

California’s first and fourth largest counties, San Bernardino and Riverside comprise the region known as the Inland Empire (IE). African Americans in the IE disproportionately hold lower-paying/-quality jobs, experience higher unemployment rates, are NOT significantly represented among the IE’s largest industry subsectors and encounter well-documented obstacles moving up the proverbial “career ladder” leading to a lack of representation in leadership and decision-making roles.

With this project, the Inland Empire Gateways to Opportunity Collaborative (IEGOC) will establish a Critical Infrastructure Workforce Advisory Council that builds relationships and collaborations with industry, public and private sector business leaders, organized labor, policy makers, community-based organizations, local Workforce Development Boards, Community College Districts, K12 partners, philanthropic/non-profit support community, and existing HRTPs.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Build a Black worker-led movement that creates the conditions for successful organizing for quality jobs, as well as economic and social mobility.
- Gain an understanding of employer and worker needs related to the engagement, recruitment, training, hiring, and retaining of African American workers.
- Advocate for policies and practices that ensure a thriving Black community for Black workers and their families.
- Gain an understanding of the specific requirements of education and training, jobs, and career paths connected to Infrastructure - including Clean Energy/Transportation sectors and Cybersecurity sectors.
- Expose Black youth to career opportunities in the state’s infrastructure sectors.

KEY PARTNERS

- Brothers Forum
 - Cal Transit Works
 - ConvergeOne
 - I.E. Black Worker Center (IEBWC)
 - Infrastructure Forward
 - Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure (IYAI)
 - KIGT
 - OmniTrans
 - San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department
 - San Bernardino Valley College
 - Unisys
 - Young Women’s Empowerment (YWE)
 - Youth Action Project (YAP)
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