

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Equitable Food Initiative (EFI) is a multi-stakeholder capacity-building organization that provides tools to strengthen labor management systems across the produce industry, certifies the farms of high road agricultural employers to rigorous labor, food safety and integrated pest management standards, and partners with experts, employers and workers to offer new skills and career ladders to the agricultural workforce. This project will engage employers in EFI's certification program, giving them access to sustainability training to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this priority industry.

This planning and development project will consolidate a partner network into a committed steering committee, identify and certify new California produce employers who will pilot skills training and assessment consistent with the emerging credentialing roadmap, and to launch climate and sustainability training for growers. It aims to take advantage of the unmet demand for professional agricultural workers by creating formal pathways for frontline farmworkers to acquire and credential new skills that they can leverage into higher-paying jobs.

TARGET POPULATION

As a planning and development project to support stakeholder networking, no specific target population will be served at this time.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Convene agricultural industry stakeholders and experts and facilitate their ongoing collaboration to develop a standardized skills catalogue, training curriculum, and credential system for agricultural skills.
- Develop and expand career pathways within key industries for populations who have experienced barriers to employment and increase opportunities for skills attainment and career advancement for those at the lower end of the labor market.
- Provide training on climate and sustainability to California growers.
- Recruit and certify more California high road agricultural employers to EFI standards.

KEY PARTNERS

- Andrew and Williamson Fresh Produce
- United Farm Workers
- Jobs for the Future
- The James Irvine Foundation
- The Silicon Valley Community Foundation

