



Economic Development Update

April 8, 2022



Overview

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update

Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) Update

Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) Update & RISE Grant

Questions, concerns, comments, or ideas?

CEDS



- A strategy-driven plan for regional economic development.
- Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. In addition, a CEDS is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD).
- Golden State Connect (RCRC) has applied for a grant from the EDA to fund a regional CEDS for Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties (and associated municipalities).
- Grant has been “conditionally approved” by the EDA, simply awaiting final approval before moving forward.

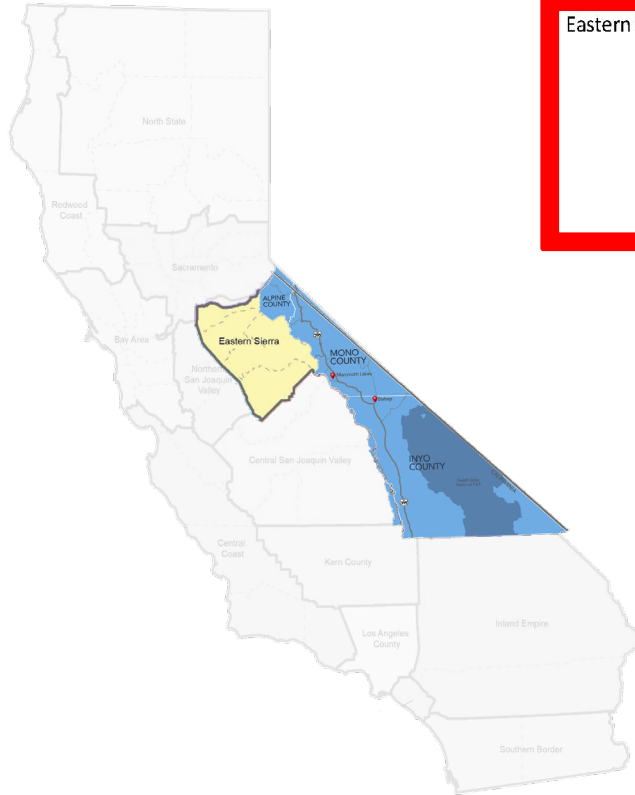
CERF



- Develop regional plans and recommended investments to support the economy, bolster equity, and facilitate a transition to carbon neutrality.
- Emphasis on ‘inclusive’ planning, sustainable industries, and high quality jobs.
- Planning grants of \$5 million each to establish and support at least one collaborative per region.*
- \$500 million in rolling, competitive implementation grants.



CERF



Eastern Sierra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alpine• Amador• Calaveras• Inyo• Mariposa• Mono• Tuolumne
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CERF



- \$5 million planning grant: funds a Convener, Fiscal Agent, Coordinator, and High Road Collaborative.
- Convener is lead; organizes inclusive group to form High Road Collaborative, hires locally-based coordinator.
- Our initial goal: make sure that the organization that applies to be the Convener is familiar with Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties, and a local coordinator is placed on the East Side.

CERF cont.



- Recent timeline adjustments:
 - Mid-April: Release revised Planning Phase draft guidelines for round 2 of public comment
 - April 27, 2:30-4:30pm – Inland California Guidelines Workshop; registration link <https://governorca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvf-isrj8uG9GatU7Lz7R6fHONFZ1AZoNo>
 - Week of May 23 – Planning Phase Solicitation
 - Week of July 25 – Close Planning Phase Solicitation and begin scoring
 - Week of August 8 – Award Planning Phase grantees
 - Winter 2023 – Release Implementation Phase Solicitation
 - October 2026 – Encumbrance deadline

Small Business Resource Center



- Mission to support small businesses and entrepreneurs through access to technical assistance and education, training, and counseling on all aspects of small business management.
- Services include but are not limited to business development services and concrete supports such as financial capital, marketing, organizational assistance, mentoring, a navigator program, events and meetups.
- Have signed 10 year lease on 269 N. Main Street in Bishop (formerly the Sierra Crafters Mall) and currently remodeling.



**Draft design by M_Royce Architecture*

Small Business Resource Center



- SBRC Website with full business plan:
<https://www.inyocounty.us/business/eastern-sierra-small-business-resource-center>
- Business plan includes a regionally inclusive Market Opportunity Analysis that identifies opportunities for new and growing industries in the region.
- First Eastern Sierra Entrepreneur meetup on March 14 with approximately 100 attendees – lots of interest from the public and small business owners/future owners.
- Next meetup in early June to coincide with Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board Meeting – Standby for more info!
- Email BRC@inyocounty.us for more info

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant



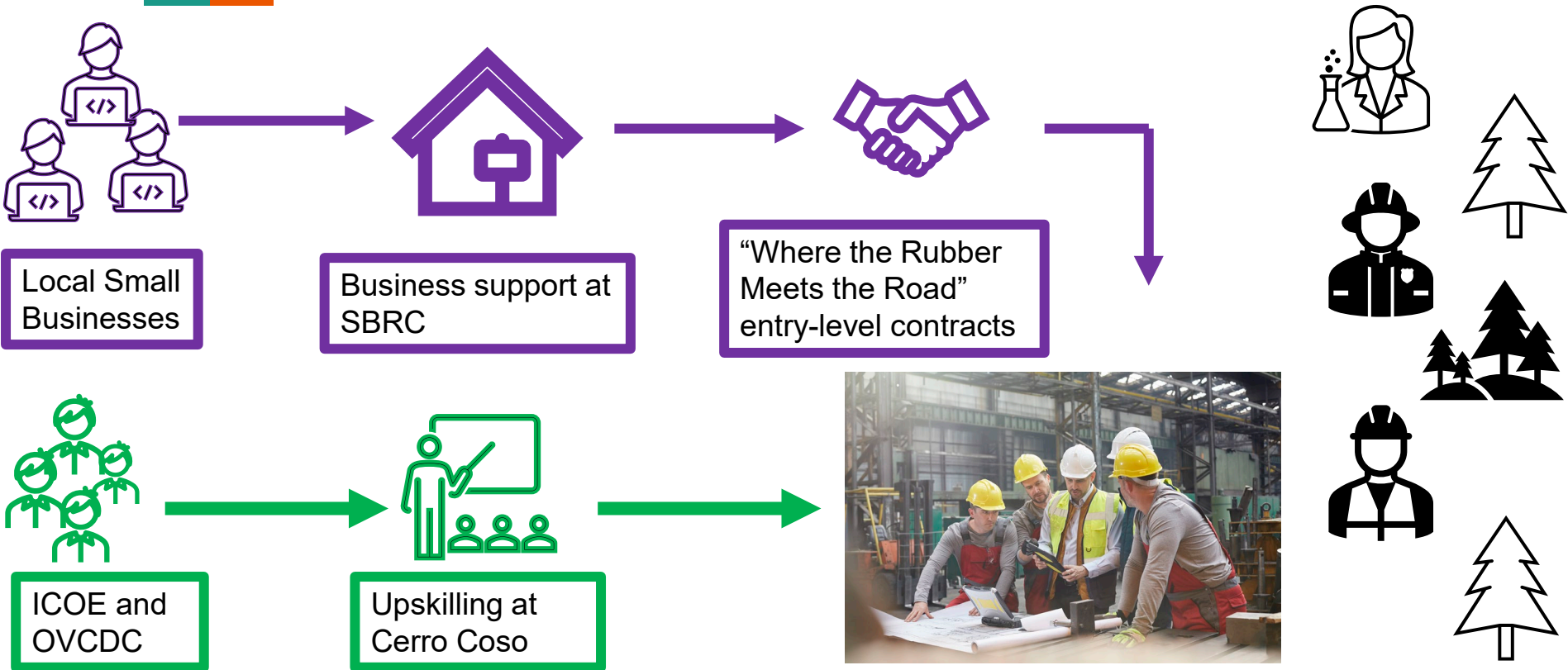
- Rural Jobs Accelerator Partnership formalized for purpose of applying for RISE Grant from USDA.
- Includes The Job Spot (ICOE adult education); Cerro Coso Community College; OV CDC; Small Business Resource Center; Whitebark Institute; and Inyo County as grant lead.
- Partnership members will be working together to create a foundation of skilled workers and business owners to service a massively expanding Climate Innovations Industry Cluster; keeping jobs local and serving as a driver for regional economic development.
- Climate Innovations Industry Cluster (as currently defined for the grant) includes:
 - Forestry, Fire Mitigation and Fuels Treatment
 - Natural Resources Management and Environmental Science
 - Sustainable Recreation
 - Alternative Energy Solutions
 - Desert Ecosystem Preservation

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant



- The Job Spot and OVDC will pipeline to Cerro Coso's four new certificate programs launching Fall 2022/Spring 2023. These programs provide a direct career pathway into growing industries within the Climate Innovations Industry Cluster.
 - Wildland firefighting
 - Cultural resource management (archaeological crew and technicians)
 - Outdoor recreation management
 - Forestry and conservation
 - Forestry Associates of Science
- Simultaneously, SBRC and Whitebark will be working with small businesses who will employ the upskilled workers graduating from the Cerro Coso programs.
- Whitebark has developed a "Where the Rubber Meets the Road" pilot program to support small businesses to become successful and competitive in bidding and securing federal Forest Service contracts.

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant





Questions?

