



Capital Region Leadership Council

Meeting Agenda & Materials

February 27, 2025



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Capital Region Leadership Council Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm | via Zoom

AGENDA

2:00 - 2:10 pm <i>10 minutes</i>	Welcome & Framing <i>Evan Schmidt, CEO, Valley Vision</i>
2:10 - 2:15 pm <i>5 minutes</i>	Action: Approve January 2025 Meeting Minutes <i>Gretchen James, Project Manager, Valley Vision</i>
2:15 - 2:25 pm <i>10 minutes</i>	Overview of Key WPT Activities <i>Gretchen James, Project Manager, Valley Vision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ <i>State Updates</i>→ <i>Regional Updates</i>
2:25 - 3:30 pm <i>65 minutes</i>	Catalyst First Round Summary <i>Gretchen James, Project Manager, Valley Vision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ <i>Submissions Overview</i>→ <i>Evaluation Process</i>→ <i>Recommended Project Portfolio</i>
3:30 - 3:50 pm <i>20 minutes</i>	Action: Approve Recommended Project Portfolio <i>Gretchen James, Project Manager, Valley Vision</i>
3:50 - 3:55 pm <i>5 minutes</i>	Public Comments <i>Gretchen James, Project Manager, Valley Vision</i>
3:55 - 4:00 pm <i>5 minutes</i>	Final Remarks, Questions & Closing <i>Evan Schmidt, CEO, Valley Vision</i>
4:00 pm	Thank you!

Monthly Capital Region Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm | Virtual via Zoom

Leadership Council Attendees:

P	Adam Wilson	P	Gloria Stearns	P	Rana Ghadban
P	Adelita Serena	P	Ivory Watts	A	Robert Bendorf
A	Anthony Taula-Lieras	A	James Corless	A	Robert Heidt, Jr.
A	Cameron Law	P	Jason Buckingham	P	Sam Greenlee
A	Christy Jewell	P	Jeneba Lahai	P	Spencer Bowen
P	Crystal Bethke	A	Jenny Hatch	P	Suzanne Dizon
A	Denzell (Fedrequake) Nunsuch	P	Jeremy Brown	P	Tex Ritter
A	Daurice Smith	P	Kimberly Parker	P	Theresa Milan
A	Dawnte Early	P	Lindsey Nitta	A	Todd Cutler
A	Devin Middlebrook	P	Malaki Amen	P	Troels Adrian
P	Elisa Herrera	P	Michael Jasso	P	Volma Volcy
P	Eliza Tudor	P	Nkiruka Catherine Ohaegbu	A	Wayne Mitchum Jr.
A	Fal Asrani	P	Orville Thomas	E	William Walker
E	Gabby Trejo	P	Paul Bancroft		
P	Gabe Ross	P	Paul Towers		

"P" = present, "A" = absent, "E" = excused

Additional Attendees:

- Evan Schmidt, Valley Vision
- Renee John, Valley Vision
- Gretchen James, Valley Vision
- Chester Draculan, Valley Vision
- Richard Dana, Community Strong Strategies
- Christina Craner, Community Strong Strategies
- Isa Avancena, Community Strong Strategies
- Sia Y. Magadan, United Way California Capital Region
- Sarah Eastberg, Connecting Point
- Marco Gonzalez, City of Sacramento
- Erica Manuel, CEO of Institute for Local Government

I. Welcome

- Presented by Evan Schmidt, *CEO, Valley Vision*
- Meeting Goals
 - Receive updates on CJF funding streams
 - Bridging K-16 Collaborative efforts with We Prosper Together
 - Walk through expectations and timeline for RFP scoring and decision-making
- Agenda
 - Welcome & Framing
 - Action: Approve October Meeting Minutes
 - We Prosper Together: Regional and State Updates
 - K-16 Collaborative
 - Catalyst RFP Review Process
 - Public Comments
 - Final Remarks, Questions & Closing
- Upcoming Evaluation Work
 - Valley Vision announced they will soon begin working with an evaluation specialist to develop metrics for tracking the success of We Prosper Together.
 - LC members were informed they may receive communications or a survey between this meeting and the next as the contract evolves.

II. We Prosper Together: Regional and State Updates

- Presented by Gretchen James, *Program Manager, Valley Vision*
- **Action Required:** October Meeting Minutes
 - Oppose - 0
 - Can Live With - 0
 - Support - 19: *Gloria Stearns, Kimberly Parker, Gabe Ross, Paul Pancroft, Tex Ritter, Spencer Bowen, Eliza Tudor, Orville Thomas, Troles Adrian, Crystal Bethke, Michael Jasso, Theresa Milan, Jason Buckingham, Lindsey Nitta, Volma Volcy, Adam Wilson, Nkiruka Catherine Ohaegbu, Elisa Herrera, Ivory Watts,*
 - Abstain - 3: *Sam Greenlee, Paul Towers, Malaki Amen*
 - Approved by the Leadership Council
- State Updates
 - The Implementation and Tribal Investment Initiative Funds are expected to release in Q1 2025, though a launch date has not yet been announced.
 - Valley Vision will be developing detailed work plans for each tradable sector to outline strategies for sector growth, with the sector-specific work plans aimed at being ready sometime in June 2025. Each CJF region is undertaking this effort, known as “activation plans.”
- Regional Updates
 - The Catalyst Pre-Development Project RFP is open until February 2nd.

- Scoring will take place throughout the month of February, with award notifications expected to begin in early March.
- Visit weprospertogether.org/the-latest for RFP details.
 - The web page contains a link to the application portal along with a live-updated Q&A sheet.
- **Questions from the Leadership Council**
 - Malaki Amen: In regards to the work plan on the tradable sectors, how do we juxtapose those with the catalyst fund?
 - Gretchen: The goal of the work plans is to create actionable sector-specific strategies for industry growth which align with the goals of the catalyst-funded projects. The work plans are focused specifically on the tradable sectors, while the catalyst-funded sectors can be within our tradable sectors. They can also support our opportunity sectors that are outlined in the RFP. The work plans will outline the sector investment coordination work which will help inform who's involved in those processes.
 - Malaki Amen: How will the grants guide the development of those work plans?
 - Evan: Both the work plans and the RFP are being guided by the planning phase work. Each one of them may take on a slightly different lane. The work of the planning phase was to guide the pathway to priority action areas that we can take as a region. The RFP and work plan are consistent with what was highlighted in the planning phase, although the Work Plan occupies a bit of a wider lane than the Catalyst RFP.
 - Malaki Amen: There were some conversations about metrics. Are you able to unpack that a bit more in terms of who the conversations are with?
 - Evan: We've known from the beginning that we want there to be clear success metrics for this project. The conversation involves starting to formulate a plan for doing that, which includes workshops, a survey and other engaged work in order to start shaping the metrics.
 - Renee: Working with an organization but not under contract yet. The individual from the organization was part of the original design committee for California Jobs First when it was still CERF. They also have extensive experience in the theory of change and planning for metrics and measurable outcomes.
 - Richard: Once we get to the point where we have the tradable industries and the inclusionary pathways, we want to build metrics to go along with it. This is about continuing the process that was started about a year ago.
 - Spencer Bowen: Are you able to go back to the previous slide and give the spark notes one more time?
 - Gretchen: No problem! We were just outlining how the RFP is going to remain open until February 2nd, and the QR codes link out to RFP resources.

- Jeneba Lahai: Are we intentionally going to look at funding projects in every county?
 - In this meeting, we will be thinking of the funded projects as a whole portfolio, including geographic considerations. It also includes equity considerations based off the scoring rubric that was developed with support from the RFP Review Committee.
- Rana Ghadban: In terms of allocating the amount of funding to round 1 versus round 2. What factors are going to be used to determine how much funding is going to be left for round 2?
 - Renee: We do not have a set amount of funding that we are planning to issue out in round 1 but we have determined that we will maintain some funds to issue out in round 2.

III. **K-16 Collaborative - Updates and Opportunities for Collaboration**

- Presented by Gabe Ross, *Chief Strategy and Communications Officer*, Los Rios Community College District
- Overview of K-16
 - The K16 Collaborative is part of the California Economic Recovery Development Plan and focuses on aligning all the educational segments to better meet employer needs. We Prosper Together and K16 are two sides of the same coin.
 - In total, it is a 250 million dollar grant and the Capital Region has received 18.1 million of that. Greater Sacramento was one of the nine regions approved for phase one of the grant.
 - Awarded \$ 18.1 million in funding over five years from the California Regional K-16 Collaboratives Grant Program.
 - Unites the K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and employers across multiple counties to foster collaboration.
 - What separates the K16 Collaborative from some of the past iterations is employer involvement and the fact that we've had employers at the table from day one in a much more substantive way than in past iterations.
- Five Key Goals of the Collaborative
 - Send 1,300 additional young men of color to UC Davis and Sacramento State by 2025 and 2026 respectively.
 - Partnering with the 1300 Campaign.
 - Triple the number of the region's students who can graduate from high school with both a diploma and the freshman year of college completed by 2026.
 - In this effort, we want to triple the number of students who graduate from high school with at least one year of college under their belt by expanding dual enrollment efforts at our high schools.
 - Triple the number of high school students who can graduate from high school with healthcare and engineering pathways that articulate to apprenticeships or stacked post-secondary certificates and degrees.

- The statewide grant process required us to pick pathways that were aligned with the States, recover with an equity plan, and work with employer partners to identify those pathways.
 - Award 2,000 degrees and/or certificates (earned but not claimed), 2000 degrees and/or certificates to what we call comebackers, “reverse transfer” 4,000 community college degrees, and/or certificate programs.
 - These are either students who have earned the appropriate coursework and credits to earn a degree, completed the appropriate coursework and credits to earn a degree but never got their degree, or people in our region who are a handful of units short of an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree for whom getting to the finish line will mean a substantial increase in earning potential.
 - Achieve Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status for colleges and universities through the full postsecondary continuum.
 - HSI is an official federal designation which unlocks all kinds of resources and support from the Federal Government in service of our Latino/Latina Communities.
- Structure of K-16 Collaborative
 - The Executive Committee
 - Primarily composed of the CEOs of the largest educational institutions and the employer partners.
 - Steering Committee
 - Provides fiscal oversight, approving contracts, etc.
 - Los Rios serves as the fiscal agent.
 - Work Group
 - Five work groups. Each group is aligned with one of the five goals of K-16.
 - Made up of a group of leaders from throughout the region such as education leaders, employers and folks on the ground who implement the program. Implementation of policy is needed in order to advance the goals.
 - The groups have monthly meetings focused on identifying and creating work plans to achieve goals.
- K-16 and We Prosper Together
 - There is a real clear interest to align the work from the very beginning as evidenced by the intentionality of the regional footprints.
 - Gabe serves as part of the Leadership Council while also representing K-16.
 - Evan, the CEO of Valley Vision, serves on the K-16 Executive Committee.
 - It was designed in the grant proposal for both to be involved to ensure the two sides always have a strong communication channel and the ability to collaborate.
- Questions from the Leadership Council
 - Adam Wilson: How are we expanding on this outside those two school districts and three colleges? I think about the eastern half of all those counties, such as Nevada,

Placer, and El Dorado, and see a definite need for those communities to be included.

- Gabe Ross: I couldn't agree more. Usually, two types of issues get in the way of data-sharing agreements: resource constraints and, if not the resource, the process and policy issues, and sometimes the politics. The idea was that if we start with larger districts and tackle those issues, we could bring a model to our smaller districts. We have begun a kind of district-to-district campaign within our eight-county region.
- Adam Wilson: Is there a form of timeline to take some of these learnings in the model to the other areas, or do you need to get through this process first and then start thinking about it?
 - Gabe Ross: Yes, both. Many of the districts that have been at the table from day one have been closely involved in developing the pilot. The idea is that once we have proof of concept that we can show works, it will be easier for them to sell within their districts and communities.

IV. **Catalyst RFP Review Process**

- Presented by Gretchen James, *Project Manager*, Valley Vision
- Purpose
 - To engage in an inclusive, transparent, and equitable scoring process pursuant to the vision of We Prosper Together.
- Participation
 - An initial interest form was sent to LC members to gather information on geographic and organizational representation, expertise, and potential conflicts of interest.
 - Those who expressed interest will be assigned to scoring teams based on their expertise in the four key pre-development activity areas outlined in the RFP.
- Scope of Work
 - Conduct thorough reviews of applications.
 - Submit scores based on a clearly defined rubric that reflects WPT's goals of fostering an equitable, sustainable regional economy.
 - Engage in group deliberation and discussion.
- Commitment
 - **By February 7th:** Scorers receive assignments and begin independent scoring.
 - **February 20th:** Scoring teams participate in a virtual deliberation
 - **February 24th:** Representatives from each scoring team attend a final in-person deliberation
 - **February 27th:** The portfolio of recommended projects is presented to the Leadership Council for approval
- Conflict of Interest
 - Scorers must disclose conflicts, describe their nature, and recuse themselves from scoring applications related to the conflict.

- A conflict exists if a decision by the Scoring Team could have a material financial impact on the member, their family, or their organization.
- Next Steps
 - Those that indicated interest in scoring will receive calendar holds from VV Staff and further details on how to score on the Submittable platform.
 - If you are interested in participating in scoring and did not fill out the interest form, please reach out to info@weprospertogether.org.
- The February Leadership Council is being rescheduled from February 20th, 2 PM - 4 PM, to February 27th, 2 PM - 4 PM.
 - An updated calendar invite will be shared following this meeting.
- **Questions from Leadership Council**
 - Gloria Stearns: Do you have enough scorers at this time?
 - Gretchen: We welcome more individuals to indicate their interest in scoring. There is no quota because we do not know how many project submissions we will get, but we welcome more folks to join in the process if they are interested and able.
 - Malaki Amen: Has a list of participants who attended the RFP Proposers' Conference Webinar been shared?
 - Renee: We have not done that. We have been reliant on our Community Ambassadors who are doing some of the engagement and bringing folks together who are interested in collaborating on proposals, or connecting work together or learning some best practices towards proposals. As the convener, we did not send out a list, nor notify people ahead of time that if they attended the webinar, we would be listing them.
 - Troels Adrian: For those of us considering the opportunity to become scorers receiving requests for letters of support for some projects applying, would that constitute any issues if we were to support those projects or should we withhold?
 - Evan: We had a definition of conflict of interest, meaning that someone positioned to materially benefit from the proposal. By that threshold, I would say it would not constitute a conflict of interest.

V. Public Comments

- Presented by Gretchen James, *Program Manager, Valley Vision*
- No public comment

VI. Final Remarks, Questions & Closing

- Presented by Evan Schmidt, *CEO, Valley Vision*
- Upcoming events
 - RFP Applications are due February 2nd.
 - The next Leadership Council meeting is on February 27th.



- I want to thank everybody so much for your time today. I know everybody has many priorities and many important things to do. We don't take your time for granted at all. Your engagement in this project has been absolutely critical to the success and I continue to be energized and excited by this work that we are all doing together.

VII. [Meeting Adjourned at 3:52 PM]