STANISLAUS 2030

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

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Quarterly Report

January 1 - March 31, 2026

GOVERNANCE

Stanislaus 2030 Goal:

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

POINT IN TIME ASSESSMENT

In January, Stanislaus 2030 released a Point-in-Time Assessment — a comprehensive report by MK Bailey Consulting that documents work to date and reflects on the current state of the public-private partnership. The report captures stakeholder perspectives on system-level changes, major accomplishments, and Stanislaus 2030's catalytic role, while surfacing key insights, lessons learned, and considerations for the future as the current phase concludes in December 2026. MK Bailey presented findings to the Advisory Committee on January 22, emphasizing that as Stanislaus 2030 enters its final contracted year, the central question is no longer whether the initiative has created value — but how the region will sustain the momentum, relationships, and systems changes it has catalyzed.



Click here to read the full report

Stakeholder interviews and survey results reveal widespread recognition that Stanislaus 2030 adds value and generates positive impact for the region.

- 92% believe that Stanislaus 2030 has planted seeds for long-term change.
- 89% believe that Stanislaus 2030 has increased the likelihood of economic mobility for struggling households in Stanislaus County.
- 79% believe that Stanislaus 2030 has enhanced the connections between education, training programs and employers in the manufacturing sector.
- 75% believe that Stanislaus 2030 has identified critical small business supports to make it easier for businesses to start, scale and stay in the county.
- 78% believe that Stanislaus 2030 has influenced policies, practices, and systems throughout the county, and
- 63% believe the initiative has extended that influence beyond county borders to the San Joaquin Valley and state level.

Stanislaus 2030 intermediary core functions

Vision Caster	Convenor	Dot Connector	Accountability Partner	Champion

GOVERNANCE

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

On March 12, Stanislaus 2030 hosted a Strategic Planning Session with facilitation support from Bienestar Community Economics. Advisory Committee members reviewed regional economic development models to assess how other communities are organized, how partnerships are structured and resourced, and what capacities drove success. Staff presented four scenarios for sustaining Stanislaus 2030 goals beyond December 2026: forming a standalone nonprofit, embedding within an existing organization, distributing initiatives across multiple organizations, or continuing fiscal sponsorship with a modified scope. The committee reviewed a SWOT analysis for each option, identified activities with a clear next phase, and considered the risks of discontinuing Stanislaus 2030's oversight role. Members reached three key conclusions: funding will be a critical variable across all scenarios, system coordination is an essential function to preserve, and a phased or blended approach warrants serious consideration. Staff will develop a viable option — including transition phase recommendations — for the Advisory Committee in May.

REGIONAL & STATE COORDINATION

- Jan 14 - Presented to Stanislaus County Economic Development Action Committee with Doris Foster from SCWD, which included update on business permitting assessment.
- Jan 21 - Participated in North Valley THRIVE's Steering Committee
- Feb 18 - Participated in Federal Reserve's Investing in Rural Infrastructure convening
- Feb 19 - Presented to Stanislaus County League of California Women Voters
- Feb 23 - Participated in California Jobs First childcare cohort
- Mar 5 - Convened CRA officers from eight local banks and CDFIs to showcase Stanislaus 2030 investible projects. The FDIC's Spike Keil moderated; Oak Valley Community Bank sponsored; Nurture and Valley Sierra SBDC presented.
- Mar 11 - Attended North Valley THRIVE Translation Destination forum

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- With proposal support from Stanislaus 2030, Mocse & Rolling F credit unions each secured $125K from the California Investment & Innovation Program (Cal IIP) to support CDFI services and operations, strengthen their net assets, and increase their capacity to attract additional funding.
- Supported the Nurture grant application under the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) 3 program, including complete writing support
- Supported the Education Design Lab RFP submission on behalf of the Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley for a proposed initiative to design and pilot an employer-recognized skills validation system for the manufacturing industry across Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin counties

NEWSLETTERS (SUBSCRIBE HERE)

- January - Taking Stock of Our Progress: Stanislaus 2030 Point-in-Time Assessment
- February - Mapping the Future of Manufacturing Jobs in Stanislaus County
- March - Small Business Strategy Update

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS

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







CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COLLABORATIVE

Stanislaus 2030, in partnership with Oak Valley Community Bank, hosted the Central Valley Community Investment Collaborative, a convening that brought together eight financial institutions and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco around a shared commitment to Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)-aligned investment across Stanislaus County. With Spike Keil of the FDIC serving as lead facilitator, the gathering marked a meaningful step toward sustained, cross-sector collaboration between financial institutions, community organizations, and federal partners.

The convening featured presentations from two organizations demonstrating the transformative power of targeted community investment:

Valley Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC) spotlighted their Supplier Readiness Program, which equips local small businesses with the tools, training, and connections needed to compete for and secure supplier contracts with major anchor institutions and corporations in the region. The program represents a direct investment in building economic resilience and expanding opportunity for Stanislaus County businesses.

Nurture presented on their measurable impact on the local childcare supply — a critical workforce and community development issue. By expanding access to quality, affordable childcare in Stanislaus County, Nurture's work addresses one of the most pressing barriers to economic participation for working families, making it a compelling example of CRA-aligned investment with broad community benefit.

Stanislaus 2030 looks forward to building on this foundation, deepening relationships, identifying new CRA-aligned investment opportunities, and expanding the collaborative to amplify its impact across Stanislaus County and the broader Central Valley.

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SUPPLIER READINESS

Stanislaus 2030, in partnership with Next Street and Stanislaus County Workforce Development, recently completed a Supplier Strategy assessment with a clear finding: despite small businesses making up 99.9% of businesses in the county and employing roughly 60% of the local workforce, they capture less than 10% of local supplier economy spend. The opportunity to change that is real — and the work is already underway.

At the start of 2026, the Supplier Readiness Initiative completed its initial outreach and began promoting the newly released webinar series. By the end of January 2026, the initiative referred a total of 209 businesses to the program. The outreach efforts consisted of participation at partner events, providing workshops, postcard marketing, online marketing, contacting viable businesses directly, and canvassing businesses in person. The initiative's Government Contracting Webinar Series has now been released, providing two recorded webinars a month since February 2026.



The series will help establish foundational knowledge and give businesses a behind-the-scenes look at the procurement ecosystem. 17 attendees have completed the first session & 9 attendees completed the second. Each attendee was also contacted to connect them with an advisor and directly send newly released webinars. When promoting sessions 3 & 4, individuals registered for the first 2 sessions. Future marketing will focus on highlighting the independence of each session to increase attendance. The initiative is also excited to announce the first Valley Sierra SBDC Procurement Expo, scheduled for May 21st, 2026. The logistics for the event have been completed, including the venue, procurement expert flying in from San Diego to present, and the partners participating. The main focus is to promote the event and bring in as many attendees as possible.

Since the start of the program to March 2026, the Supplier Readiness Initiative has supported 58 entrepreneurs, providing a total of 116 hours of assistance. $6,529,514 of government contracts and $146,000 of private contracts have been secured by businesses supported by the initiative. The program looks forward to expanding its reach and impact through the expo and providing ongoing support to local businesses.

With support from Stanislaus 2030 and and Stanislaus County Workforce Development, Valley Sierra SBDC is hosting a Procurement Expo — a hands-on opportunity to connect with buyers, learn what it takes to win contracts, and plug into the support network that can get you there.

Register now and learn more →

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LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LEVELING UP

Three locally headquartered CDFIs — Valley First Credit Union, Mocse Credit Union, and Rolling F Credit Union — are partnering with CAMEO Network to maximize their CDFI designation and deepen their impact in Stanislaus County. Together, they are engaged in strategic planning, refining impact measurement, and analyzing their lending products to expand and improve financing options for local small businesses.

As part of this work, the CDFIs have completed the Strategic Management Framework training, which covered key areas including Impact, Deployment and Operating Assumptions, Financial Planning through Multi-Year Projections, and Developing a Functional Feedback Loop. Building on that foundation, they are now progressing through the Microlending Essentials (MILES) Underwriting Series, which focuses on Loan Product Design, Underwriting, Mission, and Outreach — equipping them with the tools to better serve small business borrowers in their communities.

Adding to the momentum, all three organizations received California Investment & Innovation Program (Cal IIP) awards — a significant recognition that fuels their ability to deploy more capital and strengthen economic opportunity right here in our community.

MAKING PERMITTING WORK FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Navigating permits and licenses could be one of the most common frustrations small business owners face. In collaboration with Next Street and Stanislaus County Workforce Development, we conducted a comprehensive Streamlined Permitting Assessment involving 15 municipal interviews and 90 one-on-one conversations with local business owners across the county.

Permitting support varies widely across jurisdictions, processes rely too heavily on individual staff knowledge rather than standardized systems, and many businesses simply don't know where to start or who to call. One business owner put it best: "I just want one place or person who can explain exactly what to do."

In response, two priority solutions are now moving forward: a City-County Coordination Framework to align permitting processes across jurisdictions, and a Permitting Information Hub — a centralized, plain-language resource to be integrated into the broader One-Stop Shop being developed by Stanislaus County Workforce Development. We are also currently evaluating different digital permitting platforms that could modernize and standardize the permitting experience countywide.

Our goal is to have a faster, clearer, and more consistent permitting experience for every entrepreneur in Stanislaus County, no matter which city they call home.

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ONE-STOP SOLUTION

During this reporting period, the Stanislaus County Workforce development team advanced the development of a one-stop business resource platform through three primary workstreams: information collection, wire frame design, and infrastructure buildout.

Site Map & Information Collection

- The one-stop team defined and finalized categories aligned with key business needs, drawing from federal, state, and county resource sites.
- Team members conducted outreach meetings with partner organizations such as Valley Sierra SBDC to gather program details and confirm the scope of available resources.
- Collected information is being reviewed and organized to populate the site framework.

Wire Frame Development

- A wire frame prototype has been completed, illustrating the proposed site layout and the placement of content categories.
- The wire frame serves as the guiding blueprint for content integration and ongoing infrastructure work.

Infrastructure Setup

- The project team has initiated the technical buildout of the one-stop platform structure.
- The IT and marketing teams reviewed ADA compliance requirements as they apply to the platform's design and functionality.
- Content gathering continues in alignment with the wire frame, ensuring a structured and accessible final product.

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

NURTURE TRAINING PROGRAM

- Offered Business Start-Up, Business Operations, and Business Expansion programs
- New business starts topped 100; 3 businesses attained large capacity licenses through inaugural Business Expansion cohort; 30+ entrepreneurs on track to complete program in the next quarter.

EVALUATION

- Stanislaus 2030 contracted third-party evaluator Kris Helé Consulting to assess the Nurture program, with the goal of understanding participant outcomes — particularly around economic stability and mobility — and tracking the trajectories of participants and their businesses following Nurture's child care business courses and coaching.
- The evaluator finalized survey questions in January and collected data from February 18 through March 8, offering a $25 gift card incentive that helped achieve a 64% response rate.
- Early themes from evaluation data:
  - Income generation: Moving from economic precarity to stability; building emergency savings; becoming a household breadwinner for the first time.
  - Staying home with their own children: No traditional job could provide income AND allow them to pick up their kids, care for sick children, and attend school appointments — home child care makes all of this possible simultaneously.
  - Autonomy; being their own boss: Setting their own hours, making their own rules, and operating free from workplace hierarchies — particularly meaningful for immigrant women with limited prior workplace agency.
- Next steps include data analysis and interviews with two to three graduates to develop participant profiles.

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

- 860 people received direct information (not including tab flyer outreach – 500 flyers for United Way)
- Social media outreach shifted towards asking highly followed “influencers” to share information with audiences; also targeting Waterford & job pages
- On-boarding two community ambassadors to support outreach to Spanish speakers, faith-based community, and neighborhood centers
- Additional strategies in the next quarter: Graduate/Ambassador event and refined social media messages

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NEW BUSINESS STARTS BY CITY

City	New Businesses
Modesto	48
Ceres	13
Turlock	12
Patterson	9
Newman	4
Salida	3
Riverbank	3
Oakdale	3
Keyes	3
Hughson	3
Denair	1

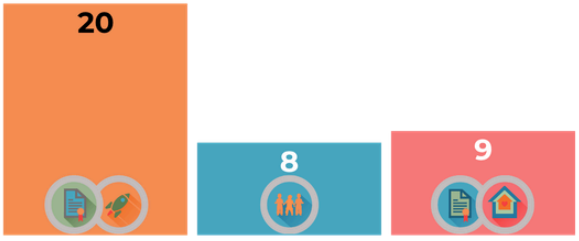
$28 million annual economic impact of businesses supported to date

816 permanent licensed spaces
as of April 7, 2026

Plus ... 9 businesses improved profitability
3 businesses expanded = + 18 spaces



Pipeline of participants
in training, by program



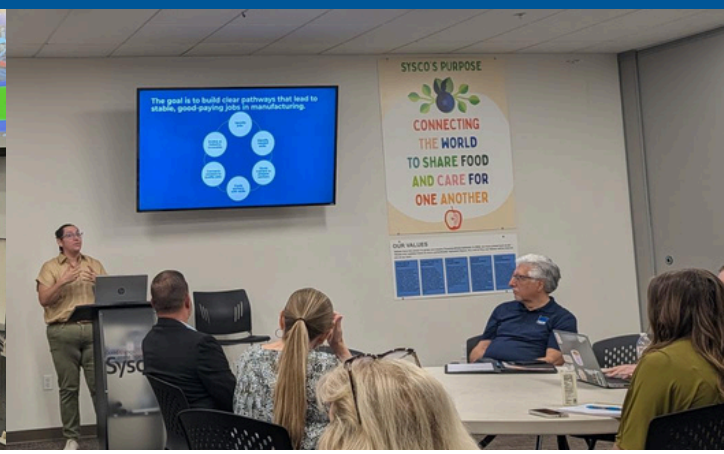
TALENT DEVELOPMENT

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





COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- Feb 3 - Presented to WE Will! K-16 Education Collaborative Summit and highlighted Stanislaus 2030 manufacturing workforce sector strategy approach and career pathway mapping
- Mar 18 - Presented to Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley's Workforce Development Committee to get employer feedback on Manufacturing Sector Pathway Map Digital Toolkit. Employers emphasized that work experience is the most important factor for getting in the door, but advancement requires more technical training. Competency-based models were discussed as a future-proofing approach – offering a way to assess skills that may transfer to other sectors

MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE FUND GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Hosted the first peer learning session with Manufacturing Grant recipients on January 27, 2026. Goals of the session were to share sector strategy resources, discuss shared issues around employer engagement, and explore potential equipment sharing.
- Grantee program participants received workforce and educational training programs at VOLT, CVOC, and MJC, some on track for achieving certifications in OSHA 10, Serv Safe, and forklift operation, SACA stackable certification (VOLT)
- Navigated successes and challenges in employer engagement, securing important employer partnerships while troubleshooting when issues (such as lengthy contracting processes) arise

EVALUATION SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES

- Talent development evaluator Shayla Spilker conducted background document synthesis and literature review to develop relevant evaluation metrics and indicators for grantee programs.
- Evaluator conducted discovery calls with six grantees and key partners to support development of a theory of change and evaluation framework for the Manufacturing Workforce Sector strategy

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COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

With Bienestar Community Economics and Debrief Methodologies, launched the Manufacturing Workforce community engagement process with grantees. Contractors conducted targeted population analysis, hosted 4 community listening sessions, supported grantees in conducting empathy interviews, synthesized insights and shared feedback back with grantees. Debrief provided incentives to increase listening session participation. Contractors are working with grantees to refine outreach and recruitment strategies to meet the unique needs of targeted populations.

Spanish-Speakers

01

What barriers exist around confidence, access to training, and navigating opportunities where language or information gaps may be a deterrent?

02/22

Incumbent Workers

02

What motivates workers to stay, leave, or upskill within their industries, and what realities affect their ability to pursue advancement?

02/24

Youth & Young Adults

03

How do young people perceive careers and industries like manufacturing, and what experiences influence their interest, confidence, and sense of possibility?

02/26

Job Seekers

04

How do people searching for work find and evaluate opportunities, and what barriers affect whether they enroll in and complete training or employment programs?

02/28

BIG TAKEAWAYS

People want to see clear & connected pathways from K-12 to workforce, CC, and higher education, informed by job availability.

Structural barriers are outweighing motivation (child care, language, documents, transportation, tech).

Our systems do not recognize transferable skills, formal experience is prioritized.

Trust is coming from people, not institutions. Social capital is a major determinant of access.

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

CBIO Collaborative

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

- Each year, the CBIO Collaborative requires its members to renew their membership. In 2026, the Collaborative has recruited 91 members as of the end of March.
- BEAM Circular hosted 4 webinars for CBIO Collaborative:
  - Discover the Collaborative: January 7
  - CBIO Conversations, featuring Raha Saremi of Ecoatex: February 10
  - CBIO Conversations, featuring Morgen Snyder of Restore the Delta: March 10
  - Who Funds Early-Stage Biomanufacturing?: February 24





- On March 27, 2026, the CBIO Workforce Development Steering Committee hosted a hands-on field trip to explore Vacaville's biomanufacturing ecosystem and learn from leading regional partners. The visit included a stop at Solano Community College, where participants met with Dr. Jim DeKloe, a biotech pioneer, educator, and community advocate. Solano's advanced bio-manufacturing lab facilities demonstrate how strong education infrastructure can support workforce development and attract biotechnology companies by building an industry-ready talent pipeline. The group also visited LifeSpace Labs and Flex BioCulture, a wet lab incubator and co-working space equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure for fermentation, plant cell culture, product recovery, and purification—showcasing how innovation can scale from concept to application. The final stop was Mango Materials, a circular bioeconomy manufacturing facility that uses gas fermentation to convert methane from wastewater treatment into biobased, biodegradable PHA plastics. The field trip brought together key education partners, including Modesto Junior College and CSU Stanislaus, and was open to members of the Collaborative.

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

CBIO Collaborative (cont)

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








(Up Left) Richard Carnes, MJC; President Brian Sanders, MJC; Jim DeKloe, Solano Community College. (Up Middle) Solano Community College Biotechnology Lab. (Up Right) Stuart Wooley, Stan State; President Brian Sanders, MJC at LifeSpace Labs and Flex BioCulture. (Left Middle) Group at Solano Community College. (Middle) Jess Hilboldt, Gloriamar Gamez, Sophia Potochnik, BEAM Circular at LifeSpace Labs and Flex BioCulture. (Middle Right and Down Right) Group at Mango Materials



- The governance structure guiding the CBIO Collaborative's work continues to convene:
  - The Community Steering Committee met three times (January 28, February 27, March 18)
  - The Research & Development Steering Committee met three times (January 29, February 23, March 23).
  - The Industry Development Steering Committee met three times (January 27, February 24 - the webinar served as their meeting, and March 24).
  - The Workforce Development Steering Committee met three times (January 14, February 23, March 11).
  - The Core Management Team met three times (January 13, February 10, March 10)
- BEAM Circular distributed CBIO Collaborative Member Newsletters each month, showcasing: job opportunities, partner events, shared resources, and highlights of local students' work researching the circular bioeconomy. (Distributed January 9, February 6, March 6)

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Goal

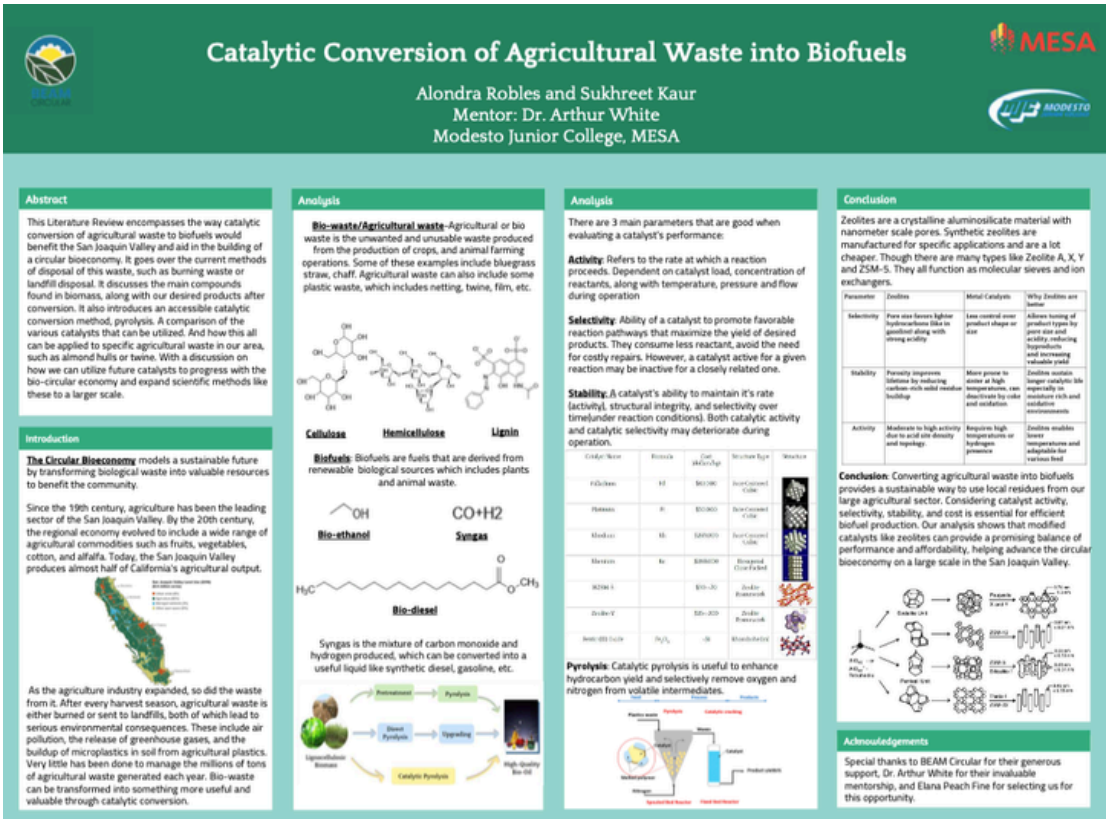
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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

- As part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from Stanislaus County, launched two competitive grant programs—the Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund and the Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund. In Q1 2026 monthly reporting and check-in meetings with 18 grant recipients was established to ensure effective implementation and strong project performance.

- Modesto Junior College (MJC) – *MESA Circular Bioeconomy Research Internship Program* ($37,758): Led a program engaging 10 MJC MESA students in academic research and literature reviews focused on regional applications of the circular bioeconomy. Students presented findings through public poster sessions and scientific talks to peers and community members. The program included 5 faculty mentors guiding interdisciplinary research teams. Outcomes included a ~65% increase in student interest in regional bioeconomy careers, faculty commitment to integrating sustainability topics into curricula, and 100% of participating students on track to transfer to four-year university programs.



Sample of a MESA Student poster from the MESA Bioeconomy Research Internship Program

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

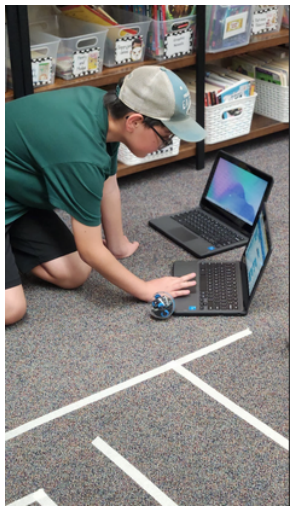
Goal

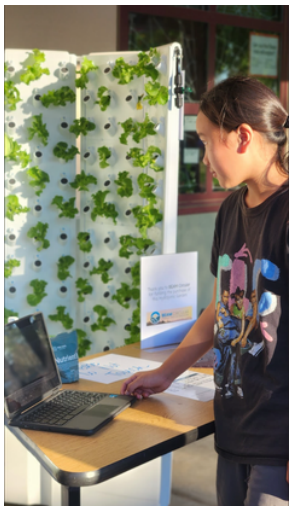
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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

- Walnut Elementary Education Center – *Expand and Enhance Math and Science Magnet Program* ($50,874): Approximately 50% of grant funds have been deployed to procure new equipment supporting program implementation. The project introduces hands-on learning components such as gardening and hydroponics, along with technology-rich STEM tools (e.g., 3D printers, iPads, microscopes). Its goal is to expand Walnut Elementary's integrated STEM program with a focus on sustainability, renewable energy, and circular economy principles. On March 19, the school hosted a family engagement open house to involve parents and strengthen community participation in the program.





Students and parents at Walnut Elementary Education Center Expand and Enhance Math and Science Magnet Program Open House

- yüda ayuda – *Ignite EmTech Futures: Pathways into Biomanufacturing through Industry 4.0 Tools* ($95,500): Successfully launched the workforce training program on March 6 at Modesto Junior College, with strong student participation and engagement. The program is designed to build Industry 4.0 skills—including automation, IoT, and data analytics—preparing participants for careers in the circular bioeconomy.







First Cohort of the Ignite EmTech Futures: Pathways into Biomanufacturing through Industry 4.0 Tools at MJC

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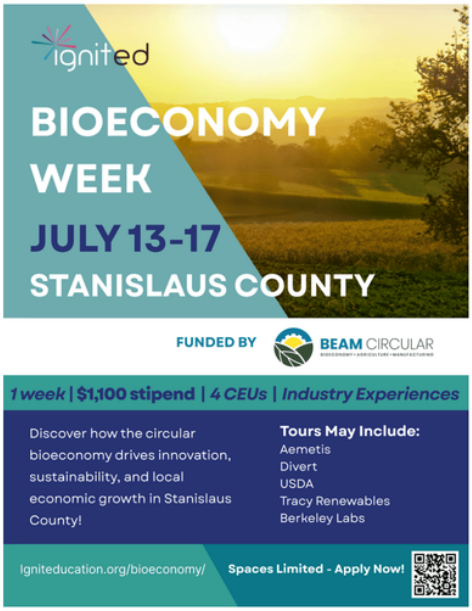
QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

- Three projects funded through the Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund are offering summer professional development opportunities for teachers across Stanislaus County:
  - Stan State University & Modesto Junior College – *Strengthening Pathways to Biotechnology Careers through STEM Education and Workforce Development*
  - Bay Area Bioscience Education Community (BABEC) – *Building a Sustainable Bioeconomy Ecosystem in Stanislaus County through Teacher Training, Equipment Access, Microbadging, and Career Exposure*
  - Ignited & Stanislaus Partners in Education – *Bioeconomy Experience Week and Learning Community Seminar*
- Outreach and promotion to enroll teachers began this quarter, with programs scheduled to take place in June and July.







Promotional flyers of the three professional development summer programs for Stanislaus teachers

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and EquipmentInitiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

- On January 31, 2026, Gloriamar Gamez, Chief Program Officer, served as keynote speaker at the Stan State STEAM Symposium, a collaborative event hosted by the Stanislaus County Office of Education and California State University, Stanislaus. The symposium brings together researchers, educators, and community members for hands-on learning, collaboration, and the exchange of innovative teaching strategies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

- On February 3, 2026, See Lee, Director of Education and Workforce Strategies, and Gloriamar Gámez, Chief Program Officer, presented at the WE Will! Work-Based Learning in Action Summit 2026, held at California State University, Stanislaus. Their workshop, Circular Bioeconomy Innovation (CBIO) Collaborative and Workforce Development Opportunities, highlighted pathways to advance workforce development through circular bioeconomy initiatives.

- On March 14, 2026 BEAM Circular tabled at the Stan State Science Day 2026, Workforce and Community Outreach, reaching out 100 youth and community members.











(Up Left) Gloriamar Gamez, BEAM Circular, Stan State at STEAM Symposium. (Up Middle & Up Right) BEAM circular Youth Ambassadors and staff at Stan State Science Day 2026. (Left Down) Derek Kirk, GO-Biz at WE Will! Work-Based Learning in Action Summit. (Middle Down) See Lee, BEAM Circular workshop at WE Will! Work-Based Learning in Action Summit

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Business Grants:

- BEAM Circular issued The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Business & Economic Development Fund in January of 2026. This fund supports businesses and employers to launch projects that create quality jobs and benefit local communities in Stanislaus County. Administered by BEAM Circular, this program is supported by Stanislaus County with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding is intended to deliver measurable job, workforce, and community benefits to populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Stanislaus County. This solicitation includes two funding tracks. Applicants may apply to either Track 1 or Track 2; award terms, eligibility requirements, allowable uses, and review criteria differ substantially between tracks.
    - Track 1 (Small Business Capital Access, Research, and Commercialization Fund) is designed to support smaller, early-stage activities that enable small business growth and local innovation. Eligible uses include access to capital, research and development, feasibility analysis, and commercialization support. Applicants may request up to $75,000, with a total Track 1 allocation of $200,000. Applications are being reviewed across two rounds, with deadlines on March 30 and May 30, 2026.
    - Track 2 (Anchor Employer Development Fund) is focused on attracting and supporting new or expanding employers in Stanislaus County. This track targets mature or growth-stage companies pursuing larger-scale projects with significant capital investment and strong job creation potential. Applicants may request up to $1 million, with a total Track 2 allocation of $2 million. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, with a final deadline in June 2026.

Request for Proposals Stanislaus County Bioeconomy Job Catalyst Fund -> HERE

Intake Forms & Applications

- Businesses interested in the fund begin by submitting an intake form and meeting with the BEAM team to confirm eligibility, alignment with program goals, and readiness before being invited to submit a full proposal. To date, 22 businesses have submitted intake forms, with an additional 9 letters of intent received for Track 2.
- Following intake review, 8 businesses were invited to submit full proposals for Track 1. Of those, 5 businesses submitted proposals in Round 1. These applications are currently under review by a multi-stakeholder committee.
- The review process includes:
    - Committee evaluation and scoring (to be finalized by April 23, 2026)
    - Applicant interviews scheduled for April 24, 2026
    - Final award decisions anticipated the week of May 4, 2026
- Six applicants for Track 2 were invited to submit full proposals, with a submission deadline of April 15, 2026. Final diligence is underway to confirm award recipients.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (cont) Events and Travel

- From February 10-12, 2026, BEAM participated in the Tulare World Ag Expo in partnership with the F3i Initiative. As part of this engagement, BEAM supported two startups - Gilly and Terra Rossa, by inviting them to exhibit and showcase their technologies, providing exposure to growers, industry partners, and potential customers. In addition to tabling, the BEAM team participated in podcast interviews hosted by F3i, highlighting regional bioeconomy efforts and innovation.







(Left) Gehad Elhanafy, BEAM Circular at Tulare World Ag Expo. (Middle) UC Merced F3i students . (Right) Bo Xu, Gilly; farmer participating in the expo.

- On February 17, Gehad Elhanafy, Business Development Program Manager from BEAM attended the U.S. Department of Energy's Agile BioFoundry (ABF) Industry Day in Emeryville to engage with national laboratory partners and industry stakeholders. The Agile BioFoundry is a consortium of national laboratories dedicated to advancing industrial biomanufacturing of fuels and chemicals. The event included:
  - Lightning talks from ABF scientists on national lab capabilities in biomanufacturing
  - Panels on emerging technical themes and industry challenges
  - Networking sessions and a hosted lunch with researchers
  - Roundtable discussions on priority topics identified by attendees
  - A guided tour of Berkeley Lab facilities
  - Optional one-on-one meetings with ABF scientists to explore collaboration opportunities

Service Provider Connections

- BEAM facilitated 11 connections between portfolio companies and service providers to support business growth and job creation, with a focus on advancing key business needs. These connections primarily supported feedstock sourcing strategies and fundraising efforts, helping companies access technical expertise and capital resources.

BEAM Circular Accelerator in partnership with gener8tor (Newsletter)

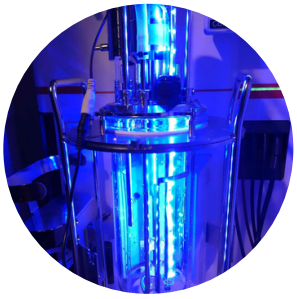
- On March 10th the second cohort of the BEAM Circular Accelerator, in partnership with gener8tor, officially launched its 12-week program. The 2026 cohort is sponsored by the Almond Board of California and the State of California through CA Jobs First. Five biotechnology startups were selected from over 200 applicants, representing the breadth and quality of emerging innovation in biomanufacturing, waste transformation, and circular solutions across agriculture and natural resources.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (cont)

BEAM Circular Accelerator - 2026 Cohort Companies:

Fermeate harnesses cutting-edge optogenetics and light-controlled gene circuits to revolutionize microbial biomanufacturing. Light-controlled gene circuits open a new era in biomanufacturing. With software-like level of control and fast on/off switching, Fermeate enables biology to live up to the ideal of "programmability". Fermeate's technology is an add-on to existing fermentation infrastructure and can be integrated into already-commercially deployed microbes, enabling up to 3x higher productivity across the production of proteins, food and nutritional ingredients, industrial chemicals, and fuels. Fermeate is actively partnering with multinational companies to deploy its light-based fermentation technology, delivering improved process economics without requiring new tanks or major facility retrofits.





Krokos Bio pioneers a biotech platform for producing high-value botanical ingredients using plant cell culture and underutilized agricultural side streams. By growing real plant cells in controlled bioreactors, Krokos Bio delivers consistent, year-round production with full-spectrum bioactivity, independent of seasonal harvests or climate conditions. Starting with saffron, Krokos Bio targets botanicals that are expensive, low-yield, and exposed to climate and geopolitical risk, offering a scalable approach to supply chain volatility in the global botanical ingredients market.

Ruby Bio uses naturally occurring yeast to convert low-cost and upcycled feedstocks into high-value, biodegradable, and non-toxic ingredients and chemicals. Its proprietary biosynthesis platform operates as a flexible biorefinery, leveraging a single fermentation process fueled by a range of possible feedstocks to manufacture multiple downstream products at cost parity with mainstream synthetic alternatives. The platform runs on conventional corn sugar and sugarcane, and is also compatible with a broad range of upcycled sidestreams, including agricultural residues, crude glycerol, and dairy waste streams. Ruby Bio's product portfolio spans surfactants, food emulsifiers, drop-in oleochemical replacements, polyol sweeteners, and polymer performance additives, serving consumer care, food, and industrial markets.





Supercarb produces plastic-free performance fibers from upcycled biomass that are inherently flame-retardant, anti-odor, and fast-drying—eliminating the need for toxic finishing chemicals like PFAS, silver, and phosphorus. By embedding performance at the fiber level, Supercarb helps brands avoid costly chemical treatments and wastewater processing, unlocking up to $13B in savings. The technology leverages abundant waste feedstocks, including seaweed and agricultural peel waste, positioning Supercarb to scale sustainably across the textile market.

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (cont)
BEAM Circular Accelerator - 2026 Cohort (Continued)



Tastee Tape develops a biodegradable, food-safe, and cost-competitive flexible packaging film that enables food CPG brands to eliminate PFAS and comply with rapidly evolving sustainability regulations. Its patent-pending technology delivers equivalent performance at up to 4x lower cost than alternative bioplastics, removing a key barrier to adoption. The company has gained strong market validation with national exposure including The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, CNN, NBC, and TIME's Best Inventions, signaling broad commercial and consumer interest.

(Up Left) Kickoff of second cohort at BEAM office. (Up Middle) Darko Mandich, gener8tor; Seteve Smitzis, Replicator VC. (Up Right) Saurabh Malani, Fermeate; Charly Silver, Ruby Bio; Emma Skoog, Korkos Bio; Hitesh Manglani, Supercarb; Marie Eric, Tastee Tape; Darko Mandich, gener8tor. (Middle Left) Founders pitch at Camp4. (Middle Right) Guest for pitch at Camp 4. (Left Down) Karen Warner, BEAM; Supervisor Mani Grewal, Stanislaus County. (Middle Down) Conversation with Seana Day, Dave Wilson Nursery. (Right Down) founders with Christine Gemperle, Gemperle Family Farms.

















The founders of the five companies that are part of the second BEAM Circular Accelerator cohort were in Stanislaus county from March 10 - 12, 2026 for the first week of their in person programing. They met with several stakeholders during that week, such as, E. & J. Gallo Winery, Stanislaus Food Products, Modesto Irrigation District, Almond Board of California, Beard Land and Investment Co, Gemperle Family Farms, Dave Wilson Nursery, Hilmar Cheese, ZuCO2 - Pelican, Stanislaus 2030, North Valley THRIVE, Edge Collaborative, and UC Merced.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Innovation Campus Planning (Testbed Facility Development)

Initiative 4: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

- **Site Selection & Diligence:** As of April 1, BEAM Circular has narrowed site selection to a short list of properties in Modesto that meet the project's near- and long-term needs across location, utilities, infrastructure, and site development partner capabilities. Properties are being evaluated against criteria developed with input from the CBIO Community Steering Committee, ensuring alignment with community priorities and long-term vision for the campus.
- **Design Basis:** BEAM Circular has completed the Design Basis for a phased approach to campus development, structured to align with the project's funding timeline. The Design Basis documents process flows, spatial requirements, and utility estimates needed to inform detailed engineering work and support contractor and vendor selection as the project moves into its next phase.
- **County Planning Meeting:** BEAM Circular met with Stanislaus County Planning staff to begin mapping the permitting and land use entitlement pathway for the campus. The meeting provided valuable guidance on the County's permitting process, applicable land use designations, and key regulatory considerations for the project. BEAM Circular will continue engaging county departments as site selection is finalized and design work advances.
- First Major Equipment Acquisition: The first major equipment acquisition for the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus, a state-of-the-art pilot-scale gas fermentation system, has been successfully transported from Massachusetts to Vacaville, California. The system, which was purchased with funding from the State of California (CA Jobs First), is being temporarily housed in partnership with Mango Materials, a pioneering bioplastics company and early BEAM collaborator. This partnership allows BEAM to activate and operate the equipment ahead of campus development, accelerating the organization's technical capacity and demonstrating the campus model in practice.







(Up Left) Pilot scale gas fermentation system in MA. (Up Middle & Up Right) Pilot scale gas fermentation system being packed and set for transportation. (Down Left) Pilot scale gas fermentation ready for transportation. (Down Right) Pilot scale gas fermentation system in Vacaville at Mango Materials facility.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Innovation

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- BEAM Circular submitted a collaborative research proposal to the USDA Strengthening Agricultural Systems program in partnership with researchers at the UC Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Davis, and the University of Georgia. The proposed project would establish a framework to characterize and upcycle byproducts from specialty crops, connect project outcomes to regional stakeholders, and develop educational activities from the project for local high school students.
- As part of our BioCircular Valley feedstock data portal project, funded by Schmidt Sciences, we've contracted with Agilno as the Portal MVP Software Developer, after a rigorous RFP selection process. The Portal development scope and timeline were finalized this quarter.
- BEAM's BioCirV Portal Product Manager completed a round of user-testing, focused on portal design, which informed MVP design decisions.

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Speaking Engagements/Conferences

- On January 29: Krystal Acierto, VP of Public Policy, attended California's First Nature-Based Solutions Summit held by the California Natural Resources Agency, where agricultural resources were discussed as solutions to addressing climate impacts.

- On March 11-12: Karen Warner, CEO, and Krystal Acierto, VP of Public Policy participated on panels at the UC Davis Bioresources Symposium to highlight key opportunities and challenges in advancing the circular bioeconomy in the North San Joaquin Valley and across California, including the infrastructure needed to support industrial biomanufacturing and circular systems, how to better support early- and mid-stage biotechnology companies as they scale, and the policy and fiscal tools government can deploy to accelerate the sector's growth.

- On March 25: Gloriamar Gamez, Chief Program Officer, represented BEAM Circular at the North Valley THRIVE Translation Destination Forum, hosted at the University of the Pacific. The forum convened regional stakeholders from industry, government, workforce, and education to explore how to translate research into real-world applications. BEAM Circular, along with industry partners invited by the organization, led discussions on the circular bioeconomy, highlighting regional opportunities and the conditions needed to grow this advanced manufacturing sector.








(Left) Krystal Acierto, Key Note Speaker at UC Davis Bioresources Symposium. (Middle Left) Krystal Acierto, BEAM; Zoe Heller, CalRecycle; Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council. (Middle Right) Erik Serrato, North Valley THRIVE. (Right) Thomas Pogue, University of Pacific; Kieran Mitchel, Caribou fuels; Gloriamar Gamez, BEAM.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy (cont)
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Federal and State Engagement

- February 25, Karen Warner, CEO, participated in a cross-sector meeting in San Francisco hosted by the American Energy Society and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to discuss Opportunity Zone policies and opportunities to advance California's bioeconomy.
- February 26: Karen Warner spoke as part of a California State Assembly Select Committee Hearing on Alternative Protein Innovation, sharing BEAM Circular's work and highlighting opportunities for state investment in regional efforts to advance bio-based industries that create jobs and economic benefits for rural communities.
- March 4-5: Karen Warner presented at the Berkeley Bioeconomy Conference, for an audience of University of California, State, Federal, and global innovation and policy leaders. The Conference explored opportunities to expand UC Berkeley partnerships with Central Valley communities and initiatives such as BEAM Circular, and broader strategies for advancing the circular bioeconomy,
- March 25-26: Karen Warner participated as a speaker at a Symposium hosted in Washington, DC by the bipartisan Congressional National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB). Karen presented BEAM's work as a featured case study among a small number of regional initiatives from across the country chosen to represent leading opportunities to advance United States biotechnology leadership and biomanufacturing capacity. The event elevated the profile of the North San Joaquin Valley's emerging bioeconomy ecosystem on the national stage.







(Above left) Warner presenting at Berkeley Bioeconomy Conference; (Below left and right) Warner at State Symposium for National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB)

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- January Activities:
  - 01/29: STEM Night at Agnes Baptist - Modesto
  - 01/30: Presentation at the Stanislaus State STEAM Symposium for Educators - Turlock

- February Activities:
  - 02/26: Presentation to the Hispanic Youth Leadership Council at Roosevelt Junior High School - Modesto
  - 02/28: Invest In Me Youth Empowerment Conference - Patterson

- March Activities:
  - 03/14: CSU Stan Science Day - Modesto
  - 03/19: Presentation to 8th grade students at Stanislaus Catholic School - Modesto
  - 03/25: Cub Scouts - Modesto

- During Q1 2026 (January - March), BEAM directly engaged with 347 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.







(Up Left) Jess Hilboldt STEM Night at Agnes Baptist. (Up Right) STEM Night at Agnes Baptist. (Down Left) Gloriamar Gamez at Invest In Me Youth Empowerment Conference

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County (cont)
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- With funding from the State of California through CA Jobs First, BEAM Circular also launched a pilot funding opportunity, Community Prosperity Grants, which allocates up to $65,000 for community-led projects to increase awareness of circular bioeconomy principles and increase progress towards community prosperity outcomes. This funding opportunity was shaped over four months with the input and visioning of CBIO's Community Steering Committee.

- BEAM Circular began working with partners and consultants to begin the development of a Community Prosperity Strategy, including targeted wealth building tactics, and a Community Benefit Toolkit expected to support partnerships between community organizations and bioeconomy companies.

- BEAM Circular conducted extensive outreach for the Stanislaus County cohort of the Youth Ambassador Program. Hundreds of emails were sent to superintendents, teachers, counselors, and community-based organizations serving high school students across Stanislaus County. The program was also promoted through all social media platforms by BEAM and our community partners. We received 65 applications from high school juniors and seniors throughout the County. Following a competitive selection process, 15 participants were chosen to participate in the several-week-long program beginning April 1, 2026. The program is designed to expose participants to the circular bioeconomy and to the diverse career pathways available in this growing industry.









(Up Left, Up Middle and Up Right) Flyers promoting the Community Prosperity Grants in English and Spanish. (Down Left) Flyer promoting Stanislaus County Youth Ambassador Program.

BEAM CIRCULAR
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APPENDIX A

BEAM Circular Quarterly Report to Stanislaus County:
ARPA Anchor Employer Development Fund – Implementation Update
Prepared for Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Meeting May 19, 2026

Initiative Overview

BEAM Circular's Anchor Employer Development Fund (AEDF)[1] is an initiative funded by Stanislaus County ARPA funding as part of the Traded Sector Development Strategy recommended by the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint. The objective of AEDF, which is a component of the Capital Connections pillar of the Traded Sector Strategy, is to attract and retain large-scale employers in Stanislaus County capable of creating significant numbers of quality jobs while accelerating the development of the region's bioindustrial manufacturing (circular bioeconomy) sector.

Consistent with ARPA requirements and federal guidance (31 CFR 35.6), the initiative is designed to support the expansion of quality employment opportunities among local populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. BEAM Circular staff researched employer incentive best practices, consulted economic development advisors from the Brookings Institution, and gathered input from bioeconomy firms, local partners, and Stanislaus County staff to design the AEDF criteria and deployment plan. The goal of the AEDF design is to maximize the impact of these one-time public funds while ensuring compliance with eligible uses and mandated expenditure timelines.

Initiative Goals and Design Considerations

The AEDF provides $2 million in targeted, project-specific support to attract and grow new employers in Stanislaus County through investments in infrastructure, site development, workforce enablement, and pre-development activities tied to job creation and long-term regional impact. As stated in the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint, "Highly-targeted financial and process incentives to attract lead companies can be valuable tools for building an ecosystem around a new sector. While some general-purpose state and local incentives are applicable to bioindustrial manufacturing firms,

[1] The Initiative has been referred to by different names during planning phases. In BEAM Circular's funding contract, the program is Initiative Number 6: "Anchor Firms Development Fund", part of the Capital Connections pillar of the investment strategy. In the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint, the strategy is described as creating "flexible, firm-specific incentives" and falls within the pillar described as "Build an industry Ecosystem with Cross-cutting Initiatives."

creating a specialized local incentives program will address distinctive needs, focus benefits, and signal the region's position in the marketplace."

Originally, the Initiative aimed to support one to three large projects that would create a minimum of 100 jobs each. As the project pipeline matured, the final selection criteria was refined to align more directly with observed market readiness of applicant companies in the target sector, enable the attraction of smaller growth-stage businesses with high future job creation potential, comply with ARPA expenditure requirements, and balance a desire for immediate job creation (early wins) with long-term industry cluster development (generational impact).

The final implementation approach funds more companies (3 to 6, instead of 1 to 3), and includes a mix of smaller and larger projects, which together are poised to fulfill the Initiative's core goals of creating hundreds of quality jobs while balancing project risk profiles and ensuring both immediate- and long-term impact.

This implemented approach ensures alignment with all ARPA requirements and the intention of the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint. Funds will be directed toward expenditures that activate local manufacturing sites and project development milestones, while complying with all ARPA guidelines. Recruitment outreach for jobs created through the project funding will prioritize and target ARPA-eligible beneficiary populations.

Project Evaluation and Selection Process

A structured, multi-stage evaluation process was implemented to ensure disciplined and transparent allocation of funding.

1. Outreach, Intake, and Eligibility Screening

A public Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in January and distributed widely through regional partners, industry stakeholders, and CBIO Collaborative members, marketed as part of the "Stanislaus County Bioeconomy Job Catalyst Fund", with a total of $2 million available for awards of up to $1 million in the Anchor Employer Development Fund allocation ("Track 2")[2]. The RFP was shared on BEAM Circular's social media and website, advertised through a press release, and promoted at public conferences and events. This outreach was intended to ensure broad visibility of the funding opportunity and attract qualified projects from the circular bioeconomy sector.

[2]RFP announcement available at www.beamcircular.org/news-updates/stanislausjobscatalystfund

Following this outreach, a total of nine (9) companies expressed interest in applying for AEDF funding through a formal intake form and direct engagement with BEAM Circular staff. Based on an initial screening for eligibility and program alignment, six (6) applicants were invited to submit full proposals.

Initial screening criteria included:

- Alignment with ARPA eligibility requirements, including permitted uses of funds, relevance to eligible beneficiaries, and expenditure timelines
- Consistency with the Stanislaus 2030 traded sector development strategy, with emphasis on circular bioeconomy and bioindustrial manufacturing
- Demonstrated potential for job creation and economic impact within Stanislaus County
- Preliminary assessment of project feasibility and readiness to deploy capital

Only projects meeting these criteria advanced to full proposal submission and subsequent evaluation.

At this stage, Stanislaus County staff were briefed on the applicant pool and selection progress. Staff approved BEAM Circular's recommendation to advance the eligible projects to full proposal submission and diligence.

2. Scoring and Internal Review

Full project proposals were then evaluated using a standardized scoring rubric aligned with ARPA and program priorities, including:

- Job creation and economic impact
- Capital readiness and deployment feasibility
- Technical feasibility and execution pathway
- Alignment with County economic development objectives

Scores were aggregated to produce an initial ranking and shortlist for further evaluation.

3. Independent Technical and Financial Diligence

An independent third-party review was conducted by Hawkwood Biotech partners to support validation of applicant information.

This review provided:

- Structured, fact-based technical and financial diligence on selected applicants
- Assessment of:

    - Technology and process maturity
    - Capital requirements and funding position
    - Execution readiness relative to ARPA timelines
    - Key dependencies (e.g., permitting, engineering, procurement)
- Identification of:
    - Material technical and financial risks
    - Execution constraints supported by available evidence

The diligence process was objective and evidence-based, focused solely on validating the underlying technical and financial conditions of each applicant. All findings were supported by documented evidence, including risk ratings (High / Medium / Low) that were directly tied to verifiable technical and financial factors. This process ensured that funding decisions were informed by validated data rather than subjective assessment.

4. Interviews and Validation

Shortlisted applicants participated in structured interviews to:

- Discuss the applicant's commitment to supporting jobs consistent with BEAM Circular's Good Jobs Framework, which includes a detailed definition of job quality goals in the North San Joaquin Valley, developed with and approved by the BEAM Circular Community Steering Committee
- Explore the positive impact potential of the proposed project for local communities and eligible beneficiary populations
- Validate project timelines and execution plans
- Confirm assumptions related to job creation and capital deployment
- Clarify dependencies, risks, and readiness factors

Findings from interviews were incorporated into final scoring adjustments.

5. Final Recommendations

Following completion of scoring, diligence, and interviews:

- Projects were ranked based on combined evaluation inputs
- Funding recommendations were developed based on:
    - Readiness to deploy capital within ARPA timelines
    - Job creation potential
    - Alignment with County strategy and traded sector priorities

Final award recommendations were submitted to Stanislaus County staff for review prior to finalization.

ARPA Spend-Down Timeline and Contingency Plan

To ensure that all funds are disbursed before the ARPA deadline, all selected projects must demonstrate readiness and commitment to deploy their awarded funds and achieve desired project milestones by the end of October 2026. Project spending and milestones will be closely monitored by BEAM Circular. Any project funds that are determined to not be on track for on-time deployment will be re-directed to the Innovation Campus, an approved and eligible investment under the existing ARPA funding contract between BEAM Circular and Stanislaus County. The Innovation Campus itself qualifies as a target "anchor employer", given that it is expected to create over 100 direct jobs at full operational capacity and will indirectly create far greater numbers through business attraction and capacity-building. This approach ensures full and timely deployment of ARPA funds, while maintaining alignment with the job creation goals and the broader economic development objectives of Stanislaus County.

Project Awards

The following projects were selected for AEDF Funding:

Company (Alphabetical)	Project	Amount Awarded	Est. Jobs (5 yr)
Artefact	Plans to establish its first high-volume biocomposite manufacturing facility in Stanislaus County, using AEDF funds for advanced equipment that will create skilled manufacturing jobs, leveraging the region's workforce, biomass resources, and strategic location for industrial production and distribution. The project will create 14 jobs at launch and grow to 25 jobs in year 2.	$500K	25
Central Valley Circular	Engineering for a $500 million recycled paper manufacturing facility to be built in Stanislaus County. The project will convert local recovered paper into packaging materials, reducing emissions and supporting circular economy goals. Expected to create at least 200 permanent local jobs in the next 5 years. Funds will be used for the engineering required to build the facility in Stanislaus County.	$600K	200

Full Circle Brewing	Upcycled fruit processing platform that converts surplus agricultural products into higher-value ingredients, creating 4 near-term jobs and scaling to 50+ over five years while strengthening local agriculture, reducing waste, and enabling long-term circular bioeconomy growth. Funds will be used for equipment purchases and installation in Stanislaus County.	$400K	50
Mango Materials	Establish a biomaterials compounding facility in Stanislaus County to convert bio-based materials into market-ready pellets, enabling industry scale-up while creating 11 near-term jobs and growing to ~50, leveraging the region's agricultural resources and emerging biomanufacturing ecosystem. Funds will support equipment purchase, installation, and initial staffing to launch business operations in Stanislaus County.	$500K	50

All funding awards are pending final contracting and will be conditional upon confirmed project site identification in Stanislaus County. Grant recipients found to be out of compliance with ARPA guidelines will forfeit their awards, and any funds that are not on track for expenditure by the end of October 2026 will be redirected by BEAM Circular to the Innovation Campus.

APPENDIX B

BEAM Circular Quarterly Report to Stanislaus County:
Innovation Campus Site Selection Update
Prepared for Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Meeting May 19, 2026

Overview

BEAM Circular has selected a site in the Beard Industrial District in Modesto, CA for the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus, pending final approvals, satisfactory due diligence, and contract execution. Below is an overview of the site selection process.

About the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

BEAM Circular is developing the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus — a shared, multi-tenant pilot and demonstration-scale facility that will serve as a national center of excellence for zero-waste biomanufacturing and circular bioeconomy innovation. The Campus will be located in Stanislaus County and is designed to strengthen the North San Joaquin Valley (NSJV) as a global bioeconomy hub.

The Campus will provide shared infrastructure and support services that lower barriers to commercialization for bioeconomy companies, anchor new manufacturing activity in the region, support job training, and connect innovation with community. The Campus will create 100–140 permanent jobs and a large number of construction jobs, built under a Project Labor Agreement with the Valley Building Trades Council. More broadly, it will catalyze long-term regional job creation by attracting and growing biomanufacturing firms and supporting local farmers and food processors in adopting environmentally beneficial solutions that support long-term business resilience. An imperative of the Campus is expanding career pathways in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment, integrating workforce development, educational partnerships, and entrepreneurship support into its core operations.

Site Selection Process

BEAM Circular conducted a rigorous, multi-year, multi-phase site selection process beginning in 2023. The process was guided by clearly defined technical, environmental, community, and economic development criteria. Key steps included:

- **March - December 2023:** Project chartering and preliminary engineering by Next Rung Technologies, with community, industry, and technical experts engaged to shape Campus planning and general site requirements.

- **January - July 2024:** Market analysis and user interviews conducted with support from Hawkwood Biotech to refine Campus scope, technical design requirements, and equipment prioritization
- **April 2024 - January 2025:** Regional land use analysis and industrial site inventory study to assess available industrial sites across the NSJV and to inform community, environmental, and economic considerations of site selection (analysis conducted by ECOnorthwest, implemented in conjunction with North Valley Thrive regional economic development partnership).
- **February 2025 - April 2026:** Engagement of commercial real estate broker JLL to conduct a comprehensive site search building upon initial land study, including a public Request for Information (RFI) issued to all municipalities in Stanislaus County in partnership with Opportunity Stanislaus in March 2025.
- **June 2025:** Funding awarded to BEAM Circular for Phase 1 construction of Innovation Campus from State of California, enabling site selection to proceed.
- **2025-2026:** Rolling site visits, infrastructure feasibility reviews, and preliminary permitting and legal risk screening for all candidate sites.
- **January 2026:** A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) issued to a shortlist of qualified development partners who had sites that passed eligibility screening.
- **March 2026:** BEAM Circular Community Steering Committee reviews final site selection criteria to provide feedback and input prior to final selection.
- **May 2026:** Preliminary Letter of Intent signed with Beard Land Improvement Company for development of the Innovation Campus in the Beard Industrial District in Modesto, CA.

Site Selection Criteria

Sites were evaluated across six areas:

Criterion	What was evaluated
1: Infrastructure & Utilities	
Electrical capacity	Confirmed available capacity for initial operations; utility-confirmed upgrade timeline
Renewable energy supply	Utility willingness to supply renewables and participate in on-site generation

Water & wastewater	Confirmed supply and receiving capacity without requiring new infrastructure
Long-term utility scalability	Pathway for scaling all utilities through each Campus growth phase; utility willingness to co-develop reuse/pretreatment solutions
2: Site Location & Readiness	
Agricultural land avoidance	Designated Urban/Built-Up, Vacant/Disturbed, or Other Land per FMMP; no conversion of Prime, Statewide Important, or Unique Farmland
Flood risk	Outside FEMA Zone AE or equivalent high-risk flood designation
Residential separation	Minimum 2,500 ft from nearest residentially occupied parcel
Truck access & circulation	Confirmed truck access avoiding residential routing; adequate on-site circulation for concurrent feedstock, employee, and visitor traffic
Feedstock proximity	Majority of key agricultural/biomass suppliers within 25-mile radius to minimize truck VMT and emissions
Expandability	Credible expansion path via contiguous/adjacent land; long-term developable capacity of 10+ acres
Single ownership	Developable land under single ownership or control
3: Community & Environment	

Accessibility & community resource	Location enables broad regional access; accommodates visitor center, community meeting space, and public programming
Community-facing design	Site configuration supports dedicated community center, murals, public art, and landscaping
Outdoor & conservation access	Trail connection or park within walking distance; within 0.5 miles of open or conservation-adjacent land
Outdoor learning environments	Green/landscaped space capable of hosting students and community members safely alongside industrial operations5
4: Regional & Workforce Access	
Workforce proximity	Within 45-minute commute of regional community colleges and universities; jobs accessible across skill levels
Public transit access	Transit stop or route within reasonable walking distance for students, workers, and community members without cars
Roadway access & parking	Direct access to major roadways for commuters and visitors; adequate parking that does not conflict with truck traffic
Training & workforce facilities	Sufficient indoor/outdoor space for hands-on training, demonstration areas, and workforce development safely alongside active operations
5: Regulatory & Timeline	

Zoning compatibility	Zoned M-1, M-2, or equivalent; biomanufacturing uses permitted without requiring a zone change
Permitting clarity	Clearly defined and predictable CEQA pathway; low regulatory complexity
6: Activation Timeline	
2027 operations target	Credible path to first tenant operations by 2027, with defined critical path through permitting, construction, and commissioning

All sites were required to meet pass/fail thresholds on core requirements — including industrial zoning, avoidance of prime agricultural land conversion, separation from residential areas, confirmed utility access, single ownership, and a credible path to tenant operations by 2027 — before advancing to scored evaluation. Community benefit and environmental sustainability were evaluated alongside financial and technical considerations throughout.

Site Selected: Beard Industrial District, Modesto, CA

Contingent upon completion of due diligence and contract finalization

Following this comprehensive process, BEAM Circular has identified a site in the Beard Industrial District in Modesto, California as the selected location for the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus. *This selection is conditional upon execution of a site agreement between Beard Land Improvement Company and BEAM Circular following satisfactory completion of due diligence. BEAM Circular will provide a further update to Stanislaus County upon close.*

The Beard Industrial District is an established industrial area in Modesto that met or exceeded BEAM Circular's requirements across all evaluated criteria. The selected site is located on non-agricultural land with appropriate industrial zoning, confirmed utility access, and strong regional connectivity — including proximity to agricultural feedstock sources across the NSJV, access to regional transit and workforce, and separation from residential areas.

The site also supports BEAM Circular's community and environmental objectives, with the capacity to accommodate a visitor and community center, outdoor learning spaces, and public programming that will serve students, workers, and community members from across the region.