



North Valley THRIVE (NVT) Community Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) 2024-17

North Valley THRIVE (NVT): NVT is a growing coalition of community organizations, government entities, educational institutions, and economic development agencies to develop a tri-county working group in Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties. Together we are working to create a regional economic plan that will inform and align strategies and investments as we seek funds from the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative (formerly Community Economic Resilience Fund-CERF) and beyond. NVT aims to engage a broad and inclusive range of stakeholders in setting a vision for the future of our economy, centering disinvested communities and uplifting voices traditionally left out of economic development discussions. Our vision is to build an equitable, resilient, and sustainable regional economy in the Northern San Joaquin Valley as part of the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

California Jobs First: The California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative is a new approach to economic development that seeks to center disadvantaged communities as part of California's transition to a clean energy, carbon neutral economy, creating good-paying jobs and prosperous communities for all. Over the last few decades, economic wealth generated in California has not been shared equally, with many communities and families feeling the squeeze of low-paying jobs and rising costs. At the same time, California is on an accelerated path to transition to a clean energy economy, with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. The goal of the Regional Investment Initiative (formerly CERF), a \$600 million state program, is to ensure that as California's economy grows and adapts to climate change and other challenges, that good-paying jobs and prosperous communities are created for the benefit of all Californians. Key to the program is empowering the state's diverse regions and residents to meaningfully participate as leaders in this process.

Background:

The NVT collaborative has utilized the \$5M California Jobs First Planning Grant to support inclusive economic development planning and strategic prioritization of sectors and strategies for future investment in our region. These developing plans are data- and community-informed, benefiting our region by creating opportunities and pathways to prosperity for those who have historically been disinvested and marginalized.

As the design and implementation of projects and strategies continues over the next few years, it is imperative that this diverse group of cross-sector partners stay connected to community voices and informed about how the planning and execution of these projects impacts our most vulnerable residents. Keeping community organizations and coalitions connected to this work will strengthen relationships, build community leadership, and educate residents on the impacts of our inclusive economic development efforts.

Community and focus groups have reflected that continued involvement of community-based organizations to inform, design, and strengthen NVT's funding applications and cross-sector strategies will take significant resources.

As part of the California Jobs First process, each region must identify a group of priority industry sectors and other efforts that would enable inclusive, climate-responsive economic growth and

job quality. In the Northern San Joaquin Valley, NVT is completing its process of developing a set of Priority Sectors and Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies. While these continue to be developed, a current draft of these is listed below.

NVT Priority Sectors:

1. **Carbon Management**
2. **Clean Energy**
3. **Advanced Manufacturing**
 - a. Industrial Goods Manufacturing
 - b. Building Materials Manufacturing
 - c. Electronic and Component Parts Manufacturing & Assembly
 - d. Mobility Manufacturing and Assembly
4. **Bioeconomy/Bio-Industrial**
 - a. Ag Tech

NVT Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies

1. **Regional Innovation Ecosystem:** Create an enduring regional innovation ecosystem that moves more ideas from research to company formation and job creation.
2. **Small Business/Entrepreneurship:** Make it easier to form and expand small businesses in the region.
3. **Skills/Talent Development:** Foster an inclusive and equitable workforce by developing systems that bridge gaps for marginalized communities and promote quality and sustainable jobs.
4. **Climate Smart Infrastructure:** Invest in Climate-smart infrastructure to strengthen the region's resilience
5. **Place-Making/Amenities:** Enhance the region's quality of life in the community by increasing awareness of and access to amenities and events that are culturally grounded Enhance the region's quality of life by developing and strengthening culturally relevant amenities, events and programs
6. **Building Health and Well-Being (Social Infrastructure):** Providing care and support services to individuals of all ages, with a particular focus on health, behavioral health, and child/elder care.
7. **Governance:** Creating a Northern San Joaquin Valley Regional coordinated coalition

These Sectors and Strategies align with the California Jobs First (formerly CERF) Priorities of job quality, climate-responsiveness, and inclusion. More information about California Jobs First and its priorities can be found at <https://opr.ca.gov/economic-development/>

Purpose: The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to support nonprofit organizations and coalitions in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties who are:

- Actively leading collaborative strategies that center community perspectives in inclusive economic development projects;
- Gathering partners and stakeholders who may not ordinarily work together to develop a shared agenda, participate in community planning or research, or in building a new coalition; and
- Engaging residents and partner organizations in work that is aligned with the NVT Priority Sectors and Cross Cutting Enabling Strategies, and/or California Jobs First Priorities.

NVT recognizes that many community groups have been and continue to complete important coalition-building work. This work is valuable in multiple ways: it strengthens a community's capacity to drive change, it centers the work on groups and individuals often left out of decision-making, and it improves an organization and community's ability to secure additional funding to further drive that work. The NVT Steering Committee also sees this work as an extension of the Northern San Joaquin Valley's region's California Jobs First activity. Funding this work is yet another way of incorporating the outputs of various organization's work into the portfolio of North Valley THRIVE.

As such, this funding opportunity is focused on providing organizations operating support to **reimburse** NVT-aligned work completed in the past twelve months (since July 1, 2023) **as well as current work** that will occur through September 30, 2024. Examples of this work might include:

- Ongoing community-coalition building that took place in the past year and that continues on;
- Collaborative research conducted from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 (and that may or may not be completed);
- Efforts to build capacity through staff training, fund development, technical assistance or other efforts that took place from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024; or
- General operating expenses from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, such as utilities, internet and lease costs, that support coalition-building activity.

The activity for which organizations are requesting funding may have begun before July 1, 2023 and may continue beyond September 30, 2024. However, funding is dedicated to activity within the grant period of July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Eligibility: This opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations and coalitions in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties with an active 501(c)3 status. Coalitions that are not formal entities may apply with one lead organization and list partners as part of the application. Organizations who are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)3 organization are also eligible to apply. Organizations applying should be:

- Community-based organizations and community-led coalitions aligned with the Priority Sectors, Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies, and California Jobs First priority areas, regardless of their prior involvement with NVT to date.
- Willing to engage and collaborate with cross-sector partners from CBOs, government, business/industry, labor, education, and other NVT stakeholders to ensure community perspective is integrated and intersectional.

Total Available Funding: \$400,000 is available for grantmaking, with potential for additional funding to be available during this grantmaking cycle. This is a one-time funding opportunity. Grants will not be renewed.

Funding Request Amount Limits:

- Each applicant can request up to \$65,000.
- Payment in full will be issued upon submission of signed contracts and with receipt of invoice and W-9 of contracting organization.

Use of Funding: This funding can be used to support unfunded coalition-building and capacity-building activities in the following cost categories:

- Staff time spent building cross-sector partnerships and/or coalitions in service of NVT-aligned efforts and California Jobs First Priorities. (See NVT Sectors and Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies);
- Staff time used in building administrative capacity to apply for and manage funding for work that aligns with NVT Sectors and Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies;
- Costs associated with the hosting of community convenings;
- Materials and supplies utilized in bringing community together for various coalition-building activity;
- Consultant or staff-time used in the development of research or studies that relates to inclusive economic development practices, NVT Sectors and Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies, of California Jobs First Priorities; and/or
- Consultants that support grant writing, coalition coordination, trainings, materials development, and other technical assistance.

Funds will be general operating support to allow flexibility for organizations to spend and/or request reimbursement. For purposes of this RFP, general operating support includes:

- Staff time
- Consultants
- Utilities, Lease, and related costs
- Materials and supplies, printing and related.

Unallowable Uses of Funding: This funding is not for project development. Funds should not be used for direct services or programming. Additionally, funding from this grant cannot be used to fund or reimburse:

- Lobbying
- Conferences
- Participant stipends (gift cards, stipends, other direct payment to individuals)
- Out of State Travel
- Alcohol
- Any illegal activities.

Selection Criteria: The NVT Steering Committee will review and score applications. They will be considering:

- Alignment with NVT Sectors and Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies, or California Jobs First Priorities;
- Participation in NVT to date (not an eligibility requirement); and
- The degree to which continuing efforts have/will bring together unlikely partners to develop a shared strategy;
- The degree to which support from NVT may make it possible for organizations to secure additional resources;
- Distribution of funding throughout the region, with a focus on equity. NVT will aim to fund at least one application in each county.

Key Dates and Timeline:

July 8	Grant application opens
July 8	“How to Apply” and Q&A Info session
July 19	Grant closes at 5pm (2 weeks from grant opening)
July 25	Award recommendations made to NVT Fiscal Sponsor to finalize

Aug 13 Awards announced
Sept 30` Funds must be fully distributed

How to Apply: Organizations must submit their grant application through email to purchasingbids@mccd.edu. Applicants can download an [editable version of the application can be found at https://tinyurl.com/NVTGrantsApplication](https://tinyurl.com/NVTGrantsApplication). Applications should be saved as a PDF and submitted as an attachment to the email. Please put “NVT Community Grants Application-[Org Name]” as the subject line in the email.

Completed Applications include:

- (a) PDF of Application Questions and Answers, no more than three pages in length.
- (b) Copy of 501 c-3 status.

Applications may also include, if applicable:

- (a) Copy of completed deliverables, such as published reports, printed or online materials, or other final outputs, preferably in PDF format. Please do not attach photographs of meetings, media clippings, or related material. If documents are too large to attach, please include a link (website, cloud storage, other) where the document or material may be accessed.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday July 19, 2024 to be considered.

Applications must be submitted by email using the instructions above.

NVT will host a webinar outlining the RFP, how to apply, and answering questions about the grant opportunity on **Monday, July 8, 2024 at 2pm**. [Join at this Zoom link.](#)

Please Note: Completion and submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of funding. Applicants may not be awarded their full request.

Contracts/Payment: Contracts will be with the NVT fiscal agent, Merced Community College District. Selected vendors will be required to meet all MCCD vendor requirements. Once applicants have been notified of awards, contracts will be issued to organizations within 2-3 weeks. Full payment of funding will be available within two weeks of both parties signing the contract.

Reporting: If your organization is awarded a grant, a narrative report of outcomes, learnings and findings will be due by November 30, 2024.

Questions? For questions regarding this RFP, please email Rocci Jackson at rocci@northvalleythrive.org. Questions and answers will be posted on the North Valley THRIVE website through July 18, 2024.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

You must submit applications by email (see above) by July 19, 2024, 5pm. Please include answers to all of the following questions. Total responses may not exceed three pages. Applicants may use Times Roman, Arial or similar fonts, no smaller than 11-point font.

Note: Applicants must also attach a copy of their organization’s current non-profit status (501 c-3 documentation, tax-exemption).

Though not required, you may attach completed deliverables, such as published reports, printed or online materials, or other final outputs. These will not be counted as part of the three-page limit. Please do not attach photographs of meetings, media clippings, or related material.

Applicants can download an [editable version of the application can be found at https://tinyurl.com/NVTGrantsApplication](https://tinyurl.com/NVTGrantsApplication).

1. Name of Organization
2. Organization Tax ID number
3. Main Contact Name
4. Main Contact Email
5. Main Contact Phone
6. Please describe the coalition-building work you are requesting support for. What is the overall aim of this work?
7. Describe the types of partners, stakeholders or community members you have brought together. How has convening these particular partners been important to your efforts? Have these partners been gathered before?
8. Which of the following NVT Priority Sectors or Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies directly relate to your proposal? List those that apply but note that no extra points are given for including more than one. Briefly describe the relationship between your work and the Sectors or Strategies you listed.

NVT Priority Sectors:

- Carbon Management
- Clean Energy
- Advanced Manufacturing
 - Industrial Goods Manufacturing
 - Building Materials Manufacturing
 - Electronic and Component Parts Manufacturing & Assembly
 - Mobility Manufacturing and Assembly
- Bioeconomy
 - Ag Tech

NVT Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategies

- Regional Innovation Ecosystem - Create an enduring regional innovation ecosystem that moves more ideas from research to company formation and job creation.
- Small Business/Entrepreneurship: Make it easier to form and expand small businesses in the region.
- Skills/Talent Development: Foster an inclusive and equitable workforce by developing systems that bridge gaps for marginalized communities and promote quality and sustainable jobs.
- Climate smart Infrastructure: Invest in Climate-smart infrastructure to strengthen the region's resilience
- Place making/amenities: Enhance the region's quality of life in the community by increasing awareness of and access to amenities and events that are culturally grounded Enhance the region's quality of life by developing and strengthening culturally relevant amenities, events and programs

- Building health and well-being (Social Infrastructure) - Providing care and support services to individuals of all ages, with a particular focus on health, behavioral health, and child/elder care.
 - Governance - Creating a Northern San Joaquin Valley Regional Entity
9. How would receiving these funds strengthen and/or leverage future funding proposals you might apply for in the area(s) above?
 10. Briefly describe the outputs of your work thus far. Though not required, you may attach completed deliverables, such as published reports, printed or online materials, or other final outputs. Please do not attach photographs of meetings, media clippings, or related material.
 11. Please describe your organization/coalition's involvement with NVT to date.
 12. Total amount requested (up to \$65,000).
 13. Name and Position of person completing this application