Community colleges that are interested in leading these efforts have the opportunity to provide feedback on the released Planning Phase Draft Guidelines through [CERF Public Workshops](#) during April and May 2022. Please see the Finalized [CERF Regions Map and FAQs](#) to identify your region. CERF staff received 31 letters from over 140 organizations and public agencies during Round 1. Common themes included: inclusive processes and engagement, subregional dynamics and considerations, data and analysis, planning phase requirements and metrics, application considerations, state guidance and resources, and other general comments.

The following information is provided as a summary of the key points within the program and legislation.

Funding

The program was initially funded under the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund of 2021 until the 2022 budget revised the source of funds to the State General Fund in SB 115 (2022).

Program Goals

To build an equitable and sustainable economy across California's diverse regions and foster long-term economic resilience in the overall transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

Program Vision

Deliver a sustainable and equitable economic future that meets communities and regions where they are by supporting new regional plans and investing in strategies and projects that help diversify regional economies and develop or expand environmentally sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians.

Development of CERF Regions

The OPR, GO-Biz, and LWDA together form the CERF Leadership Team and will facilitate the development of the CERF. The CERF Leadership team is tasked with creating program guidelines, evaluation metrics, conducting oversight and decision making related to the creation and management of the program and competitive grant structures.

The CERF Leadership Team is responsible for the development of geographic regions and boundaries that can administer the program’s funding and work.

Thirteen geographical regions will all receive planning grants and implementation funds through a competitive process.

Program Cycle - Estimated Timeline

Month	Program Progress
February/March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to develop guidelines with stakeholder input• Conduct focused listening sessions
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release Planning Phase Draft Guidelines for Round 2 Public Comment• Host Regional Guidelines Workshops
May/June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate comments from Round 2 Public Comment Period• Release Planning Phase Solicitation• Bidder’s Conference
Summer 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Phase Solicitation Awards and Initiate Contracting Process
Fall 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release Implementation Phase Draft Guidelines for Public Comment• Incorporate comments on Implementation Phase Guidelines• Host Guidelines Workshops
Winter 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release Implementation Phase Solicitation• Bidder’s Conference
October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encumbrance deadline

Resources

The CERF Planning Phase Guidelines, released for a second round of public comment April 2022, along with guideline, regional workshops to gather feedback, and the CERF E-mail list to receive the latest Updates. See the following links to various program information:

[Governor’s Office of Planning and Research – CERF webpage](#)

[CERF Planning Phase Draft Guidelines Dec. 2021](#)

[CERF Round 1 Public Comment Period Summary](#)

[CERF Fact Sheet](#)

[SB-162 CERF Enacting Legislation](#)

[Carbon Neutral Definition](#)