

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Kern County features abundant natural resources and diverse communities, but also faces many economic, environmental, and social challenges. As the economy changes in response to technology, climate, and market demand shifts, Kern needs a vision for economic diversification and a strategic plan to generate the workforce needed for a high road regional economy. Creating and implementing this vision will require deep and durable partnerships across institutions that represent all communities in the region.

This Regional Workforce Strategy project in Kern County brings together a coalition of key stakeholders, including those often excluded or under-valued in economic development planning and workforce training opportunities, to develop a community- and worker-centered Strategic Workforce Development Plan. Sector and cross-sector work groups will engage community members, experts, workers, and industry leaders to assess training needs and identify opportunities to develop a high road workforce. The project consists of three major areas of work: 1) industry and workforce research, 2) coalition-building to deepen regional collaboration, and 3) identification, implementation, and expansion of high road training

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## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A community-authored Strategic Workforce Development Plan that positions Kern to implement cross-sector workforce strategies that preserve and expand high-quality jobs.
- Research and analysis to assess regional economic and workforce development opportunities, using a mixed methods approach to collect quantitative data points and qualitative data gathered through interviews with key stakeholders.
- A robust and durable regional planning coalition that engages with workers, residents, community members and leaders, labor, and industry knowledge to inform regional workforce strategies.
- Workforce development and training pilot programs that create equitable pathways into emerging and expanding industry sectors in Kern County.

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## KEY PARTNERS

- Kern Community College District
- Bakersfield College
- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE)
- UC Merced, Community and Labor Center
- Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)
- California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB)
- Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties Central Labor Council
- Kern, Inyo, Mono Building Trades Council
- National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL)