



CEMI

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
MOBILIZATION INITIATIVE

at The Center

RESPONDING TO A GENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

CEMI offers robust training, resources and partnership to advance inclusive economic development in California's historically excluded communities.

**“EQUITY IS
THE THROUGHLINE
THAT MOTIVATES AND
SUSTAINS ALL CEMI
PARTNERS.”**

Chet P. Hewitt,

*President and CEO,
Sierra Health Foundation*

CEMI CORE PILLARS

GRANTMAKING

CEMI provides funding for community-based organizations to participate and engage in statewide funding opportunities.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

CEMI develops leaders' content knowledge, promote peer-to-peer relationships, facilitate community engagement, and leverage public funding. The CEMI Resources website (CEMIresources.org) is an online hub that provides training, technical assistance and guidance.

POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ORGANIZING

CEMI partners aim to influence local planning and regulations, ensure community participation, and attract public funds to advance equitable community and economic development.

UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

As the United States emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the national spotlight on equity and redressing ongoing disparities fueled a sense of optimism that we can – and must – take collective action.

Historically, economic development in California has not been equitable. Years of past exclusionary policies have left many communities with limited job opportunities and no path for growth. For these residents, participation in economic markets as workers, consumers or business owners was severely restricted. The impact is seen today as disturbing inequality and instability.

The urgent need to address these statewide inequities can be facilitated by strategic investments from both the government and the private sector. For example, the **Justice40** federal programs focus on investments to disadvantaged communities that are overburdened by pollution.

Another example is the **California Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)**, which seeks to build an equitable and sustainable economy and long-term economic resilience as the state transitions to a carbon-neutral economy.

CEMI STRIVES TO CONNECT, SUSTAIN AND INSPIRE COMMUNITY PARTNERS AROUND CALIFORNIA BY:

- Providing grant funding for community-based organizations to leverage public funding opportunities
- Strengthening the capacity of nonprofits to address disproportionate and historic economic and employment disparities in under-resourced and communities of color
- Establishing new policy frameworks and practice models that increase and sustain nonprofit engagement in recovery planning and implementation efforts and ensure underserved communities benefit from recovery investments
- Organizing across funder and interest area portfolios to link and leverage the impact of individual and collective investments made by public and private partners
- Assessing the scope and impact of enhanced community engagement and influence within and across selected economic and climate-resilient regions



“OUR WORK IMPACTS ALL CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS, BUT WE HAVE A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. FOR THEM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEANS INVESTMENT OF DOLLARS, IT MEANS JOBS, AND IT MEANS INFRASTRUCTURE.”

*Mark Toney,
Executive Director,
The Utility Reform Network
(TURN)*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

For the first time, community partners focused on inclusive economic development can connect and collaborate through a central resource hub: CEMIResources.org. The Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC) is a partnership between The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and experts from the Institute for Social Transformation at UC Santa Cruz, the Equity Research Institute at USC, and PolicyLink.

Renowned inclusive economic development leaders **Dr. Chris Benner** and **Dr. Manuel Pastor**, and national research and action institute PolicyLink designed and are offering a training curriculum through the resource center that includes resources on race equity in the current economy, understanding economic development decision-making, commercial district revitalization, organizing social and economic movements and more:



Power Mapping: Understanding the economic development decision making ecosystem



Building an advocacy program within organizations



CERF Plus: Navigating challenging political dynamics and leveraging public funding in large-scale collaborative processes



Data-driven equity analysis

CEMI IN ACTION

“WITHOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN SURVIVAL MODE. WE HAVE SO MANY INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND RESIDENTS IN THIS REGION; WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN DRAW DOWN MORE INVESTMENT. COOPERATION OVER COMPETITION OF RESOURCES IS THE WAY INTO THE FUTURE, OPPORTUNITIES ARE ABUNDANT, AND ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES CAN THRIVE.”

Matthew Mena,
*Executive Director,
Inland Economic
Growth & Opportunity*

“CEMI IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE, TO MAKE CONNECTIONS AND TO BUILD A MOVEMENT. WE WANT TO SUSTAIN AND PROPEL THIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MOMENTUM FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.”

Chris Benner,
*UCSC Institute for
Social Transformation*

CEMI = “SEE ME!”

Communities want to be seen and considered, which is why it’s pronounced “See me!” We have a growing list of grantee partners who are putting their communities first.

“THE SILVER LINING OF THE DEVASTATING PANDEMIC, IF THERE IS ONE, WAS A COMMITMENT FROM GOVERNMENT TO INVEST IN A JUST AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY. THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE, RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY CHAINS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY ARE EXACTLY WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE HISTORIC LACK OF” INVESTMENT.

Silvia Paz,
Founder and Executive Director,
Alianza Coachella Valley.



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation

CEMI is funded by a collaborative of philanthropic partners including Sierra Health Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation, The California Endowment and The California Wellness Foundation. It is managed by nonprofit The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. The Technical Assistance Resource Center is led in partnership with the Institute for Social Transformation at UC Santa Cruz, the Equity Research Institute at USC, and PolicyLink.



SIERRA HEALTH
FOUNDATION

 The **James Irvine** Foundation

**Chan
Zuckerberg
Initiative** 



THE CALIFORNIA
Wellness
FOUNDATION

blue 
california

 **The
California
Endowment**

**For more information, please
visit SHFCenter.org/CEMI or
email cemi@shfcenter.org**

CEMI GRANTEE PARTNERS

AS OF JULY 2023, CEMI HAS AWARDED OVER 14 MILLION DOLLARS TO ITS GRANTEE PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE:

4TH SECOND

AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE

ACTION COUNCIL OF MONTEREY COUNTY, INC.

ALIANZA COACHELLA VALLEY

ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION

CA ASSOCIATION FOR MICROENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY

CALIFORNIA CALLS FOR EDUCATION FUND (MILLION VOTER PROJECT)

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECT

CENTER FOR EMPOWERED POLITICS EDUCATION FUND

CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CHAFFEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

CIELO-COMMUNITY FOR INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP

CITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

COMITE CIVICO DEL VALLE INC.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGIES CENTER

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SAN JOAQUIN

COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS-CA

DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

FLINTRIDGE CENTER

FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS

INLAND EMPIRE BLACK WORKER CENTER

INLAND EMPIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

INLAND EMPIRE LABOR INSTITUTE

JEWISH VOCATIONAL & CAREER COUNSELING SERVICE

LA FAMILIA COUNSELING CENTER, INC.

LOS ANGELES BLACK WORKER CENTER

LOS ANGELES BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE, BLACK UNITED FUND, INC.

NEVADA SIERRA CONNECTING POINT PUBLIC AUTHORITY

NORTH BAY JOBS WITH JUSTICE

ORGANIZACION EN CALIFORNIA LIDERES CAMPESINAS

OROVILLE SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PILIPINO WORKERS CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ROOTS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY FOUNDATION, INC.

STANISLAUS EQUITY PARTNERS

TALLER SAN JOSE HOPE BUILDERS

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC BERKELEY LABOR CENTER)

THE UNITED WAY CALIFORNIA CAPITAL REGION (UWCCR)

UTILITY REFORM NETWORK

VISION Y COMPROMISO

WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

WORKING PARTNERSHIPS USA