

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.8
AGENDA DATE: February 25, 2025

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of an Update on the Investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds into Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint Strategies


BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0089

On motion of Supervisor Grewal Seconded by Supervisor C. Condit
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) X Approved as recommended
2) _____ Denied
3) _____ Approved as amended
4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.8
AGENDA DATE: February 25, 2025

CONSENT: ☒

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of an Update on the Investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds into Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint Strategies

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept an update on the investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds into Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint Strategies for the period of October through December of 2024.

DISCUSSION:

On August 10, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF) to provide consulting engagement in support for Stanislaus 2030, a collaboration among business, government, and civic stakeholders to create and deliver a joint strategy and investment plan for regional economic growth and opportunity in the coming decade. The intention was to deliver a community-wide vision for Stanislaus County's future economy, and corresponding investment agenda to define the path necessary to achieve that vision. It also provides specific areas of potential investment for the County to consider in programming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding identified for Economic Development/Job Creation.

The resulting comprehensive investment document, the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint (Investment Blueprint), is based on the understanding of larger market forces and future trends; current and future state of Stanislaus County economy; knowledge of demographic shifts; and authentic community input. Four strategic focus areas were identified: (1) Bioindustrial Manufacturing; (2) Talent Development; (3) Removal of Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training; and (4) Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism. The Investment Blueprint is available in English and Spanish through the following link: <https://www.stanislaus2030.com/dataandreports>.

The Investment Blueprint, accepted by the Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2022, identifies strategic focus areas with initial investment strategies and tactics. The investable strategies, totaling more than \$75 million, position the community in a new way to seek funding from public and private sources to implement the activation plans and build a resilient economy.

On January 31, 2023, the Board of Supervisors accepted an update on the Investment Blueprint's Bioindustrial Manufacturing Strategy. The Board of Supervisors approved a spending plan of up to \$10 million in ARPA funds for the Bioindustrial Manufacturing

Strategy and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a contract with Opportunity Stanislaus, in an amount not to exceed \$650,000, to support the formation and operations of BioEconomy, Agriculture, & Manufacturing (BEAM) Circular. The Investment Blueprint identifies over \$57 million in total investment strategies for Bioindustrial Manufacturing, with the belief that funding from private and public sources will materialize to reach this goal. On April 16, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the contract, extending the term and including an additional \$110,000 for the continuation of the strategies.

On March 14, 2023, the Board of Supervisors accepted an update on the Investment Blueprint's other strategies. The Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an agreement with Stanislaus Community Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$1.3 million with a term of three years. Of this amount, \$700,000 is for the establishment of the initial program support. The \$700,000 is allocated to strategies focused on talent development, removing non-skill barriers to jobs and training, and entrepreneurship and small business dynamism. Of this amount, \$250,000 will be used to support activities related to the creation of a Manufacturing Talent-to-Industry Exchange. An investment of up to \$200,000 is targeted for childcare expansion and \$250,000 is allocated for activities that support entrepreneurship and small business dynamism. On November 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the contract to include an additional \$60,000 for childcare expansion.

The remaining \$600,000 is funding the formation and operations of the Stanislaus 2030 Intermediary Organization. The Stanislaus 2030 Intermediary Organization provides governance, capacity building, and related administration of the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint strategies of Talent Development, Removal of Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training, and Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism.

On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$1 million investment request from the Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC). This investment was made to workforce development programs for farmworkers as provided in the Investment Blueprint. Specifically, the investment funds the expansion of the National Farmworker Jobs Programs (NFJP) to include farmworkers and their family members who would otherwise not qualify for the program. This program will end on June 30, 2025.

On June 25, 2024, the Board of Supervisors heard a presentation on proposed initiatives under the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint focus areas of Childcare Expansion, Small Business Supports, and Talent Development. The Board also heard a presentation on the proposed projects and programs for advancement of the Bioindustrial Manufacturing sector development strategy and also approved an agreement in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 with BEAM Circular to continue to coordinate and support program design, business development, marketing, funding identification and pursuit, policy advocacy, and performance tracking to advance the Bioindustrial Manufacturing focus area.

On August 13, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a (1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Stanislaus County Workforce Development for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism in the amount of \$2 million and for Talent Development in the amount of \$1.5 million; (2) approved an MOU with the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, also known as First 5 Stanislaus, for the Childcare Entrepreneurship Program addressing non-skill barriers to jobs and

trainings, in the amount of \$1 million; and (3) approved an Agreement with Stanislaus Community Foundation to include project consultation and evaluation in the amount of \$565,500. The MOUs and the agreement are for the term of August 13, 2024, through December 31, 2026.

At the same August 13, 2024 meeting, the Board of Supervisors obligated an additional \$8,740,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLRFR) program funds for BEAM Circular to implement projects and programs for advancement of the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint Bioindustrial Manufacturing Sector Development Strategy and therefore amended the agreement with BEAM Circular to implement the projects and programs in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$9,240,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

On August 27, 2024, and December 17, 2024, the Board accepted an update on the investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds into the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint strategies covering the May through September of 2024 timeframe.

Update

The Stanislaus 2030 Quarterly Report for October through December 2024 activities is attached. Quarterly updates will be provided to keep both the Board of Supervisors and the public apprised of the work performed.

POLICY ISSUE:

Contractors and subrecipients receiving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding are required to report quarterly.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Through separate actions the Board of Supervisors has dedicated \$18 million in ARPA funds toward delivering the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint:

- \$10 million for BioIndustrial Manufacturing;
- \$7 million to establish an intermediary organization and for the Talent Development, Removal of Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training, and Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism strategies; and
- \$1 million to expand the National Farmworker Jobs Programs.

Summary reports for the total program funding deployed through Stanislaus 2030 and BEAM Circular are attached. (*BEAM Circular Investment Nov 24 and Stan2030 Investment Nov 24*)

Stanislaus County has executed separate contracts and MOUs totaling a combined \$18 million with Opportunity Stanislaus, as fiscal sponsor of BEAM Circular, BEAM Circular, Stanislaus Community Foundation, First 5 Stanislaus, Stanislaus Workforce Development, and Central Valley Opportunity Center to deliver specific strategies.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of the recommended actions support the Board of Supervisors' priorities of *Supporting a Strong and Safe Community*, *Developing a High-Performing Economy*, and *Delivering Efficient Public Services* by ensuring that ARPA funds are strategically dedicated to local priorities for COVID-19 fiscal recovery that will benefit the community and the people we serve.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff in the Chief Executive Office, Stanislaus County Workforce Development, and First 5 Stanislaus are supporting this effort.

CONTACT PERSON:

Erica Inacio, Deputy Executive Officer

209-525-6333

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Stanislaus 2030 Quarterly Report (Oct-Dec 2024)
2. BEAM Circular Investment Nov 24
3. Stan2030 Investment Nov 2024



STANISLAUS 2030

*A public-private partnership that
advances a shared vision for
economic prosperity for all.*

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Quarterly Report

October 1 - December 31, 2024



Goal

To ensure leadership, infrastructure, and resources are in place to implement Stanislaus 2030 strategic priorities and to measure impact over time.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Advisory Committee

- Nov. 6 - Hosted orientation session with three new Advisory Committee members (11/6)
- Nov. 14 - Hosted Advisory Committee and developed sub-committee to oversee Stanislaus 2030 organizational scenario planning process, which will begin in late summer 2025.

Regional & National Collaboration

- Oct 9-10 - Attended California Economic Summit and participated in the California Jobs First Investor Exchange with leaders from North Valley THRIVE
- Oct 17 & Nov 22 - Attended North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee meetings; discussed State's emerging priorities and how it aligns with THRIVE's strategic plan.
- Oct 18 - Co-presented at Central Valley Legislative Roundtable; highlighted Stanislaus 2030 childcare priorities and potential to scale strategies across the Central Valley
- Nov 14 - Presented to California State Association of Counties (CSAC) staff
- Nov 22 - Presented to staff from California Commission On The Status of Women And Girls; focused on local childcare entrepreneurship initiative and policy implications
- Dec 10-12 - Participated in Center for Community Investment Fulcrum Fellowship seminar

Community Presentations & Collaboration

- Oct. 1 - Modesto Junior College Dean's Cabinet
- Oct. 3 - Stanislaus Workforce Development Business Committee
- Oct. 16 - Stan. County Community Health Assessment Committee
- Oct. 24 - Stanislaus Partners in Education Board
- Nov. 12 - Modesto Chamber of Commerce Rise & Shine Panel
- Nov. 10 - Stanislaus Community Foundation Board
- Dec. 4 - Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley Board

Newsletter | Publications

- [October Update](#)
- [County ARPA Investment Overview](#)
- [December Update](#)





Vision

By 2030, any person who wants to start, sustain, or scale a business in Stanislaus County will have the support they need to be successful.

KEY ACTIVITIES

IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

Through a Request For Proposals (RFP) process in November, Stanislaus County Workforce Development selected Next Street to advance strategies included in the Stanislaus 2030 Small Business Plan.

Drawing from their work in 2023-2024 with Stanislaus 2030, contractor will assist with the following:

- **Grant Strategy:** Coordinate with Stanislaus County Workforce Development and Stanislaus 2030 on the regranting process of funds for the Stanislaus 2030 Small Business Strategy.
- **Capacity Building Program Design and Support:** Outline and develop top priorities for capacity building of local CDFIs and Business Support Organizations; provide input into program design and develop evaluation criteria and process for participating local organizations.
- **Coordination:** Onboard working group leads and help set performance expectations; create an onboarding playbook to use as other funding and working groups activate over time; set up a shared dashboard to understand and communicate activity and outcome progress across working groups.

Unlocking Private Capital Event



On December 4th, Stanislaus 2030 partnered with Edge Collaborative and The Greenlining Institute to host a round table with a group of financial institutions that included national Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), banks, and representatives of key community capacity-building efforts in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties to explore opportunities to channel climate finance toward community development opportunities that bolster resilience. This included a discussion of opportunities made possible in revised regulations implementing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) as well as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

This event helped investors become more knowledgeable about the ecosystem in the Northern San Joaquin Valley and are more willing to explore community investment opportunities. It also helped regional intermediaries have a better understanding of investment criteria, to identify opportunities for future alignment.

CHILDCARE EXPANSION



Vision

Stanislaus County's child care deserts become oases, where parents can find licensed care and providers earn family-sustaining incomes.

KEY ACTIVITIES

SCALING CHILDCARE ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE

- First 5 Stanislaus entered into contract with Nurture to launch 200 new childcare businesses over two years.
- Soliciting proposals from evaluation consultancies to study economic impact of Nurture training for family child care providers.
- Stanislaus County Office of Education secured \$85,000 from Adult Education Consortium to support Nurture program expansion

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

- Updated outreach toolkit for January childcare entrepreneurship cohorts; First 5 Stanislaus promoted with Family Resource and Healthy Start Networks; partners promoting through social media channels
- Pitched story to Telemundo, which ran segment on December 14 to promote Stanislaus County's partnership with Nurture and opportunity to enroll in January cohort
- Set schedule of course start dates for all of 2025

POLICY & ADVOCACY

- Developed state policy agenda: Modernize licensing process and include child care in Benefits CA
- Pitched to CA Commission on Status of Women, Lt. Governor's Office, Asm. Member Juan Alanis

IMPACT DATA

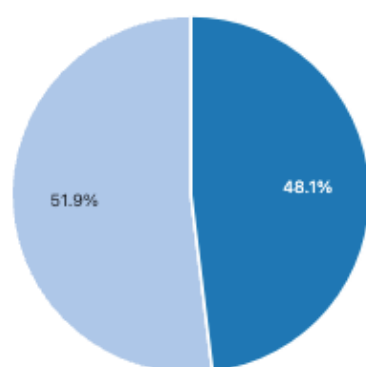
\$13.8 million annual economic impact of businesses started to date

51 New Business Starts

as of December 31, 2024



Stanislaus Business Starts, by Language

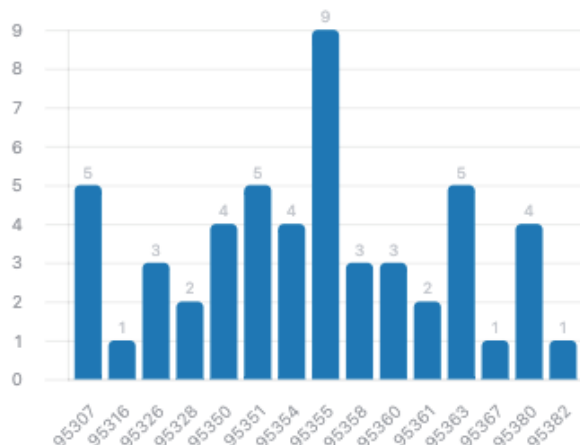


Language

- English
- Spanish

- Exceeded target for course completion
- Shortened duration of licensing process
- 96% confident in knowledge to run business
- Reached low-income, Latina target audience
- 408 permanent licensed spaces to date

Stanislaus Business Starts, by ZIP Code



CHILDCARE EXPANSION



Vision

Stanislaus County's child care deserts become oases, where parents can find licensed care and providers earn family-sustaining incomes.

CHILDCARE SUBSIDY DESIGN TEAM



PROCESS TIMELINE

October

- Completed empathy interviews with parents

November

- Session # 2 - Data reviewed, identified insights and factors that support or impede experience
- Session # 3 - Brainstormed solutions

December

- Session # 4 - Built out solution concepts and aligned on implementation next steps
- [Published summary report](#)

Childcare subsidies make it easier for parents to participate in the workforce, **yet only 1 in 9 eligible children in Stanislaus County receives support.**

To ensure that families have access to affordable, high-quality childcare, we established a Childcare Subsidy Design Team to help unlock bottlenecks in the system. This cross-agency team conducted empathy interviews with parents to develop first hand insights into the factors supporting and impeding access to subsidies and guidance. Over the course of four sessions the team developed concepts and solutions along with an action plan to maximize the number of families enrolling in child care financial assistance programs in priority zip codes across Stanislaus County.

SOLUTIONS IN FOCUS

Child Care Subsidy Network	A new network forms to connect all Stanislaus County Subsidy providers regularly
Centralize Access & Enrollment	Identify & create an online tool where families can access information and enroll for childcare subsidies easily
Awareness Campaign	Broad & innovative marketing strategy to increase parent awareness of childcare financial assistance programs
Partner & Community Events	Opportunities for child care providers, key partners, and families seeking care to connect

Learn about our process, solutions, and next steps in this [summary report](#) produced by [Connect For.](#)

Awareness

Concerns that children aren't getting the same developmental support as they would in a more formal setting.

Trust

"I hear stories of children getting hurt and day cares that just putting them in front of TVs"

"I heard from a friend I trust"

word of mouth

Enrolling

Compassionate enrollment staff can make a big difference

"I was told not to apply until I found a provider"

She said she started the process, but it was too much paperwork, and she never finished"

Finding a provider

Many people don't know what providers are required to do in order to be in business (background checks, certification, monitoring, etc)

"I help my friends sign up so they don't give up"

Connection

Parents are looking for quality care: culturally competent.

Care for kids living with special needs. Care that helps develop age appropriate school readiness skills.

TENSION: People trust their family more but feel like they might be burdening them AND also want the

SUCCESS: Easily accessing quality childcare that meets their needs

MONEY CHALLENGES

STRESS EXHAUSTION

Health of the Family

95307 90856 455

Some notes about ideas and opportunities so far

- Promotoras
- Parent Ambassadors

- Can we improve on our messaging i.e. be clear about qualifying, income, quality of providers, success stories, process etc

TALENT DEVELOPMENT



Vision

Stanislaus County will have a strong talent base, representative of our diverse population, that is equipped for good or promising jobs in manufacturing occupations.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Surveyed 184 CTE high school students across Stanislaus County to learn about their perceptions of manufacturing sector. Good pay, flexible schedules, and work-life balance are top factors when considering future careers.
- Hosted multiple focus groups with employers and learners to gain valuable insights on workforce training needs.
- Explored best practices for student engagement, employer collaboration, work-based learning, and fast-track certification programs such as Career Nexus, Heartland Compass, and Fame USA
- Conducted Employer and Partner interviews with Saputo, Morning Star, Delicato, Workforce Development, and MJC to better understand the available internship programs, gaps, and opportunities.
- Compiled an inventory of existing internships and apprenticeship programs to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- Evaluated stackable credentials to enable pathways into good manufacturing jobs. Stackable credentials can help address skill gaps in manufacturing by allowing learners at different proficiency levels to earn micro-credentials that build on each other.
- Gathered all four action teams on December 5th for a half-day session to share initial findings and map out priorities for the coming months.
- With Stanislaus Workforce Development, opened an RFP to support talent development implementation phase, which will include planning grants to pilot solutions emerging from actions teams (i.e. articulation of manufacturing career pathways, fast-track credential programs, growing work-based learning opportunities, addressing perception challenges, and improving job quality and retention).

FOCUS GROUPS



To better understand the needs of our employers and workers, on November 26th we hosted focus groups with C-Suite leaders and operators of the largest manufacturing companies in the region.

We also conducted focus groups with learners and under represented workers who shared experiences that inform their perceptions of the manufacturing sector jobs. Focus groups participants included, farmworkers, women, and young adults from Oakdale, Empire, Riverbank, Ceres, Turlock, Patterson, Westley, Central Modesto, North Modesto, East Modesto, West Modesto, Modesto Airport Area.

Insights from the focus groups can be found [here](#).

TALENT DEVELOPMENT



CVOC Goal

Stanislaus County will have multiple training pathways to equip ag workers with business and digital skills to ensure competitiveness of local ag firms.

SOLUTION IN FOCUS

Expand the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) at the Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC) to increase access to programming designed to education and train farmworkers into jobs that allow them to earn an income to sustain themselves and their families.

CVOC is providing assistance to unemployed or underemployed farmworkers by providing vocational training, education, and job search assistance. In addition, CVOC provides training related supportive services to remove barriers to allow participants to access services during training, while simultaneously supporting the Agriculture and Manufacturing sectors in Stanislaus County.

PERFORMANCE STATS

Unemployed & Underemployed

New Enrollments Breakdown (Total: 6)

- 🚚 3 - Truck Driving
- 🏢 1 - General Business Occupations
- 📋 2 - Job Readiness Training

New Job Placements (Total: 11)

- 🚚 6 - Forklift Drivers
- 📋 2 - Administrative Clerks
- 🌱 2 - AG Manufacturing
- 🚚 1 - Truck Driver

MILESTONES

We're making great strides in empowering individuals and connecting them to opportunities!

🎯 Milestone Achieved

- The two-year program goal is to enroll a total of 100 individuals. As of December 2024, we are ahead of schedule and have 84 enrollments, with two more quarters remaining in the program term.
- Completed a quarterly community report in English and Spanish to keep everyone informed.



TESTIMONIAL



After 23 years as a farmworker, Jesus sought a better future for his family despite limited English skills. Through CVOC's Stan2030 initiative, he earned his Class A license and Forklift Operator Certification.

He quickly secured a local job through CVOC, gained financial stability, and earned a \$21 hourly trucking role. His journey reflects his determination and CVOC's life-changing support.



After 8 years of cannery and farmwork, Jose was ready for a change. He enrolled at CVOC to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and pursue a trucking career.

Through hands-on training, Jose mastered truck operation. On December 10, 2024, he proudly earned his CDL—a moment of accomplishment for him and his supporters. Today, Jose is a licensed truck driver, ready to embark on a promising career.

Goal

The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

SOLUTIONS IN FOCUS

- Execute on the Stanislaus 2030 Blueprint traded sector development strategies across 5 pillars: Cross-Cutting, Innovation Access, Capital Connections, Infrastructure, and Talent

KEY ACTIVITIES

CBIO Collaborative: Preparation of Proposal for the NSF Full Innovation Engine \$160M

- In collaboration with UC Merced and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, BEAM Circular is preparing a proposal for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Full Innovation Engine funding opportunity, following an invitation to submit. The funding opportunity is for \$160 million, with the proposal submission deadline set for February 2025.
- Re-launched CBIO Collaborative call for membership as an evolution of our work and the next phase of the collaborative.

Talent & Workforce Development

- Engaged with Three New Bioindustry Firms: Facilitated Talent-Industry-Exchange discussions to strengthen connections between the local talent pool and bioindustry firms.
- Concluded Lab Skills Paid Research Internship Program: Supported 20 MJC students (from MESA and other programs serving students from disinvested communities) in gaining hands-on, industry-aligned lab skills. These skills will now be incorporated into two courses in biology and chemistry, impacting over 400 students annually and creating a robust talent pool for local industry to source skilled interns.
- Launched Mentored Bioindustry Research Program: Initiated a grant-funded program for 20 MJC MESA students (first-generation, low-income) to conduct mentored research on biomanufacturing, advancing their industry readiness.
- Enochs High School CTE Biotechnology Program (CA Academy): Acquired new laboratory equipment to prepare 189 students for Bioscience Core Skills Institute micro-credential testing, enhancing their future career opportunities in biotechnology.
- Warrior Entrepreneurship & Innovation Challenge at Stan State University: Contributed as a judge for student proposals and delivered a keynote address, further supporting the development of entrepreneurship and innovation among students.

(Right) MJC Summer Research Interns



(Left) Stan State Fab Lab testing biobased materials

Goal

The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Bioindustry Innovation and Scale-up Campus Planning and Industrial Lands Analysis

- Progress continues to advance in the planning for development of an Innovation Campus:
 - Strategic Partnerships: Engaged in discussions with an international technology partner to bring world-class expertise to the design and development of the Campus.
 - Site Selection: Issued an RFP for a Site Selection Consultant to lead the next steps in identifying a location for the Bioeconomy Innovation Campus in Stanislaus County. The engagement will focus on prioritizing potential sites, conducting due diligence, facilitating community engagement, and supporting site acquisition to meet legal requirements. The site selection process is expected to take place over the next four to six months.

Business and Economic Development

- Oct 9-10 - Governor Gavin Newsom gave a shout-out to BEAM Circular during his remarks at the CA Economic Summit in Sacramento in October. Our team also hosted a Summit breakout session on CA's Big Bioeconomy Opportunity.
- Oct 11 - CEO Karen Warner facilitated a panel at iHub San Joaquin's 2024 Innovation Summit, joined by leaders from HawkTower, Caribou Biofuels, Yosemite Clean Energy, and Berkeley Lab to talk circular bioeconomy entrepreneurship and investment in the NSJV.
- Nov 7 - Central Valley Business Expo: BEAM Circular had a strong presence, fostering connections and promoting bioindustrial innovation.
- Nov 19-20 - 19th Annual California Bioresources Alliance Symposium: The BEAM team actively participated in this event at UC Davis, themed "Refining California's Future: Innovating Together for a Thriving Circular Bio-Economy."
- Nov 20 - Presentation at a Panel of experts on the event organized by Valley Vision "Biomass & Beyond: The Future of Our Forests and Working Lands"
- BEAM Circular, through the Jobs First Economic Development Pilot Program, has established a series of funding opportunities to support entrepreneurship and innovation. This initiative aims to attract start-up companies with leading technologies in the bioindustrial manufacturing sector that utilize biomass waste. To date, we have engaged with over 104 companies, including California-based firms, U.S. companies from other states, and international businesses.



(Left) iHub 2024 Innovation Summit. (Center Left) Promotion of business programs at the Warrior Entrepreneurship and Innovation podcast - Stan State University (Center Right) Presence at the Central Valley Business Expo (Right) Left) 19th Annual California Bioresources Alliance Symposium at UC Davis: "Refining California's Future: Innovating Together for a Thriving Circular Bio-Economy."

Goal

The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Community Engagement

- In 2024, BEAM participated in or hosted 33 community engagement events across Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties, conducted in both Spanish and English. These events included Community Symposia, Conversations, Resource Fairs, Town Halls, Webinars, and an Open House.
- Engagement Metrics:
 - Community Members:
 - Prior to Q4, we engaged with 293 community members.
 - During Q4 (October–December), we directly engaged with 715 members.
 - Total: 1,100 community members to date, surpassing our target of 500.
 - Organizations:
 - Prior to Q4, we collaborated with 28 organizations.
 - During Q4, we engaged with 26 additional organizations.
 - Total: 54 organization engagements to date, significantly exceeding our target of supporting and collaborating with a minimum of 12 organizations serving and representing disinvested communities.
- Community Steering Committee (CSC): The Community Prosperity team launched a call for applications to form the CSC and received an overwhelming response of nearly 50 applicants. A panel of neutral representatives from Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties supported the selection of 17 committee members, all of whom accepted the invitation. The CSC represents a balanced distribution from each county and reflects the rich diversity of the North San Joaquin Valley. This committee will play a critical role in shaping frameworks for community prosperity and inclusive development across the region.



BEAM CIRCULAR
BIOECONOMY • AGRICULTURE • MANUFACTURING

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Please join us for a community forum to **ask questions**, learn more, and **share your feedback** about the BioEconomy, Agriculture, & Manufacturing (BEAM) Initiative, a collaborative regional effort to grow bio-based industry activities in the North San Joaquin Valley that create quality jobs, support a healthy environment, and expand community prosperity.

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY:

- ★ **Ceres:** Community Center | Oct 1 | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
2701 4th St, Ceres
- ★ **Oakdale:** Oakdale Library | Oct 9 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm
151 S 1st Ave, Oakdale
- ★ **Modesto:** Healthy Start FLC | Oct 11 | 9:00am -10:00am
801 Empire Ave, Modesto
- ★ **Newman:** Newman Community Room | Oct 16
5:30pm - 6:30pm | 1200 Main St, Newman
- ★ **Patterson:** Hammon Senior Center | Oct 23
5:30pm - 6:30pm | 1033 W Las Palmas Ave, Patterson
- ★ **Waterford:** Lucille Whitehead Intermediate School room 35
Oct 30 | 5:30pm -6:30 pm | 119 N Reinway Ave, Waterford

➔ MORE DATES & LOCATIONS IN NORTH SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COMING SOON! ➔

Register: **HERE**
<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/beamccstan>



Visit our website:
WWW.BEAMCIRCULAR.ORG



(Left) Brochure promoting Stanislaus Community Conversations
(Center) El Concilio Halloween Resource Fair - Modesto
(Top Right) Orville. Wright Healthy Start FLC - East Modesto
(Down Right) Franklin Healthy Start Family Resource Center - West Modesto



BEAM CIRCULAR

BIOECONOMY • AGRICULTURE • MANUFACTURING

BEAM Circular is working to unlock the power of communities to transform waste into economic prosperity and environmental solutions.

We believe that every person should have access to a good job, clean air and water, and a thriving community.

THE CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY

Our Region's Opportunity Sector

The Circular Bioeconomy represents many types of activities, innovations, and technologies that use the power of biology to create useful products and reduce waste and pollution. Using **bioindustrial manufacturing**, we can turn waste from food and ag into sustainable chemicals, materials, energy, and food products. This fast-growing industry builds upon our region's unique strengths while offering quality jobs that are accessible to local residents.



BEAM PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2024

\$55 million mobilized in federal, state, philanthropic, and private investment for regional bioeconomy efforts

North San Joaquin Valley certified as first Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone, receiving a rare "AA" rating for bioindustry readiness

California Jobs First pilot grant awardee

Prestigious \$1 million National Science Foundation investment

60 diverse local, state, and national organizations engaged in CBIO Collaborative

9 new funding programs for local businesses & schools launched (with more launching soon!)

Environmental Sustainability

BEAM Circular is dedicated to advancing circular bioeconomy solutions that reduce pollution, minimize fossil fuel and toxic chemical use, and promote regenerative agricultural practices.

We aim to attract and nurture projects in our region that meet the following standards:

- No net increase in local air, water, or soil pollution
- Carbon-neutral or carbon-negative on a lifecycle basis (end-to-end analysis of environmental impact)
- Use of regionally and sustainably sourced feedstocks

BEAM Circular does NOT invest in open burning or incineration.

Funding & Services

BEAM has launched many new programs and funding opportunities for businesses, educators, and community. Learn more about current offerings:





@BEAMCIRCULAR
BEAMCIRCULAR.ORG

BEAM Circular is a local nonprofit organization that was formed in January 2023 to support the implementation of the bioeconomy sector strategy recommended by the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint. We work with local communities, innovators, educators, and industry to grow the circular bioeconomy, build community prosperity, and support a healthy environment for all.

Stanislaus County's \$10 million ARPA Investment Plan

2023-2024

- **\$760,000 initiative seed funding** to launch BEAM Circular, refine strategies, and begin pilot activities

2024 - 2026

- **\$4.68 million for Cross-Cutting Initiatives**
 - BEAM Initiative Coordination, Community Engagement, & Delivery of Business and Workforce Development Services
 - Innovation Engine development via CBIO Collaborative to support regional innovation capacity
 - BEAM Fellows Program to build local leadership development
 - Planning and design for a Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus
- **\$2.2 million for Capital Connections to support job creation**
 - Anchor Firms Development Fund to support new projects that create large numbers of quality jobs
 - Matching Grants & Assistance for local small businesses to access public grants
- **\$1.56 million for Enabling Infrastructure**
 - Grants for Job Training Facilities & Equipment
 - Manufacturing Site Portfolio research and advancement
- **\$800K for additional Workforce Development Strategies**
 - Grants fund for local education and training providers to pilot and expand bioeconomy career training



Scan for more
information in English
and Spanish:



These projects are being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP2096 awarded to County of Stanislaus by the U.S. Department of the Treasury

At the heart of Stanislaus 2030 are two essential questions: How can we build a more resilient economy for more community members to experience financial well-being? And how can we support industry and small business growth in the next decade and beyond?

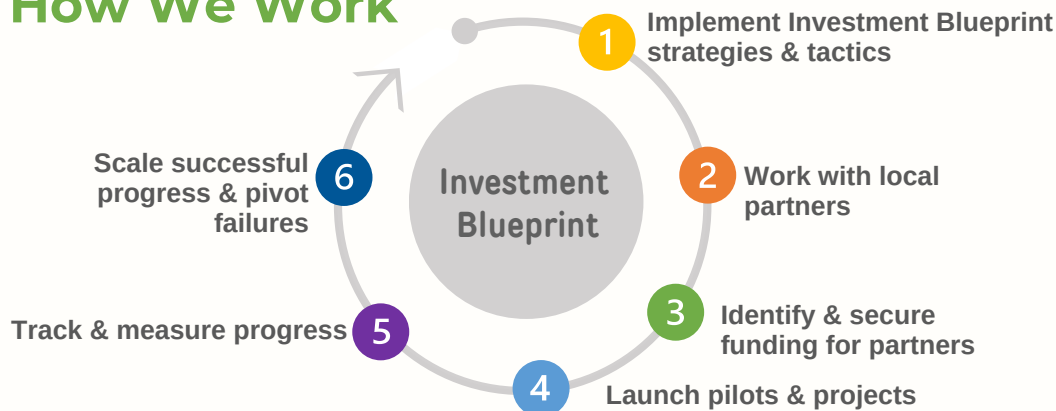
The Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint is a living document that includes the highest-leverage opportunities that will move our region's economy forward in the coming decade, highlights the strategies and next steps, and includes the estimated dollars needed to jumpstart each strategy.



STANISLAUS 2030



How We Work



Based on data and community and partner feedback, the following areas provide the greatest immediate opportunity for impact and implementation and are the current focus of Stanislaus 2030



Childcare Expansion

Addressing Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training

Challenge

- Stanislaus County is a child care desert
- Shortage for care is greatest for children 0 – 2 in poorer communities
- Need 17,000 additional licensed infant & toddler child care slots to meet workforce demand

Goal:

- 1,500 new or expanded child care businesses
- 12,000 new licensed child care slots
- Connect parents to subsidies



Small Business Support

Advancing Entrepreneurship & Small Business Dynamism

Challenge

- Stanislaus lags in business dynamism, suggesting under-performance in creation + sustainability of new ventures at scale
- Aspiring entrepreneurs face challenges in navigating permits
- Access to capital is limited compared to the small business needs

Goal:

- Increase the number of new and formalized small businesses
- Quality job growth among small businesses
- Catalyze enabling environment (i.e. access to capital, streamlined permitting, procurement strategy)



Talent Development

Strengthening The Workforce By Aligning Education & Industry

Challenge

- Manufacturing sector faces a workforce crisis where 25% of the current workforce is near retirement; impacting 3,400 positions
- A widening skills gap where technology outpaces existing training programs
- Poor perception of manufacturing jobs by aspiring learnings

Goal:

- Alignment between education and industry
- More job placements in manufacturing occupations
- Articulated career pathways into manufacturing jobs

To learn more, visit www.Stanislaus2030.com or scan and connect



Stanislaus County ARPA Funds | Strategic Investments

Lead Partner	Timeframe	Focus Area	Investment
Addressing Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training			
First Five Stanislaus	August 2023 - December 2026	Child Care Entrepreneurship Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Assessment, Pilot Design & Launch Incubate 200 Home-Based Childcare Businesses 	\$1,240,000
Entrepreneurship & Small Business Dynamism			
Stanislaus Workforce Development	August 2023 - December 2026	Small Business Ecosystem Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Stop Shop Design & Implementation Supplier Readiness Program Streamline Permitting Process Capacity Building for Service Providers Coordination & Facilitation Support 	\$2,227,000
Talent Development			
Stanislaus Workforce Development	August 2023 - December 2026	Manufacturing Workforce Sector Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry & Education Partner Collaboration Labor Market Analysis & Landscape Assessment Planning & Implementation Grants Coordination & Facilitation Support 	\$1,725,000
Central Valley Opportunity Center	March 2023 - June 2025	Upskill & Reskill Agriculture Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Federal Farmworker Training Program 	\$1,000,000
Governance & Capacity Building			
Stanislaus Community Foundation	August 2021 - December 2026	Stanislaus 2030 Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Blueprint Development Pilot Design & Implementation Project Consultation & Back Office Support Grant Writing Support Research & Evaluation Marketing & Community Engagement 	\$1,808,000
Traded Sector Development			
BEAM Circular	January 2023 - December 2026	Bioindustrial Manufacturing Growth Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative BEAM Fellows Pilot Program Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus Matching Grants for Research & Commercialization Anchor Firms Development Fund Site Portfolio Awareness & Readiness Grants for Job Training Facilities & Equipment Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund Initiative Pilot and Planning Design 	\$10,000,000
Total Investments			\$18,000,000

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November 2024