

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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GREATER SACRAMENTO REGION PROSPERITY STRATEGY INITIATIVES

Business Nexus

Communities and leaders in the six-county Sacramento Region adopted the Greater Sacramento Region Prosperity Strategyⁱ (Prosperity Strategy) in 2020, which also serves as the region's five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) funded by and approved by the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Prosperity Strategy has an inclusive economic development framework and is managed through a partnership of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, Valley Vision, Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the Cal Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. EDA is investing in the region's food and ag cluster initiatives and the implementation of the Prosperity Strategy for economic recovery and resilience. The Strategy contains several cluster-based initiatives as well as foundational initiatives in areas such as demand-driven workforce development, infrastructure, broadband, digital skills, and the innovation ecosystem.

Requested Action

Support Prosperity Strategy Initiatives to build upon existing EDA investments, catalyze inclusive economic recovery, and accelerate business growth and job creation in high wage industries that will be a model for an innovation economy that is in transition to a carbon-free economy consistent with state and federal policies and resources.

Investment priorities include cluster-based anchor initiatives. The three competitive advantage clusters of focus are: Food and Agriculture, Health and Life Sciences, and Future Mobility.

- The anchor initiatives are the California Innovation Institute for Food, Agriculture and Health led by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources in partnership with many local organizations and industry partners.

- The Aggie Square Innovation Center (Life Sciences), a 25-acre innovation zone located in a federally designated Opportunity Zone, led by University of California at Davis, connected with UC Davis Health in collaboration with the City of Sacramento and Wexford Development.
- The California Mobility Center, created as an innovation hub in the global development of transportation technology, clean energy and decarbonization, in partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, many local partners and national and international companies.

Brief Background

The Greater Sacramento Region was the hardest hit region in California during the Great Recession and was the last region to reach pre-Recession levels of employment. Regional leaders mobilized to develop a strong roadmap for future resilience and shared prosperity, bringing in the Brookings Institution to conduct a comparative national assessment of the region in 2018. The assessment identified the region's competitive advantages in the three clusters described above, along with areas that required a strong strategic focus to improve weaknesses, including workforce skills gaps, a Digital Divide, and infrastructure needs. Regional leaders prepared the CEDS to organize the region, align assets and resources, and implement a core set of strategies for both short-term recovery and long-term resilience, with opportunity and leadership in the clean economy. The region received an EDA grant in August 2021 to implement the regional economic recovery strategy through the CEDS.

A food and ag cluster partner organization, AgStart (Ag Innovation Alliance) received an EDA grant in 2020 for a major wet lab and food lab innovation center in Woodland, California. UC Ag and Natural Resources and AgStart are implementing an EDA-funded innovation network for food and ag (The VINE – Verde Innovation Network), building on a prior EDA i6 Innovation grant to the University of California, Davis and SARTA for a sustainable ag innovation institute. In 2015 the region, in partnership with California State University, Chico and California State University, Fresno, received a designation from EDA as an Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) along with an implementation grant for strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem for the Central Valley AgPlus Food and Beverage Manufacturing Consortium. The region has also received EDA grants for small business and minority business development. All partners are working together for a strong regional recovery and future sustainable, equitable prosperity.

¹<https://www.valleyvision.org/projects/capital-region-prosperity-strategy/>