

Preliminary Catalyst Predevelopment Phase Timeline and Criteria¹

The purpose of this document is to transparently share all the information Uplift has to date on the California State Catalyst Predevelopment Phase (formerly referred to as the "Catalyst Program" or "Catalyst Fund"). The Catalyst Predevelopment Phase is a part of the California Jobs First program between the planning and implementation phases. The goal of this phase is to seed investment into regional strategies and projects. Uplift was awarded Catalyst funding with \$9M for sector-specific predevelopment activities supporting strategic community projects and initiatives in the Central Coast region. As of June 2024, Uplift has not yet received the awarded funding for the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase of work. Uplift regional strategies are still in development and additional regional criteria are yet to be determined. This Information will be updated as new information and criteria becomes available.

This document serves as a *preliminary overview* of the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase's projected criteria. **All regional and state criteria in this document are subject to change and refinement ahead of the release of the final request for proposals (RFP).**

Uplift Central Coast's Regional Criteria

Uplift Central Coast (Uplift) is a collaboration between the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) and REACH to deliver the planning component of California Jobs First. Uplift serves the six-county region of San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.



Image 1: Uplift's North Star

1. Uplift Region Preliminary Guidance

- a. Alignment with Uplift's North Star as shown in image one.
 - i. Directly targets and advances inclusive access to quality jobs, resources, and services

¹ Please note that information listed in this document is subject to change. Information and language describing the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase goals and criteria was provided by the State of California.

- ii. Supports the financial well-being and upward mobility of individuals from disinvested communities
- iii. Advances sustainability, with an emphasis on advancing environmental justice
- b. Alignment with the strategies presented in Uplift’s Regional Plan Part II. Regional Plan will be released in early fall 2024.
 - i. These strategies prioritize the creation of high-quality jobs, equitable access to jobs and resources, and emphasizes developing sustainable and resilient economies and industries
- c. With strategies still in development, other regional criteria are to be determined and all criteria are subject to change before the release of the final request for proposals (RFP).

2. Uplift’s Regional Preliminary Timeline

Regional Strategies will be submitted to the State of California by August 31, 2024. The RFP for the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase will be released in the fall of 2024.

Additional Uplift Documents and Resources

- [Uplift’s Website](#)
- [Uplift’s Regional Plan Part I - Executive Summary](#) (Spanish version linked [here](#))
- [Uplift’s Regional Plan Part I - Full Report](#) (Part II to be released by fall 2024)
- [Uplift’s Databook](#)
- [Sign up for Uplift’s Newsletter](#)

California Jobs First State-Provided Criteria and Project Readiness Stages

The following is a *preliminary overview* of the Catalyst Predevelopment Phases projected criteria as shared by the State of California.

California Jobs First is a state level program designed to bring funding to each area of the state for sustainable, equitable economic growth. California Jobs First prioritizes the creation of high-quality jobs, equitable access to jobs and resources, and emphasizes developing sustainable and resilient economies and industries. There are three phases of the California Jobs Initiative:

- **The Planning Phase:** Inclusive, diverse, transparent, and accountable regional planning that results in a holistic strategy. Uplift is currently in the planning

phase of work, developing community and research-informed strategies for submission in August.

- **The Catalyst Predevelopment Phase:** Provides funding opportunities for sector-specific predevelopment activities supporting strategic community projects and initiatives that enable the Central Coast to take projects from exploratory and last-mile to ready-to-go projects that can access local, state, and federal funds, as well as private and philanthropic investments. The Catalyst Predevelopment Phase is meant to bridge the gap between planning regional economic development strategies and implementing projects designed to achieve outcomes that align with those strategies.
- **The Implementation Phase:** Focused on projects that advance globally competitive, sustainable industries that improve access to high quality jobs with clear employment pathways for underserved and incumbent workers, while bolstering climate and health outcomes, and equity for all Californians

Catalyst Predevelopment Phase

The goal of funding Catalyst Predevelopment Phase projects, as shared by the State of California:

1. Invest in industries that will advance priorities identified during each region's Planning Phase²
2. Fund projects that ensure workers and disinvested communities are the primary beneficiaries
3. Leverage federal, state, and private dollars

California Jobs First Catalyst Predevelopment Phase Funding and Project Criteria

As stated by the State of California, all Catalyst Predevelopment Phase and Implementation projects must meet baseline state required criteria to be eligible for California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative funding, and align with regional criteria and strategies (in development). Projects must also meet criteria for the identified stage of readiness as laid out by the State of California.

1. The State of California's Required Criteria

- a. Equity
 - i. At least 40% of funds provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to disinvested communities

² Please reference Uplift's Regional Plan Part I [here](#) for more information on the priority industries identified by Uplift, along with additional data analysis and community engagement themes.

- ii. Include an applicant or co-applicant located in or serving a disinvested community
- iii. Align with Executive Order N-16-22 (Embedding Racial Equity)
- iv. Include equity impact assessment (expecting guidance and resources from the State team)
- v. Include displacement analysis (and avoidance strategy if necessary)
- vi. Community engagement strategy with feedback mechanisms
- b. Climate
 - i. Align with major state climate goals and policies. A few examples include but are not limited to: CARB Scoping Plan, EO N-82-20 (Land and Water Protection), EO N-19-19 (Climate Agenda), and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - ii. Projects may not expand or fund new fossil fuel extraction or production
- c. Job Quality and Access
 - i. Promote the creation of family-sustaining jobs with healthcare and retirement benefits, upward mobility, access to training, consistent scheduling, safe working conditions, and opportunities for collective worker input
 - ii. Ensure equitable access to quality jobs for communities throughout the region

2. California Jobs First Identified Stages of Project Readiness³

a. Exploratory Projects:

- i. Early stages of development
- ii. May be just an idea or an informal plan
- iii. May need dedicated funding to study and develop into potential projects

b. Last-Mile Projects

- i. Completed feasibility assessments (*if applicable*)
- ii. Feasible/viable projects to achieve their stated objectives
- iii. Undergone initial steps towards development and must clear a few additional hurdles

c. Ready-To-Go Projects (**Implementation Projects, NOT Catalyst Predevelopment Phase**):

- i. Have completed all necessary and possible steps to be ready for implementation upon receiving funding

³ The identified stages of project readiness are based on information provided by the State of California in a Community of Practice meeting on October 26, 2023 and are subject to change.

- ii. For construction projects these are “shovel-ready”

3. California Jobs First Project Readiness Requirements⁴

At any stage of readiness, projects receiving CA Jobs First funding will need:

- i. Project overview, with objectives, scope, work plan with timeline, and budget
- ii. Identified service or benefits recipients
- iii. Project sponsor
- iv. Project team (internal staff and external partners)
- v. Community partnerships
- vi. Potential risks to project’s implementation or delivery of successful outcomes
- vii. Approval by California Jobs First Regional Collaborative (*Uplift’s Vision and Steering Committees⁵*)
- viii. Explicit alignment with CA Jobs First Regional Plans
- ix. Clear explanation of what grantee will deliver by end of grant, and clear explanation of what project success looks like and how success will be measured
- x. Be able to be completed within the expenditure deadline of September 2026, or have phases that are able to be completed within this timeframe

Additional California Jobs First and Catalyst Predevelopment Phase Documents and Resources

For additional information on the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase, please see the below documents. These documents were provided by the State of California and are subject to change:

- [Notice of Available Funds: Catalyst Program Overview](#) (please note that this document was released before “CERF” was renamed to “California Jobs First”)
- [Project Readiness Stages](#)
- [Proposed Project Criteria: Catalyst and Implementation Projects](#)

⁴ Project readiness requirements are based on information provided by the State of California in a Community of Practice meeting on October 26, 2023 and are subject to change.

⁵ Please note that the Vision Committee and Regional Steering Committees are the Uplift regions’ California Jobs First Regional Collaboratives

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