

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

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.6
AGENDA DATE: February 3, 2026

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of an Update on the Investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds Into Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint Strategies for the Period of October Through December 2025

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0053

On motion of Supervisor Withdraw Seconded by Supervisor B. Condit
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Withrow, Grewal, and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: C. Condit

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

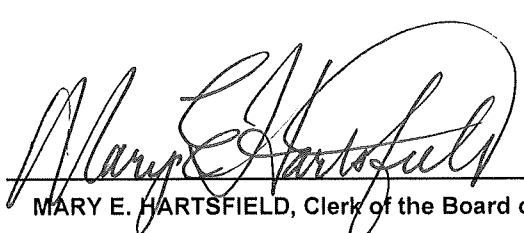
2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

This item was removed from the consent calendar for discussion and consideration.

ATTEST:  MARY E. HARTSFIELD, 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.6
AGENDA DATE: February 3, 2026

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 for the Period of October Through December 2025

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 2025.

DISCUSSION:

On August 10, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF) to provide consulting engagement in support of 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 a corresponding investment agenda to define the path necessary to achieve that vision. This effort also identified specific areas of potential investment for the County to consider when programming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding designated for Economic Development and Job Creation.

The resulting comprehensive investment document, the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint (Investment Blueprint), is based on an understanding of larger market forces and future trends; the current and future state of the 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
4. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism

The Investment Blueprint is available in English and Spanish at:
<https://www.stanislaus2030.com/dataandreports>

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

On January 31, 2023, the Board accepted an update on the Bioindustrial Manufacturing Strategy and approved a spending plan of up to \$10 million in ARPA funds for this strategy. The Board also 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 expectation that funding from private and public sources will materialize to reach this goal. On April 16, 2024, the Board approved an amendment to the contract, extending the term and including an additional \$110,000 for continuation of the strategies.

On March 14, 2023, the Board accepted an update on the other strategies and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an agreement with SCF in an amount not to exceed \$1.3 million for a three-year term.

Of this amount:

- \$700,000 was allocated for initial program support:
 - \$250,000 for the creation of a Manufacturing Talent-to-Industry Exchange
 - \$200,000 for childcare expansion
 - \$250,000 for entrepreneurship and small business dynamism
- \$600,000 was allocated for the formation and operations of the Stanislaus 2030 Intermediary Organization, which provides governance, capacity building, and administration of the strategies.

On November 7, 2023, the Board approved an amendment to include an additional \$60,000 for childcare expansion.

On March 28, 2023, the Board approved a \$1 million investment request from the Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC) to expand workforce development programs for farmworkers under the Investment Blueprint. This investment funded the expansion of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) to include farmworkers and their family members who would otherwise not qualify. This program ended on June 30, 2025 and is no longer required to submit quarterly reports.

On June 25, 2024, the Board heard a presentation on proposed initiatives under the focus areas of Childcare Expansion, Small Business Supports, and Talent Development, as well as proposed projects for advancing the Bioindustrial Manufacturing sector. The Board approved an agreement in the amount of \$500,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 with BEAM Circular to continue coordinating program design, business development, marketing, funding identification, policy advocacy, and performance tracking.

On August 13, 2024, the Board approved:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Stanislaus County Workforce Development for \$2 million (Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism) and \$1.5 million (Talent Development)
2. An MOU with First 5 Stanislaus for the Childcare Entrepreneurship Program in the amount of \$1 million
3. An agreement with SCF for project consultation and evaluation in the amount of \$565,500

At the same meeting, the Board obligated an additional \$8,740,000 of ARPA and State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program funds for BEAM Circular to implement projects and programs for the Bioindustrial Manufacturing strategy, amending the agreement to a total not-to-exceed amount of \$9,240,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

On August 27, 2024, December 17, 2024, February 25, 2025, May 20, 2025, August 27, 2025, and November 18, 2025 the Board accepted updates on ARPA investments into Stanislaus 2030 strategies covering the period from May 2024 through September 2025.

Update: The Stanislaus 2030 Quarterly Report for October through December 2025 activities is attached. Quarterly updates will continue to keep the Board of Supervisors and the public apprised of progress.

POLICY ISSUE:

Contractors and subrecipients receiving 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 of the total program funding deployed through Stanislaus 2030 and BEAM Circular are provided as Attachment 2, *BEAM Circular Investment Nov 24*, and Attachment 3, *Stanislaus 2030 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 County 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 2025)
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, 2025



INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

As of December 15, 2025

CHILD CARE EXPANSION

Partnered with First 5 Stanislaus to expand Nurture Childcare Entrepreneurship Program Across the County



96

New Home-Based Child Care Businesses Launched



768



Permanent Licensed Child Care Slots Created

Supported Child Care Co-op feasibility study



Expanded Nurture's Course Offerings



State Licensing and Business Essentials



Maximize Profitability



License and Business Expansion

TALENT DEVELOPMENT



In partnership with Stanislaus County Workforce Development, we invested

\$1,062,977

in six catalytic projects to advance manufacturing workforce strategies.



Contracted with Bienestar Community Economics to support manufacturing career pathway mapping and provide coaching to grantees

Partnered with MCCV to support industry engagement



MANUFACTURERS COUNCIL of the CENTRAL VALLEY

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS

Partnered with Valley Sierra SBDC to develop a **Supplier Readiness Program** to help local businesses secure contracts with large buyers.



64

Hours of business consulting provided since fall launch

Secured

\$374,990

in new contracts for local businesses



Procurement Assessment

With the support of our partners at NextStreet and Valley Sierra SBDC, we conducted interviews with large purchasers including, local government, private sector companies, industry intermediaries, as well as supplier capital providers.

STREAMLINED PERMITTING

5

Chambers

Invested in five local Chambers of Commerce to engage small business owners

90



Small Businesses interviewed including, main street, supplier, rural, and high growth firms

Assessed small business permitting process in



8

Jurisdictions

ADVANCING IMPACT

Evaluation



Onboarded three program specific evaluators to document successes, challenges, and lessons learned, as well as broader system and program changes — including emerging partnerships, policy shifts, and other meaningful ripple effects.

Resource Development

Contracted with grant writer to research public & private funding streams that align with Stanislaus 2030 priorities and support grantees through proposal process.



Helped partners raise / leverage

\$4,225,700





Stanislaus 2030 Goal:

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Nov 13 - Hosted Advisory Committee meeting, which focused on Manufacturing Workforce Development Fund grant awards, community engagement and evaluation strategy.

EVALUATION

- MK Bailey completed narrative evaluation data collection, which included a focus group with representatives from childcare, small business, and talent development action teams in October and a partner survey in November. First draft of interim report submitted to Stanislaus 2030 staff in December.
- Contracted with Shayla Spilker Consulting to evaluate Manufacturing Workforce sector grantees.
- Childcare evaluator (Kris Hele) developed Participant Survey for Nurture childcare program

REGIONAL & STATE COORDINATION

- Oct 22-23 - Attended California Economic Summit in Stockton
- Nov 5-6 - Attended California Circular Bioeconomy Summit hosted by BEAM Circular in Turlock
- Nov 17 - Participated in California Jobs First Statewide Early Childhood Education Cohort, which included a presentation on New Mexico's childcare expansion initiative
- Nov 19 - Attended North Valley THRIVE's Steering Committee

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Conducted funding scan across workforce development with focus on credit for prior learning, dual enrollment, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and intermediary support.
- Worked directly with Nurture to identify and advance two proposals: Nasdaq Foundation with a \$85,000 ask focused on financial literacy, capital readiness, and small business and Worker Lab fellowship opportunity to advance childcare worker owned cooperative
- Met with the local SBDC to explore partnership opportunities tied to workforce and small business development and began follow-up research based on that conversation.
- Completed private foundation analysis to identify historical giving patterns, priority issue areas, and realistic funding targets that aligned with Stanislaus 2030 priorities.

NEWSLETTERS ([SUBSCRIBE HERE](#))

- Oct - Celebrating Manufacturing Month: \$1.06 Million in Local Workforce Grants Awarded!
- Dec - Thank You for an Impactful 2025 with Stanislaus 2030



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.

Lead Partner:

Stanislaus County
Workforce Development

As part of the Small Business Streamlined Permitting Strategy under Stanislaus 2030, the consultant Next Street conducted a comprehensive assessment that included interviews with six cities and two county departments involved in the permitting process (interviews with Patterson and Waterford pending). In addition, local chambers of commerce were contracted to conduct 90 in-depth interviews with small business owners to better understand their experiences, identify barriers, and surface opportunities to improve permitting. Interview findings were shared with municipal and chamber partners in November.

Streamlined Permitting Assessment: Approach

The goal of the assessment is to propose policy, process, and digital solutions that could reduce delays, increase transparency, and improve customer experience in the permitting process

	Municipal Interviews	Small Business Interviews
Who	Municipal permitting offices in Stanislaus County	Small businesses in Stanislaus County
Objectives	Understand the current permitting processes in the County	Explore small business challenges with permitting processes
Completed Interviews	- City of Oakdale - City of Turlock - City of Modesto - City of Ceres - City of Riverbank - Stanislaus County - City of Hughson - City of Newman	- Main Street businesses: 64 - Supplier businesses: 11 - High-growth businesses: 15
Preliminary Topics	- Permitting journeys for small businesses - Common pain points, delays, or bottlenecks observed - Opportunities for greater efficiency or coordination	- Challenges business owners face with permitting - Opportunities for clearer communication and better support - Insight for the design of a One-Stop Shop where businesses can access services and guidance in one place

Summary: Challenges and Opportunities

Common Challenges	Opportunities
Lack of clear, predictable, and centralized information – zoning confusion, lack of step-by-step guidance Slow communication and limited customer support – no consistent “front door” Long processing times and bottlenecks in reviews – delays driven by multi-department handoffs; Health and Fire as source of slowdowns Inconsistent interpretation of codes and requirements – differing interpretations between city and County High and unpredictable costs – applicants are often surprised by cost Staffing and capacity constraints – limited capacity to guide applicants Siloed departments and challenging city-county coordination – no shared system, shared standards, or service-level expectations Manual and outdated systems – paper forms with limited visibility	Create a centralized, county-aligned information hub with standard templates, timelines, steps, and FAQs Improve customer support via a dedicated point of contact or “business navigator” for small businesses Expand access to pre-application consultations and office hours Streamline processes and reduce bottlenecks across workflows and align interpretation of codes/requirements Improve transparency of costs and requirements via published fee schedules with typical cost ranges Build staff capacity through shared resources and cross-training Formalize coordination between city and County agencies by establishing service-level expectations for review timelines and clear escalation pathways Modernize permitting technology and systems with online applications, digital routing, and dashboards



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Lead Partner:

**Stanislaus County
Workforce Development**

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING

During this past quarter, CAMEO Network focused on strengthening the lending capacity and operational readiness of participating Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) through targeted assessment, planning, and program design. CDFIs are entities that specialize in providing affordable financing products to communities and populations that lack adequate access to capital and/or financial services with an intent to promote economic, housing, and/or social opportunity. These financial products are provided together with development services such as financial literacy education and small business coaching and consulting.

CAMEO conducted comprehensive assessments of each participating CDFI to better understand their current lending products, internal systems, staffing capacity, and growth goals. Based on these assessments, CAMEO developed customized coaching and development plans tailored to the specific needs and opportunities of each institution.

To increase and optimize lending capacity, CAMEO designed a blended support model that combines one-on-one coaching with peer-based cohort sessions. During this quarter, CAMEO developed curriculum and supporting materials focused on:

- Small business loan product development
- Lending strategies aligned with community and market needs
- Operational best practices to support sustainable portfolio growth

Key activities and progress during the quarter include:

- Research and data analysis were conducted using multiple small business datasets relevant to Stanislaus County, with a specific focus on supporting the needs and strategic planning of Rolling F Credit Union.
- CAMEO began coordinating introductions between local CDFIs and state-level credit enhancement programs, including the California Loan Guarantee Program and CalCAP, to expand access to risk mitigation tools and capital leverage opportunities.

These activities position participating CDFIs to enter the next phase of implementation with clear action plans, strengthened technical capacity, and improved access to lending resources that support small business growth in the region.

ONE-STOP SOLUTION

Research:

- Stanislaus Workforce Development (Workforce) continued reviewing and analyzing county and state one-stop shop models to evaluate best practices in resource delivery, accessibility, and supporting infrastructure.

Collaboration and Peer Learning:

- Workforce met with Cook County to gain insight into their one-stop service delivery structure and has initiated coordination with the South Carolina Business One Stop for an upcoming meeting. In addition, Workforce met with Next Street to review overall progress, align on activities, and discuss key findings emerging from related work groups.

Data Collection and Business Engagement:

- Workforce conducted a logo preference survey with businesses at the Central Valley Business Expo and engaged 19 businesses in outreach efforts. Of those, five businesses agreed to participate and completed in-depth interviews to inform the development of the Small Business One Stop Shop.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS



Vision

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Lead Partner:

**Stanislaus County
Workforce Development**

SUPPLIER READINESS

With support from Stanislaus 2030, Valley Sierra SBDC launched its Supplier Readiness Initiative in response to a growing regional concern that small businesses were consistently being outbid by larger firms for local public and private contracts. As highlighted in the Valley Sierra SBDC article "Unlocking Opportunities: New Government Contracting & Supplier Readiness Initiative has Launched!", the initiative is designed to keep business local by equipping small businesses with the knowledge, tools, and technical assistance needed to successfully pursue contracting opportunities.

Since its launch in July, the initiative has promoted its services to more than 200 businesses across the region. To date, 32 businesses have participated in one-on-one consulting.

In addition, Valley Sierra SBDC hosted two targeted workshops in collaboration with the Stanislaus County and City of Modesto Purchasing Departments, helping participants better understand local government procurement processes and best practices for competing successfully.

Building on this momentum, the initiative plans to release a Government Contracting webinar series in February 2026 and host a regional procurement expo in April 2026 to further expand access to contracting opportunities for local small businesses.



CHILDCARE EXPANSION



Vision

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

Lead Partners:

First 5 Stanislaus & Nurture

CONTRACT AMENDMENT & TRAINING EXPANSION

- First 5 Stanislaus amended Nurture contract in November to expand program services to include existing providers who wish to strengthen or grow their businesses and establish a tiered system of training & financial incentives across provider continuum, which is outlined below:

Nurture Trainings	Business Start-Up	Business Operations	Business Expansion
Target Audience	Up to 200 aspiring entrepreneurs	Up to 50 licensed home child care entrepreneurs with 3+ months' experience	Up to 30 licensed home child care entrepreneurs with 1+ year of experience
Incentive	\$2,500 will be provided to each entrepreneur who completes the required Business Start-Up coursework and obtains licensure.	\$1,000 will be provided to each entrepreneur who completes the required Business Operations course, including adopting business software and tools.	Up to \$5,000 will be provided to each entrepreneur who completes the required Business Expansion course and obtains a large family child care home license.
Cohort Schedule	Jan 10 - Apr 1 Mar 2 - May 25 May 13 - Aug 5 July 7 - Sept 29 Sept 14 - Dec 7	Jan 17 - Mar 21 Apr 7 - Jul 10 August course TBD	Jan 17 - Mar 21 April course TBD July course TBD

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

- Media Stories - Two feature stories in November, including **Modesto Focus** [article](#) on Nurture training program and **Univision** [interview](#) with Nurture team and Stanislaus County provider

Debrief Outreach	October	November	December
Events/ Organization	Airport Community FRC, Patterson Bailoton, Flea Market - El Rematito, Sisterhood Ministry, River Road Market - Modesto/Ceres, Summary Market, La Placita Michoacan Grocery Store, Simi Laundry	Vision y Compromiso, Coin Express Laundry, La Michoacana Carniceria, Movie & Art Group - El Concilio, Small Business Symposium, Flea Market - El Rematito, Del Monte foods, Birdie Wash and Dry Laundry, North Modesto Neighborhoods Canvassing, La Panaderia Mexican Bakery, El Sol Market, Modesto Junior College Library & Learning Center, Obreins Market, Laundry Day, Waterford Library, Gil's Pharmacy, Erika's Beauty Hair Salon, Robertson Elementary, Marshall, Burbank, Waterford ELAC Meeting, Saturday Night Market, Roosevelt Junior High School, Bookish	North Modesto Family Resource Center, South Modesto Family Resource Center, Xtreme Nutrition & The Sister's Zumba Class, North Modesto Sierra Vista Family Resource Center, Vallarta Supermarket, Second Harvest, Waterford Holiday Market, Patterson Promotora Family Resource Center, Modesto Flea Market
Types of Outreach	Presentations, Flyer Drop Off, Tabling/Pop-up	Door-to-Door Canvassing, Presentations, Flyer Drop Off, Tabling/Pop-up	Presentations, Flyer Drop Off, Tabling/Pop-up, Door-to-Door Canvassing, Text Message Campaign
Demographic	Stay-at-Home Mom, Immigrant Mom Entrepreneur, Wellness & Fitness Connector, Worker Mom, Faith-Based Community Caregiver	Cannery Worker Mom, Stay-at-Home Mom, Immigrant Mom Entrepreneur, Faith-Based Community Caregiver, Community College Student	Wellness & Fitness Connector, Stay-at-home Mom, Immigrant Mom Entrepreneur
Priority ZIP Codes	Ceres (95307), North Modesto (95350), West Modesto (95351), South Modesto (95358), Waterford (95386)	Ceres (95307), West Modesto (95351) North Modesto (95350), South Modesto (95358), Waterford (95386)	Ceres (95307), West Modesto (95351), North Modesto (95350), South Modesto (95358), Waterford (95386), Patterson (95363)

Vision

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

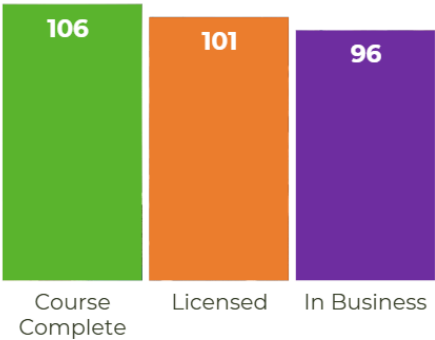
Lead Partners:

First 5 Stanislaus & Nurture

RESULTS & IMPACT SINCE THE JANUARY 2024 PILOT LAUNCH

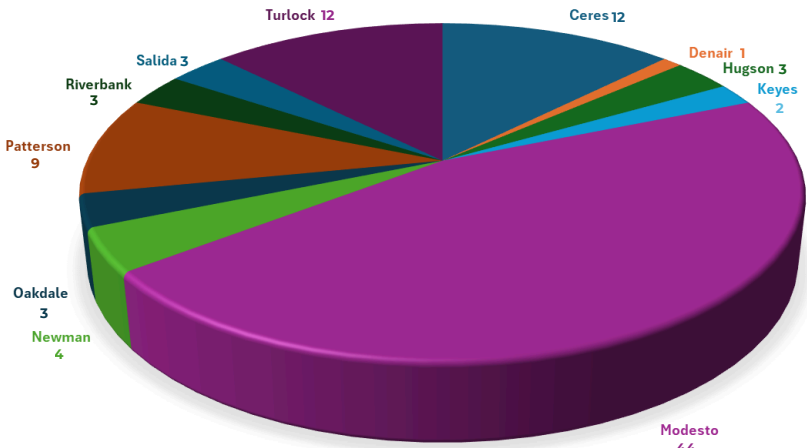
\$26 million annual economic impact of businesses started to date

96 NewBusiness Starts
as of December 31, 2025

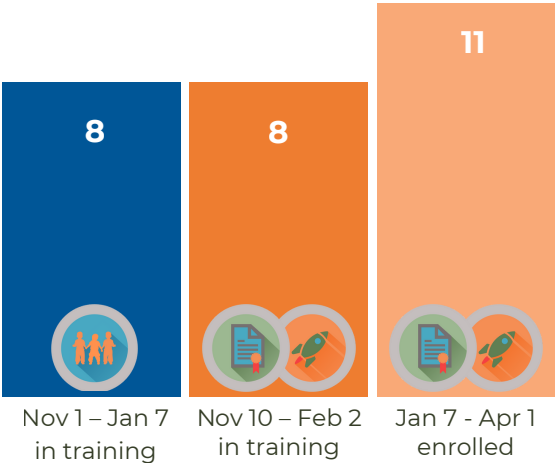


- Exceeded target for course completion
- Shortened duration of licensing process
- Confident in knowledge to run business
- Reached low-income, Latina target audience
- 768 permanent licensed spaces to date

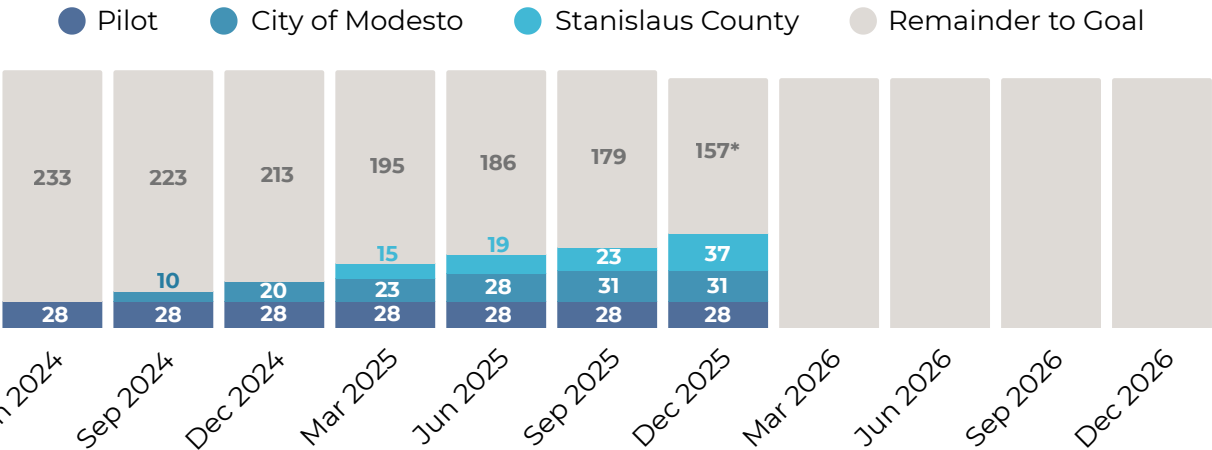
New Child Care Businesses by City



27 in Training or Enrolled
as of January 1, 2026



Progress Toward December 2026 Goal: 253 Child Care Businesses
Total Invoiced—Business Start-Up, Business Operations, Business Growth



* Updated target is based on contract expansion to include additional Nurture courses

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.

Lead Partner:

**Stanislaus County
Workforce Development**

QUARTER ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

- Oct 9 - Toured Patterson High Supply Chain and Logistics Pathway & Ceres High Manufacturing, Production, and Green Technology Academy
- Oct 29 - Attended Valley Made Summit in Fresno with North Valley stakeholders to gather critical on-the-ground insights and best practices to inform the 2026 North Valley Manufacturing Summit, which MCCV & SPIE will launch to bring together manufacturers, educators, and CTE students to increase awareness of manufacturing jobs and career pathways, and alignment between manufacturing and educational professionals.
- Nov 13 - Briefed California Workforce Development Board Director, Kaina Pereira, on Stanislaus 2030 talent development priorities
- Dec 17 - Presented to Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley Workforce Development committee

MANUFACTURING SECTOR CAREER PATHWAY MAP

- Continued to validate and share the Sector Strategy Framework and Career Pathways Map that identifies key industry needs, highlights high-demand occupations, and outlines career pathways that can bridge gaps between employer demand and workforce needs.
- Hosted sector strategy validation meetings with education, industry, and workforce partners to gather feedback on the strategy maps; incorporated feedback and refined maps.

[View the Manufacturing Sector Pathway Map Digital Packet](#)

MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE FUND GRANT AWARDS

- Through a competitive grant process in partnership with Stanislaus Workforce Development, we invested \$1,062,977 in six catalytic projects to advance manufacturing workforce strategies



Launching a student-run manufacturing enterprise to provide students with paid manufacturing experience aligned with industry needs.



Delivering a work-based learning program to prepare participants for manufacturing careers.



Organizing a manufacturing convening to align Stanislaus County stakeholders around shared workforce and industry priorities.



Developing and launching the Industry and Trades PATCH program to advance career pathways in skilled trades.



Expanding paid apprenticeships and internships for high school students in manufacturing-adjacent careers.



Expanding its 13-week Fast Track program to rapidly reskill machine operators into automation technicians.

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.

Lead Partner:
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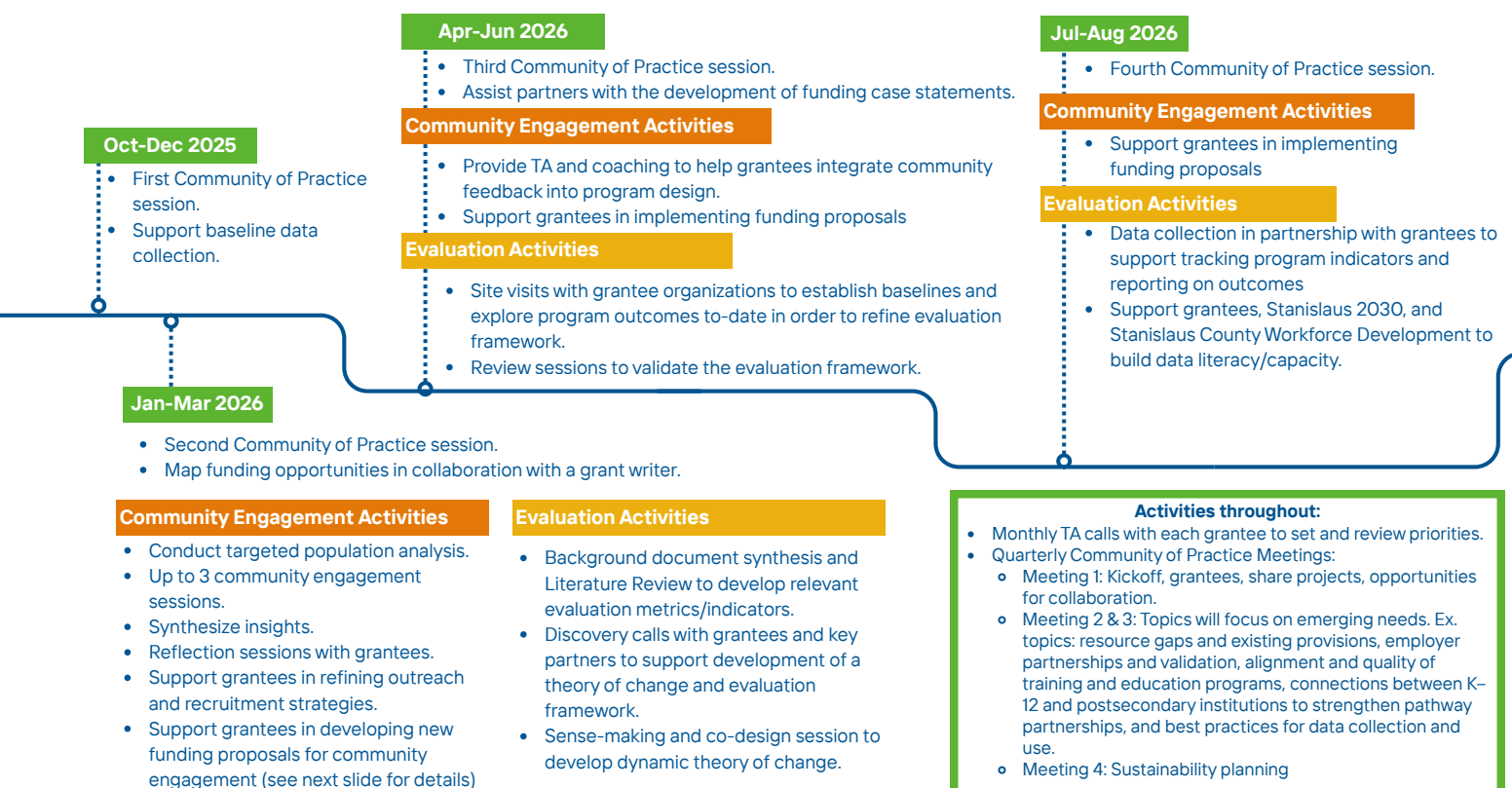
PROJECT LAUNCH FOR GRANTEEES

- Developed detailed scopes of work from grantee applications to support project planning and implementation.
- Hosted kickoff meetings with funded grantees to review scopes of work, clarify expectations, and address questions prior to project launch.
- Conducted feedback sessions with three unfunded applicants to strengthen future applications.
- Hosted check-in meetings with all grantees to introduce evaluation and community engagement activities, collect baseline data, surface early challenges, and inform the design of a grantee community of practice.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND EVALUATION SUPPORT FOR GRANTEEES

- Scoped evaluation and community engagement activities to provide additional levels of support for grantees; identified experts to lead these activities (Shayla Spilker for evaluation and Nancy Martinez/Debrief for Community Engagement).
- Mapped existing and new funding streams to support the manufacturing workforce sector strategies.
- Compiled baseline data from pilot project grantees to measure early-stage progress.

Technical Assistance Plan: January – October 2026 Including COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and EVALUATION Activities



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

QUARTER ACTIVITIES

CBIO Collaborative

Initiative 2: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative

- BEAM Circular hosted BioCirCA 2025, the California Circular Bioeconomy Summit, at California State University, Stanislaus on November 5-6. The event brought together more than 400 industry leaders, policymakers, educators, and community members over the two days. BioCirCA featured 83 speakers who shared their expertise and perspectives during the event.
- Read the full event recap [here](#), and view the highlights video [here](#).



(Up Left) President Britt Rios-Ellis, (Down Left) Supervisor Terry Withrow, (Up Right) Stanislaus State Latin Jazz Band and BioCirCA Participants, (Middle Right) Keynote Fireside Chat with Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross and BEAM Circular CEO Karen Warner, (Down Right) BEAM Board Member and former US Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, CA State Senator Jerry McNerney, and Karen Warner

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT



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

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

CBIO Collaborative:

Initiative 2: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative

- The governance structure guiding the CBIO Collaborative's work continues to convene:
 - The Community Steering Committee met three times (October 24, November 6, December 4).
 - The Research & Development Steering Committee met three times (October 20, November 6, November 25).
 - The Industry Development Steering Committee met three times (October 21, November 6, December 16).
 - The Workforce Development Steering Committee met three times (October 17, November 6, December 10).
 - The Leadership Council met for the second time in 2025 on December 5.
 - The Core Management Team met on October 14 and November 24.
- The CBIO Collaborative hosted two webinars this quarter:
 - Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee: CEQA Reform (October 14)
 - People, Place, and Prosperity in the North San Joaquin Valley (October 17)
- The CBIO Collaborative closed the year with an active network of 182 organizational members.

2025 CBIO COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS



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.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development

Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative

Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

- With support from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided by Stanislaus County, launched two competitive grant programs on June 9, totaling \$2.3 million, to strengthen local schools, school districts, and workforce training providers.
- In Q4 2025, the two programs—Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund (5 proposals received) and the Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund (13 proposals received) — generated 18 total proposals.
- BEAM convened an independent evaluation panel to review and score all submissions, leading to final award recommendations. Contracting is currently underway, with a total of 12 projects selected for funding across the two programs in this second round.

The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund:

- Modesto Junior College - Exploring Bioeconomy Curriculum Pathways for the Central Valley - \$82,754 - Modesto Junior College (MJC) is designing cross-disciplinary curriculum pathways aligned with Central Valley bioeconomy workforce needs. Led by Dr. Erynn Lucas, the project will fund faculty release time and externships at institutions like Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, JBEI, and Solano College, and engage regional employers to identify key skills and credentials. The initiative will produce a roadmap for stackable certificates and new courses, strengthening equitable career pathways and positioning MJC as a regional leader in bioeconomy education.
- Modesto Junior College - Bioeconomy Educator Training Initiative - \$67,000 - Modesto Junior College (MJC) will deploy a faculty development project to better align its programs with California's circular bioeconomy workforce needs. The initiative will provide hands-on training and industry exposure for 12–16 STEM faculty in areas like synthetic biology, fermentation, and NextGen sequencing, enabling them to update and create new biotech/biomanufacturing courses and CTE pathways. The project will indirectly benefit hundreds of first-generation and Hispanic students by expanding access to high-demand STEM skills and strengthening the region's long-term talent pipeline.

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.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont).

Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment

Initiative 9: Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund (cont):

- Walnut Elementary Education Center - Expand and Enhance Math and Science Magnet Program - \$50,874 - This project will serve over 900 underserved students by expanding Walnut Elementary's integrated STEM program focused on sustainability, renewable energy, and circular economy principles. The project will add hands-on gardening and hydroponics (Flex Farm plus raised beds with sensors), technology-rich STEM tools (robotics, coding kits, 3D printers, iPads, microscopes), and family engagement events to strengthen early exposure to green STEM careers and support the region's future bioeconomy workforce pipeline.
- Ignited & Stanislaus Partners in Education - Bioeconomy Experience Week and the Learning Community seminar - \$99,998 - The program will immerse middle and high school educators in local bioindustrial manufacturing, biotech, agriculture, and sustainability through field visits and curriculum workshops, resulting in standards-aligned lessons that connect students to real-world skills and careers in California's circular bioeconomy.
- Salida Middle School - Biotech Pathways: A Middle School Lab-Based Introduction to the Bioeconomy - \$12,000 - Biotech Pathways is a hands-on, three-year biotechnology program for underserved 6th–8th graders that builds early STEM interest through real-world lab experiences and themed learning each year. In partnership with Blue Diamond, students also gain exposure to local biotech careers through mentorship and industry engagement, helping strengthen the region's future bioeconomy workforce pipeline.
- Stanislaus County Office of Education - Child & Family Services Division bioeconomy program - \$100,000 - SCOE will develop new play-based STEAM resources for early learners (birth–grade 3) that introduce circularity, bioeconomy, and life science through hands-on activities like composting, upcycling, and plant investigations. The project will embed sustainability and systems thinking into early education while engaging educators and families to build curiosity, creativity, and environmental responsibility from a young age.
- yūda ayuda - Ignite EmTech Futures: Pathways into Biomanufacturing through Industry 4.0 Tools - \$95,500 - This workforce training program for underserved Central Valley residents will build Industry 4.0 skills (automation, IoT, data) for bioeconomy-related careers. The program aims to train 75 learners in 2026 and connect participants to certifications and local job opportunities through employer partnerships.

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.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)

Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment

Initiative 9: Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund (cont):

- Stan State University - Modesto Junior College - Strengthening Pathways to Biotechnology Careers by STEM Education and Workforce - \$100,000 - this program will strengthen biotechnology education and workforce pathways in Stanislaus County, expanding access to industry-aligned training for students from rural and underserved communities. The project will create a new 18-credit Biotechnology Certificate Program, including a new elective course, "AI in Biology," and an industry-connected internship or research experience. The initiative also includes iBGLOREA Summer School, a one-week hands-on program for 20 local high school students, and a two-day professional development workshop for 20 K-12 and community college educators, helping them integrate biotech and circular bioeconomy concepts into learning and share career pathways with students. In addition, students will gain work-based learning through research assistantships and collaborations with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Over two years, the project expects to reach approximately 1,200 students, educators, and workers, strengthening regional job readiness and long-term economic growth.
- Bay Area Bioscience Education Community (BABEC) - Building a Sustainable Bioeconomy Ecosystem in Stanislaus County through Teacher Training, Equipment Access, Microbadging, and Career Exposure - \$89,500 - BABEC, in partnership with BCSI, BioLink Depot, and Biocom Institute, will expand biotechnology education and workforce pathways in Stanislaus County by training 15 teachers through a 3-day Summer Biotech Bootcamp. The program provides hands-on lab training, NGSS-aligned curriculum, industry microcredentials, donated lab supplies for classroom implementation, and career exposure through company tours and panels—reaching 1,800 students and scaling to 9,000 over five years.
- Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) - Career Inspiration Center bioeconomy sector a hands-on experience - \$23,800 - SCOE's Career Inspiration Center (CIC) will strengthen Stanislaus County's bioeconomy workforce pipeline by offering a hands-on, career-connected program for grades 7-12 that integrates agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and circular bioeconomy principles. In partnership with Stanislaus Foods, and Corto Olive Co., students will gain practical experience in hydroponic growing, food processing, and repurposing byproducts into valuable resources like fiber, oil, and lycopene.

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.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)

Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment

Initiative 9: Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund:

- Modesto Junior College - Advancing Biotechnology & Bioengineering Training in the Valley - \$208,800 - this program will enhance its biotechnology and bioengineering training capacity by purchasing industry-relevant laboratory equipment—including a bioreactor, qPCR machine, and additional biotech tools—and integrating them into existing STEM instruction. This investment will expand hands-on, skills-based learning aligned with regional workforce needs in the circular bioeconomy, while supporting BEAM Circular's mission to prepare students for high-demand careers in biomanufacturing, biotechnology, bioengineering, chemical engineering, and other bio-based industries. The project will strengthen institutional capacity by upgrading lab infrastructure for advanced bioprocessing and circular bioeconomy applications, and it will broaden access to industry-aligned training for low-income, first-generation, and historically underserved students by embedding new equipment into high-enrollment courses such as Biology 101/116 and Chemistry 101/102, along with additional STEM courses across the department. Curriculum enhancements will also be informed by regional employer feedback and support career-focused pathways, including emerging programs such as a Chemical Technician Certificate. Over a two-year period, approximately 7,000 students will benefit from improved lab-based learning, scaling to an estimated 17,500 students over five years, while strengthening instructional capacity and professional development for approximately 10 faculty and staff.
- Patterson Joint Unified School District - PJUSD Agriculture, Wet Lab, and Bioeconomy Expansion Initiative - \$134,774.44 - PJUSD, a Title I district, will launch a districtwide bioeconomy pathway starting in middle school and continuing through high school graduation. The project will establish a STEM Starter Lab and middle school FFA program at Creekside Middle School, then modernize Patterson High School's horticulture facilities with upgraded greenhouse systems and hydroponic infrastructure to provide industry-standard training in plant science and sustainable agriculture. Students will gain hands-on experience, access industry-recognized certifications and dual enrollment with Modesto Junior College, and graduate better prepared for college and career opportunities in the region's agricultural economy, supported by long-term district investment and strong education-industry partnerships.

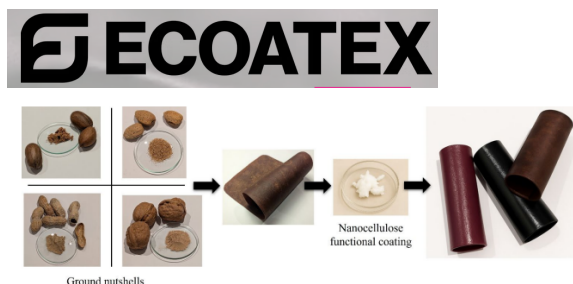


QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- **Business Grants:** In the first half of 2025, BEAM Circular announced multiple business funding opportunities supported by the California Jobs First Economic Development Pilot Grant, advancing a diverse portfolio of 21 businesses through BEAM's business programs and six companies through BEAM's first Accelerator cohort, delivered in partnership with gener8tor. BEAM deployed a total of \$2.2 million from this State funding to support companies developing technologies that convert agricultural and food-processing residues from the North San Joaquin Valley into higher-value products, including food and feed ingredients, renewable energy, biodegradable materials, sustainable chemicals, fertilizers, textiles, and advanced materials. In Q4, BEAM completed the disbursement of this funding and continued supported participating companies in establishing or expanding regional R&D, creating jobs, strengthening demand for local agricultural byproducts, and advancing commercialization pathways that contribute to a more resilient and circular regional bioeconomy.
- **Job Creation Spotlight:** From the CA Jobs First Economic Development Pilot Grant, BEAM supported a company called ECOATEX, which received \$75,000 from BEAM to support its launch of regional R&D activities in Stanislaus County (Turlock), including early-stage research and validation. ECOATEX is currently hiring a project manager locally and is actively interviewing candidates. These efforts are expected to strengthen local R&D capacity, advance technical milestones, and lay the groundwork for future job creation.



- **International Business Engagement:** Neal Best, Vice President of Business and Economic Development, attended the Bio Base Europe "Pitch Perfect" Conference in Brussels on November 24–25, 2025, and toured the BBEU pilot facility in Ghent, Belgium. During this visit, Neal met with multiple European companies interested in exploring California as a potential U.S. landing location, with strong sentiment that California is viewed as a stable and attractive market in the current economic and political climate. The tour of BBEU's mature, multi-client pilot facility also provided valuable insights into potential phasing strategies for the BEAM Innovation Campus being developed in Stanislaus County, helping to inform long-term service planning.
- **Accelerator:** BEAM Circular and gener8tor launched applications for the second BEAM Circular Accelerator cohort, funded through CA Jobs First, which will support five high-growth startups advancing circular bioeconomy solutions. The program provides capital, coaching, and connections to help founders grow into high-value companies with scalable solutions and infrastructure. Applications closed January 11, 2026. The program will kick off on March 5, 2026, and conclude in May 2026 with BEAM Circular's BioCatalyst conference.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (cont)

- **Regional Economic Development:** BEAM Circular, VOLT Institute, and Opportunity Stanislaus hosted the regional tour “Building the Bioeconomy: Biotech Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development in California’s Agricultural Heartland” on October 21 as part of the California Economic Summit. This immersive field trip offered participants a closer look at the people, industries, and innovations shaping the North San Joaquin Valley—an agricultural and manufacturing powerhouse that is rapidly emerging as a global leader in the circular bioeconomy. Participants explored how local companies are transforming biomass waste streams into valuable products, advancing sustainability, and creating good jobs in industrial biomanufacturing. The tour included four stops:
 - Delicato Family Wines – Tour of one of North America’s largest wine production facilities.
 - VOLT Institute – Lunch and roundtable discussion with CBIO Collaborative workforce and industry partners (Modesto Junior College, UC Merced, and Stanislaus County -based companies Divert and Terra Rosa), followed by a facility tour.
 - Flory Industries & Caribou Biofuels – Visit highlighting how a local, family-owned agricultural equipment manufacturer diversified operations to produce machines for Caribou Biofuels that convert agricultural and forestry waste into energy, soil amendments, and activated carbon.
 - Travaille & Phippen – Tour of an almond hulling and shelling operation, including a discussion on how California’s almond industry is investing in coproduct innovation.



(Up Left) Muriel Dewilde BBEU and Neal Best in Ghent, Belgium,
(Down Left) CA Economic Summit tour at VOLT (Up Left) CA Economic Summit tour at Flory Industries & Caribou Biofuels

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Innovation Campus Planning (Testbed Facility Development)

Initiative 4: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

- BEAM Circular has made its first major equipment acquisition for the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus with the purchase of a state-of-the-art pilot-scale gas fermentation system. This system will enable companies to pilot and scale technologies that convert waste gases into products such as sustainable proteins, chemicals, fuels, and materials. By reducing technical risk and lowering barriers to scale, the equipment will support near-term industry engagement and help catalyze new biomanufacturing activity in the Central Valley.
- While the Innovation Campus is under development, the gas fermentation system will be hosted at Mango Materials' production facility in Vacaville, where it will integrate with Mango's methane-to-biomaterials platform. This partnership allows BEAM to activate the equipment immediately and begin supporting industry pilots ahead of the Campus buildout.
- In parallel, BEAM Circular, in partnership with JLL, in Q4 2025 conducted multiple site visits as part of its ongoing search for the optimal location to host the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus. This process is expected to identify the Campus site and "home" in 2026.

Innovation

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- As part of the BioCircular Valley collaborative research project, BEAM Circular completed the selection process for a software development firm to support the next phase of work. The selected firm will develop a web-based data portal that makes project-generated data accessible, usable, and actionable to advance circular bioeconomy activity in the North San Joaquin Valley (NSJV). Development will incorporate ongoing user feedback and user-centered design activities led by BEAM Circular.
- On December 8, a video documenting BEAM Circular's BioCircular Valley user feedback workshop was released on project partner UC ANR's YouTube channel. The video can be viewed at this [link](#).



((Left) CA Economic Summit tour at Flory Industries & Caribou Biofuels (Right) Gas fermentation system purchased for California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- On October 7, BEAM Circular was highlighted by the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) for securing a \$750,000 working capital line of credit to support growth and cash flow during grant reimbursement cycles. The financing was strengthened through key partnerships, including James Irvine Foundation grant support that reduced the interest rate to 0%, and a Nor-Cal FDC loan guarantee through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Loan Guarantee Program. The full article is available at this [link](#).
- On October 14th Briefed the Riverbank City Council during a public meeting, sharing information on BEAM Circular, the circular bioeconomy, and potential opportunities for collaboration.
- October 22 and 23, BEAM CEO Karen Warner and Krystal Acierto, VP of Public Policy, attended the California Economic Summit, participating in discussions and networking focused on bioeconomy and advanced manufacturing job and economic development opportunities.
- On October 22–23, Gloriamar Gamez, Chief Program Officer, participated in the World Economic Forum's Urban Transformation Summit in San Francisco, joining CEOs, public leaders, investors, and innovators focused on turning ideas into scalable action and investment. BEAM Circular is proud to contribute to this global dialogue, highlighting how the North San Joaquin Valley's emerging bioeconomy can advance community prosperity, workforce innovation, and sustainable industry growth.
- On November 6, 2025, BEAM Circular co-hosted a California Bioeconomy Roadmap session with CA FWD as part of a CBIO Collaborative workshop at BioCirCA 2025. The session convened cross-sector partners from across the state to discuss key bioeconomy challenges and opportunities that require statewide strategy, coordinated action, and a unified state-level bioeconomy plan.
- On November 19, Krystal Acierto, VP of Public Policy, participated in the Bioenergy Association of California's fall member meeting in Oakland, where BEAM's Innovation Campus was highlighted as a success story for the year—recognized for securing capital and making meaningful progress on a key bioeconomy project.



California Bioeconomy Roadmap session with CA FWD as part of a CBIO Collaborative workshop at BioCirCA 2025, Stan State

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy (cont)

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- On December 3, BEAM Circular was honored to host the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology ([NSCEB](#)) during its California visit—the twelfth stop on the Commission’s Biotech Across America Roadshow, designed to gather on-the-ground insights from communities advancing biotechnology research, innovation, workforce development, and industry growth. Convened by Congress, the bipartisan NSCEB is assessing how emerging biotechnology will impact U.S. national security, economic competitiveness, and critical sectors including defense, supply chains, health, agriculture, energy, and manufacturing. This high-level visit highlighted the role that Stanislaus County and California’s agricultural regions can play in shaping the future of America’s bioeconomy and included discussions and site visits with partners and leaders from UC Merced, VOLT Institute, Flory Industries, Caribou Biofuels, North Valley THRIVE, CA FWD, Stanislaus County, and Modesto Junior College. Speakers also included Christine Birdsong, Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Peter Ansel, Director of State Policy and Advocacy at the California Farm Bureau Federation; Roger Isom, President and CEO of the California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association and Western Tree Nut Association; Christine Gemperle, farmer and owner of Gemperle Orchards; and Lisandra Vitorino, local dairy farmer and Regional Territory Representative for the California Dairy Campaign. BEAM also featured biotechnology entrepreneurs and local manufacturers producing a range of bio-based products, including executives from Oleo, Optimized Foods, Mango Materials, Divert, and the startup accelerator and venture investor firm gener8tor.

The blog post on this visit is available [here](#), and the Commission’s press release [here](#).

“BEAM Circular is fulfilling a critical role in strengthening the Central Valley’s biotech ecosystem and putting many of the NSCEB’s federal policy goals into practice at the regional level. This model of facilitating collaboration among leaders from the biotech industry, K-12 and higher education systems, farming community, and manufacturing sector adds up to a biotech industry that is strong and agile enough to benefit the region well into the future.” — NSCEB Vice Chair Michelle Rozo.



QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- October Activities:
 - 10/2: Karen Warner presented at Catalyst from City Ministry Network (English) - Modesto
 - 10/3: Community Ambassador Community Conversation, Freedom Park (Spanish) - Modesto
 - 10/4: Presentation at the Fall Conference of California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network Program (English) - [Virtual](#)
 - 10/11: MJC 42th Hispanic Education Conference (English and Spanish) - Modesto
 - 10/14: Riverbank City Council Meeting (English) - Riverbank
 - 10/17: CSU Stanislaus Chemistry Careers Seminar (English) - Turlock
 - 10/17: CBIO Webinar - People, Place, and Prosperity (English) - Virtual
 - 10/17: Presented at the Chemistry Careers Seminar in California State University, Stanislaus (Stan State), fostering awareness of bioeconomy careers and applied sustainability. - Turlock
 - 10/21: Turlock Community Collaborative (English) - Turlock
 - 10/21: Stan State Eco Warriors Presentation (English) - Turlock
- November Activities:
 - 11/4-11/5: BioCirCA, Stan State (Foundations of the Circular Bioeconomy - English and Spanish)
- December Activities:
 - 12/3: Stan State presentation to students (English) - Turlock
- During Q4 (October - December), BEAM directly engaged with 321 Stanislaus County community members through our Community Prosperity & Community Engagement programming, and collaborated with 5 community organizations in Stanislaus County to host presentations and community conversations in both English and Spanish.



(Left Up and Left Down) MJC 42nd Hispanic Education Conference, (Center Right) Community Ambassador Mirna Macedo and Nancy Martinez at BioCirCA, (Right Up) Spanish Session of Foundations of the Circular Bioeconomy at BioCirCA, (Right Down) flyer for CSU Stanislaus Chemistry Careers Seminar

Chemistry Careers Seminar

Friday, October 17th
 In-Person Seminar
 Room: NHS 322
 @ 2:00PM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Gloriamar Gamez
 Chief Program Officer, BEAM Circular

"Explore Career Pathways to Work on Climate Change and Environmental Solutions"




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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?

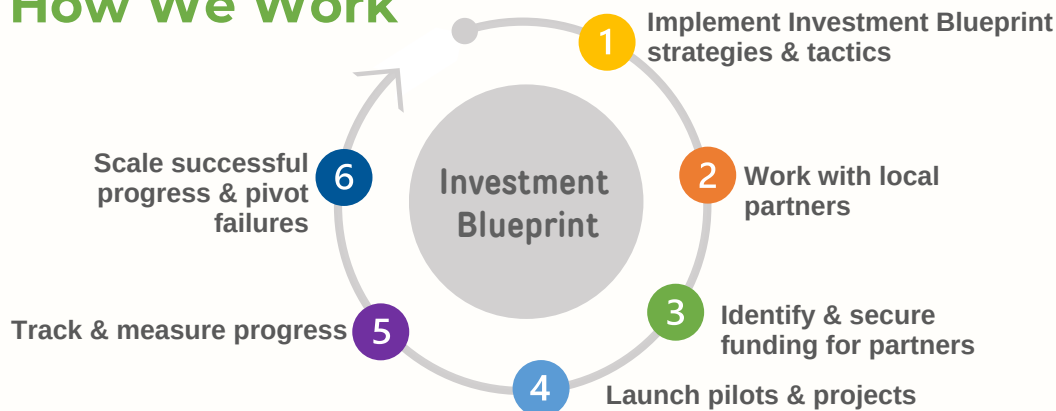
The Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint is a living document that includes the highest-leverage opportunities that will move our region's economy forward in the coming decade, highlights the strategies and next steps, and includes the estimated dollars needed to jumpstart each strategy.



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 - 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 - 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 - 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 Expansion of Federal Farmworker Training Program	\$1,000,000
Governance & Capacity Building			
Stanislaus Community Foundation	August 2021 - December 2026	Stanislaus 2030 Operations - 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 - 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

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.

November 2024