

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Accept and Expend Grant - Retroactive - California Jobs First Catalyst Program - \$14,000,000]

Ordinance authorizing the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to retroactively accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$14,000,000 from the California Economic Development Department for the California Jobs First Catalyst Program, for the grant period of May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026; and exempting the California Jobs First Catalyst Program subgrants from the grantmaking requirements under Administrative Code, Chapter 21G, and all other provisions in the Administrative, Environment, and Labor and Employment Codes imposing obligations or restrictions on subgrantees related to the program.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance authorizes the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to accept and expend a \$14,000,000 grant from the California Jobs First Catalyst Program, formerly known as California Economic Development Department's Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF).

OEWD serves as the Fiscal Lead on behalf of Bay Area Good Jobs Partnership for Equity (BAGJPE), an unincorporated association of Bay Area workforce development boards. BAGJPE, on behalf of Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative (BAJFC), applied for and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$14,000,000 by EDD to continue its work as the Fiscal Agent for the Bay Area Jobs First Catalyst Grant with All Home, Inc. as the Regional Convener. BAGJPE and All Home, Inc. proposed a regional community development strategy to coordinate workforce stakeholders and services across the San Francisco Bay Area region with critical partnership from BAJFC.

BAJFC created a Steering Committee during the Phase I Planning grant, composed of 21 members with balanced representation from Bay Area workforce, community, labor, business, government, economic development, education, philanthropy, and indigenous communities. EDD required BAJFC to continue its work and the Steering Committee structure through the Bay Area Jobs First Catalyst program. The BAJFC Steering Committee will develop an application process to disburse Bay Area Jobs First Catalyst funds for special project initiatives that build regional economic development infrastructure in the Bay Area, and the Steering Committee will review applications and determine entities to fund, that meet BAJFC's vision and principles. OEWD is not part of the Steering Committee or involved in the selection process of the funded entities.

The proposed ordinance would authorize OEWD to retroactively accept and expend, as fiscal lead on behalf of the BAGJPE, All Home and BAJFC, this grant for work related to identifying

and implementing pre-development activities of exploratory or last-mile projects that align with existing regional investment priorities and coordination of workforce stakeholders and services across the San Francisco Bay Area region, for a grant period of May 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026.

The ordinance would also exempt any agreement under the California Jobs First Catalyst Program from the grantmaking requirements under Administrative code Chapter 21G and all other provisions in the Administrative, Environment, and Labor and Employment Codes that would otherwise impose obligations or restrictions on the program.

Background Information

The State of California created the California Jobs First Catalyst Program, formerly known as CERF, to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19 by supporting new plans and strategies to diversify local economies and develop sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for all Californians. The \$600 million fund is divided into a Phase I Planning Grant and Phase II Implementation Grant.

The Phase II Implementation Grant will fund projects in localities across the regions based on regional plans developed and criteria outlined in the Phase I Planning stage. Phase II ensures projects support economic recovery and transition for populations and/or industries disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, while promoting economic diversification, sustainability, and equity. Projects throughout the region will advance globally competitive and sustainable industries and high-quality jobs with clear employment pathways for underserved and incumbent workers, to align with state climate and health goals.

The State identified 13 regions in California, including the nine-county Bay Area region. The State required the Bay Area to identify a Regional Convener and a Fiscal Agent on behalf of the Bay Area and its regional economic and workforce development stakeholders. Through a proposal development process which included over 50 major economic and workforce development entities, Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative (BAJFC), formerly known as BA-HRTC, identified All-Home to be the Bay Area's Regional Convener and OEWD to be the Fiscal Lead.

On behalf of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, California Employment Development Division awarded OEWD the CERF grant (now known as California Jobs First Catalyst Program grant) for Phase I to develop unified regional economic and workforce development strategic plans; and execute a broad community engagement process for the Bay Area region.

Now, on behalf of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, California Employment Development Division

awarded OEWD for Phase II, a \$14 million regional fund to implement projects identified in the planning stage of Phase I.