



## **RFQ# #2024-21, North Valley THRIVE Industry Coordinator: Circular Bioeconomy**

Merced Community College District (MCCD) invites qualified and experienced individuals or firms to submit qualifications for the role of Industry Coordinator: Circular Bioeconomy for North Valley THRIVE, a dynamic coalition comprising community organizations, government entities, educational institutions, and economic development agencies. The purpose of this initiative is to develop a tri-county proposal for the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Fund.

### **Background:**

North Valley THRIVE is committed to fostering collaboration between community and industry stakeholders to address shared challenges and opportunities. As part of our efforts to secure funding through the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Fund, we are seeking an Industry Coordinator: Circular Bioeconomy, for the Counties of Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin.

### **Scope of Work:**

The work of the Industry Coordinator: Circular Bioeconomy should include the following:

**SCOPE OF WORK**  
**Industry Coordinator: Circular Bioeconomy**  
**\$125,000.00**

1. Building on the NVT Strategic Plan, provide content for completion of a Bio-Circular Activation Plan that further operationalizes the NVT Bioeconomy Strategic plan. The Activation Plan will consist of two parts (see *California Jobs First Regional Activation Plan* document for further details). Framing the overall strategy is the focus of the first part and includes describing necessary and available resources, identifying measures for sector-level outcomes, and describing key dependencies and risks facing the strategy. The second part develops a tactical workplan around the four NVT Bioeconomy strategies: 1) Nurture Innovation, 2) Translate Innovation into Industry, 3) Build an Inclusive Bioeconomy Talent Pipeline, 4) Grow a Community-Centered Sector Intermediary. Contractor's content would be developed independently and combined with additional NVT content to complete the Activation Plan. *Due Monday, January 13, 2025.*
2. Following completion of the Activation Plan, the Contractor will further develop and/or refine Tactics to support NVT's four Circular Bioeconomy Strategies (Nurture Innovation, Translate Innovation into Industry, Build an Inclusive Bioeconomy Talent Pipeline, Grow a Community-Centered Sector Intermediary). Consider NVT's existing tactics in each area and propose additions, substitutions or adjustments to existing strategies, including key dates and implementation timeline and measurable outcomes. Contractor's content would be developed independently but supported by an independent research entity. *Due June 30, 2025.*
3. Collaborate on the development and facilitation of didactic and immersive experiences that educate NVT coalition members/Steering Committee on the circular bioeconomy, and the Action Plan Strategies and Tactics. Contractor would provide coordination of activities and content; NVT would execute activities and cover convening costs. *Through June 2025.*

4. Include NVT in existing bioeconomy industry convenings, as appropriate, and keep NVT leadership briefed on sector developments. *Through September 2026.*
5. Collaborate on the development of key research questions (to be explored by a distinct research entity) to help explore additional areas of bioeconomy, such as workforce development opportunities, development of additional markets, etc. *Due February 28, 2025.*

**Proposal Submission:**

Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals by 10:00 A.M. December 2, 2024.

**Proposals should include the following:**

1. Overview of qualifications and relevant experience in biomanufacturing or biocircular economy.
2. Proposed approach and strategies for achieving the outlined objectives.
3. Detailed timeline for the completion of the scope of work.
4. Budget estimate, including any associated costs.
5. Maximum of two pages for the proposal (feel free to attach examples of any type of your work related to the proposal scope)

**Submission Instructions:**

Please submit your proposal electronically to [Purchasingbids@mccd.edu](mailto:Purchasingbids@mccd.edu) by 10:00 A.M. December 2, 2024. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated experience in biomanufacturing or biocircular economy.
- Strength and feasibility of the proposed approach.
- Alignment with the objectives of North Valley THRIVE and the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Fund.
- Budgetary considerations.
- MCCD will review all proposals and reserves the right to select based on the best interest of District.

**Additional Information:**

Selected vendors will be required to meet all MCCD vendor requirements.

For additional information or clarification, please contact Yolanda Meraz at [yolanda@northvalleythrive.org](mailto:yolanda@northvalleythrive.org)

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to receiving your proposals and working together to strengthen community-industry collaboration through North Valley THRIVE.

Sincerely,

Merced Community College District  
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