

STANISLAUS 2030

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

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors **Quarterly Report**

July 1 - September 30, 2025

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.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- July 10- Advisory Committee meeting; presentation by Bienestar Community Economics on the Manufacturing Workforce Sector Strategy
- Sept 11 Advisory Committee meeting; presentation by Valley Sierra SBDC on Supplier Readiness Initiative

EVALUATION

- MK Bailey completed 14 interviews with key stakeholders to understand how Stanislaus 2030 has
 impacted programs, systems, and policies. MK Bailed will also disseminate a survey and facilitate focus
 groups to solicit feedback from different audiences across county. Data will be synthesized and shared
 with the Stanislaus 2030 Advisory Committee in January 2025, which will help inform future planning.
- Contracted with Kris Hele to evaluate Nurture childcare program

REGIONAL & STATE COORDINATION

- July 1 Joined California Jobs First Childcare Sector collaborative, which brings together peer groups
 across the state working to elevate innovations, best practices, and policy recommendations relating to
 childcare
- Aug 7 Presented to Florida THRIVES on Stanislaus 2030 small business strategy
- Aug 7 Participated in Yosemite Community College District Facilities Master Planning Session
- Aug 14 Presented to City of Modesto Economic Development staff
- Aug 18 Presented to California State Association of Counties
- Aug 19 Presented Stanislaus 2030 small business priorities to rep. from State Treasurer office
- Aug 21 Participated in North Valley THRIVE's community benefits & labor standards committee
- Aug 25 Met with City of Modesto to review General Plan update
- Aug 26 Presented annual update to Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
- Sept 17 With BEAM Circular, briefed President for the California State Association of Counties
- Sept 24 Attended North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

 Contracted with Watkins Public Affairs to provide grant writing and resource development support for Stanislaus 2030 prioritized strategies; four proposals supported this quarter

NEWSLETTERS (SUBSCRIBE HERE)

- Stanislaus 2030 July Updates
- August Grant Opportunity Promotion
- Stanislaus 2030 September Updates



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

STREAMLINED PERMITTING

- Aug 18 Workgroup comprised of representatives from cities (including Modesto, Turlock, Oakdale, Ceres, Riverbank, and Patterson), Stanislaus County Departments (including Planning and Community Development and Environmental Resources) and local chambers of commerce (Modesto, Turlock, Patterson, Ceres, Oakdale, Stanislaus Latino Chamber)
- Stanislaus County Workforce Development secured contracts with 6 chambers of commerce (Patterson, Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Oakdale, and Stanislaus Latino Chamber) to conduct interviews with small business owners to assess business permitting experience; hosted orientation session to review interview protocols
- Next Street completed 1:1 interviews with municipal partners to map existing business permitting steps across jurisdictions, including Stanislaus County, Modesto, Turlock, Patterson, Ceres, Waterford, Riverbank, Oakdale

SUPPLIER READINESS

- Workgroup Coordination Hosted weekly check-ins with Valley Sierra SBDC & Next Street
- Procurement Assessment Next Street developed interview protocols for procurement research; interviewed local buyers from anchor institutions, including Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, City of Turlock, Yosemite Community College District, Gallo Winery, Valley Builders Exchange, PG & E, Oakdale Irrigation District, and Stanislaus County Office of Education, as well as Oak Valley Bank as capital provider for some supplier businesses.
- Since the start of the Supplier Readiness Initiative, Valley Sierra SBDC has provided in depth services to 5 clients and they have received 26 referrals through their outreach efforts.
- The team has also recorded the first 4 of 12 procurement readiness webinars, scheduled to release in February 2026.

The Supplier Readiness Team also attended the Central Coast Procurement Expo, hosted by the Monterrey Bay APEX Accelerator. They did a great job of bringing buyers and resources together in the Central Coast and provided valuable insights as the SBDC team prepares for their own Procurement Expo in Spring 2026.

- The first procurement workshop titled "Contracting within Stanislaus County" will take place at the Central Valley Small Business Expo November 6th from 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM, and at the Turlock Chamber of Commerce November 20th from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The workshop will help entrepreneurs find local contracting opportunities and include participation from Stanislaus County, the City of Modesto, and the City of Turlock.
- The supplier readiness Team has also been present at the Valley Builder's Exchange Contractors series, had an article published in the September 2025 Progress Magazine, and presented the Initiative to a State Legislator.



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SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING

- Through RFP process, Stanislaus County Workforce Development selected <u>CAMEO Network</u> to support the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) capacity building initiative, which will provide targeted technical assistance, cohort-based workshops, and strategic support to help local CDFIs increase lending volume, expand financial products, and build long-term sustainability. By strengthening local CDFIs, this work will expand access to flexible, affordable capital—especially for small businesses in historically underserved and low-income communities across Stanislaus County.
- CAMEO conducted interviews with Valley First Credit Union, Mocse Credit Union, and Rolling F
 Credit Union to assess their capacity needs and develop tailored professional development plans.
- Grant writer met with three CDFIs to assess resource needs and to assist with <u>California Investment</u> and <u>Innovation Program grant</u> applications, which were submitted by 10/1 deadline.

ONE STOP

- Project Planning: The Stanislaus County Workforce Development Department developed a comprehensive project plan and established an internal team to guide and oversee program implementation.
- Research and Best Practices: The team conducted preliminary research on various models and best
 practices for creating a one-stop shop —a centralized hub where entrepreneurs can easily access
 technical assistance, financing opportunities, and contracting resources. This approach is designed
 to simplify navigation of available programs, reduce duplication of effort, and make it easier for
 businesses to start, grow, and thrive in Stanislaus County.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Key questions related to the one-stop shop concept were incorporated into the interview guide currently being used by local chambers of commerce to gather input from 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

TRAINING COHORTS

• 16 English & 9 Spanish speakers enrolled in Business Start-Up Track cohorts in Jul & Sept

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

- Jul 19 Hosted Red Ribbon Cutting event at Gallo Center in partnership with Modesto Chamber of Commerce and Stanislaus Latino Chamber to celebrate 76+ new childcare businesses; Supervisor Buck Condit and Modesto City Councilmember Jerimiah Williams presented
- Aug Finalized promotional video to support cohort recruitment efforts
- Sept- Completed summer outreach campaign in partnership with CVOC.
- Sept Contracted with Debrief Methodologies to conduct grassroots outreach activities in priority zip codes (95307, 95350, 95351, 95354, 95358, 95380, 95386) to increase program awareness and ensure 30 Stanislaus County residents enroll in each cohort

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Grant writer met with Nurture team to review strategy, assess funding needs, and begin landscape map
 of aligned public and private funding opportunities; completed <u>Caplan Foundation</u> Letter of Intent to
 support research and curriculum that will be embedded in new business expansion course
- Finalizing promotional video for donor audience

EVALUATION

• Contracted with Kris Hele to serve as third-party evaluator for Nurture program. Evaluation will assess wage and knowledge gains for program graduates through surveys and interviews.

PARTNER COORDINATION

- Facilitated monthly check ins with leadership from SCOE, Nurture, and First 5; reviewed latest childcare needs assessment data which indicates a gap of 7,000 infant and toddler slots
- Supporting feasibility study to assess options for childcare staffing bottlenecks and ways to improve assistant job quality







Childcare Business Ribbon Cutting on July 19







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RESULTS & IMPACT SINCE THE JANUARY 2024 PILOT LAUNCH

\$22.6 million annual economic impact of businesses started to date

83 New Business Starts

as of September 30, 2025



Course Complete

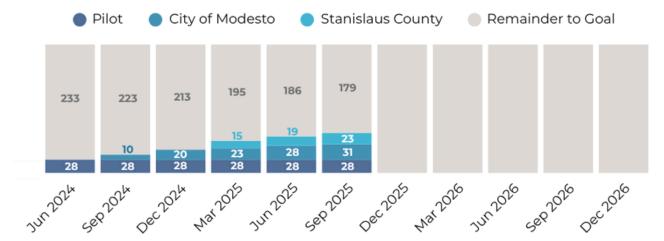
Licensed In Business

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

New Child Care Businesses by City Stanislaus Business Starts, by Language Patterson Oakdate 3 Newman 4 Language • English • Spanish

Progress Toward December 2026 Goal: 261 New Child Care Businesses

Start-up grants made and invoiced, by funding source



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

ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT

- Jul 14 Hosted Stanislaus Manufacturing Sector Workgroup bringing together leaders from education, workforce development, and industry came together to begin defining a collective approach to growing the region's manufacturing workforce. The group engaged in candid conversations about the real-world disruptions affecting manufacturing, including layoffs and automation in ag-processing to emerging opportunities in bio-manufacturing, and aligned on the need for a forward-looking, long-term strategy.
- Sept 12 Hosted Stanislaus Manufacturing Sector Workgroup to introduce and gather feedback on a
 prototype of the regional talent development system, stress test key components of the prototype to
 assess feasibility and alignment, and identify promising initiatives/opportunities to connect and align
 individual efforts across the region to build a regional talent development system.



MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE FUND

- Developed and launched a <u>Request for Proposal Process</u>, which opened on Aug 1 and closed on Sept 19, received 14 applications from workforce trainers, education institutions, school districts, and industry intermediaries.
- Aug 7 & 28 Hosted virtual informational sessions to review grant guidelines, eligibility criteria and answer questions.
- Sept 17 On-boarded evaluation committee and reviewed scoring rubric; committee members will review and score 14 proposals by 10/2.

FUND GOALS

- Increase On-the-Job Training & Work-Based Learning
- Align Career Pathways and Stackable Credentials with Industry Demand
- Establish Regional Competency and Credential Models
- Increase Community Awareness and Access to Manufacturing Careers

GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Strong Employer Partnerships with Clear Commitments
- Employer Adoption of Industry-Recognized Skills and Credentials
- Connecting Local Talent to Regional Manufacturing Jobs
- Strategic Collaboration with Education/Training Providers and CBOs

TALENT DEVELOPMENT



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

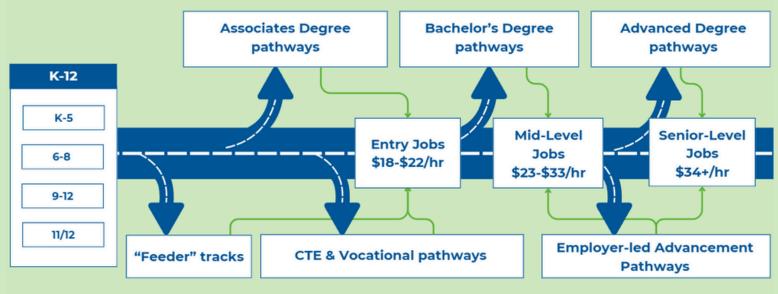
Lead Partner: Stanislaus County Workforce Development

MANUFACTURING SECTOR PATHWAY MAP

- Developed a Manufacturing Sector Framework and Career Pathways Map that identifies key industry
 needs, high-demand occupations, training provider ecosystem, manufacturing competency model,
 stakeholder roles in the ecosystem, worker profiles, and career progression pathways. The Map will be
 published as a booklet going into depth on each of these elements.
- Developed a distribution plan, scheduled for next quarter, to continue socializing, adopting, and adapting the sector strategy framework and pathways map.

Below is a snapshot of what's included in the Sector Pathway Map booklet:

TRAINING PROGRESSION



ECOSYSTEM ROLES



COMPETENCY MODEL





Goal

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

SOLUTIONS IN FOCUS

7

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: formal launch of Steering Committees

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

- The governance structure guiding the CBIO Collaborative's work operates through its Steering Committees.
 - The Community Steering Committee, active since last year, held two meetings during the third quarter (on August 29 and September 26).
 - The Use-Inspired R&D Steering Committee was launched this quarter and has already convened twice (August 25 and September 22).
 - The Industry Development Steering Committee held its first meeting on September 30.
 - The Workforce Development Steering Committee finalized member recruitment and will begin holding monthly meetings next quarter.
 - The Leadership Council met for the first time on August 19.
 - The Core Management Team met on July 8 and August 18.
- The CBIO Collaborative hosted two webinars this quarter:
 - Startup Showcase (July 8)
 - Research in Circular Bioeconomy (August 12)
 - Two additional webinars are scheduled for the fourth quarter.
- The CBIO Collaborative now has an active partner network of 138 organizational members.

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development

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

- BEAM Circular, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from Stanislaus County, launched on June 9 two competitive grant programs totaling \$2.3 million to strengthen local schools, school districts, and workforce training providers.
- The two programs—the Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund (6 proposals received) and the Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund (8 proposals received)—generated a total of 14 project proposals from Round 1. An independent evaluation panel reviewed and scored all submissions, resulting in the following award announcements:
- The Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund:
 - Stanislaus State Center for Sustainable Biotechnology \$435,255 Will serve approximately 600 students during the first two years and more than 4,000 individuals over five years, including high school and college students, underemployed adults, and incumbent workers, through a state-of-the-art research and training lab.
 - VOLT Institute Bioeconomy Smart Technologies Education Pathways (BioSTEP) \$499,299
 Will serve approximately 4,225 individuals over five years and enable the launch of 20+ new training programs, with a focus on stackable micro-credentials aligned with advanced manufacturing needs in automation, controls, instrumentation, and industrial systems.



QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund:
 - Modesto Junior College MESA Circular Bioeconomy Research Internship Program -\$37,758 - Supports first-generation, low-income STEM students through paid research internships that provide work experience, faculty mentorship, and exposure to bioeconomy careers. Faculty participation will expand the program's reach by integrating bioeconomy content into classroom curricula.
- The evaluation panel also recommended that five additional applicants be invited to resubmit revised proposals after receiving feedback. These awardees will be announced in the coming weeks once contracting is finalized.
- For Round 2 of both grant programs, a total of 18 project proposals were received:
 - Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund: 5 proposals submitted, with \$565,445 remaining for distribution.
 - Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund: 13 proposals submitted, with \$330,778 remaining for distribution.













 In the third quarter, BEAM Circular welcomed a new Director of Education and Workforce Strategies, See Lee, following a thorough recruitment process. See brings over 20 years of experience in workforce development, nonprofit leadership, and business management. Her previous roles include Program and Operations Manager at Equus Workforce Solutions, Career Educator at the Merced County Office of Education, and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County.

Business and Economic Development

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- On August 5–6, BEAM Circular participated in the Summit on Bio-Based Products: Scaling California's Bioeconomy for Climate, Innovation & Economic Growth in Sacramento, organized by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), Sierra Business Council, and the ATiP Foundation. The summit fostered statewide collaboration to define actionable strategies that accelerate market adoption, investment, and policy frameworks driving sustainable economic growth.
- On August 6, BEAM Circular CEO Karen Warner presented at the California Resource Recovery Association as part of a session hosted by CalRecycle, highlighting the North San Joaquin Valley's circular bioeconomy initiative as a case study supportive of the State's Zero Waste Plan.



QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (continue)

- On August 20, BEAM Circular participated in the 2025 Fresh Field Catalyst Cohort: Feed the
 Future with Reusable Packaging Solutions, organized by the International Fresh Produce
 Association and the Foundation for Fresh Produce (FFP). The event featured nine innovative
 companies developing scalable technologies in sustainable packaging, traceability, shelf-life
 extension, and food waste reduction.
- Neal Best, Vice President of Business and Economic Development, attended Bio Innovations Midwest 2025 in Omaha on September 9–10, connecting with national and international bioindustry leaders to discuss strategies for accelerating U.S. biomanufacturing scale-up. He represented BEAM Circular in conversations focused on commercialization, infrastructure development, and regional bioindustrial growth, and met with several European companies exploring U.S. expansion—many of which highlighted California's strong offtaker market and diverse feedstock supply as key advantages.
- In the first half of 2025, BEAM Circular announced \$310,000 in grant awards to five businesses through the CA Jobs First Economic Development Pilot Grant. These investments help advance innovation, de-risk new technologies, and support commercialization at small businesses contributing to regional sustainability and community prosperity.
- During the third quarter, BEAM Circular focused on reviewing and finalizing awards under the following programs:
 - Research and Commercialization Access Match Fund
 - Bioindustrial Manufacturing Innovation Voucher Program
 - Technical Assistance Program
- A total of 106 intake forms were received across all programs, of which 30 businesses were invited to submit full proposals. Q3 efforts were primarily dedicated to evaluating these submissions and completing award commitments.
- Under the Research and Commercialization Access Match Fund, 16 applicants were invited to submit full proposals, resulting in five awards totaling \$590,000. The review process included an internal committee evaluation, external technical review, and C-suite review to ensure strategic and programmatic alignment.
- Under the Bioindustrial Manufacturing Innovation Voucher and Technical Assistance Programs, 21 applicants were invited to submit full proposals, and nine were awarded, totaling \$400,000.
- By the end of Q3, and including previous rounds, BEAM Circular had committed a total of 19 awards across all three programs—representing \$1.65 million in funding. All awarded funds are now in the process of being deployed to participating businesses.









QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Innovation Campus Planning (Testbed Facility Development)

Initiative 4: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

- During the week of August 11, BEAM Circular held a three-day design sprint workshop with a team
 of expert advisors to advance the Bioeconomy Innovation Campus planning process. The
 consulting group included Christopher Sorensen (GreenLab), JLL, Black & Veatch, Hawkwood
 Biotech, and LifeSpace Labs.
- During the third quarter, BEAM Circular, in partnership with Hawkwood Biotech, conducted an
 outreach survey to capture the voice of the customer for potential users of the California
 Bioeconomy Innovation Campus. The survey aimed to identify user needs and inform the phased
 development approach for the campus.

Innovation

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- BEAM Circular continues to coordinate activities for the 5-year innovation project funded by Schmidt Sciences as part of the national Virtual Institute on Feedstocks of the Future (VIFF) Program. The project, "Building the Circular Bioeconomy in the North San Joaquin Valley" (BioCircular Valley), is co-led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), UC Berkeley, and BEAM Circular, in collaboration with UC Merced, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), the Almond Board of California, and the USDA Albany Agricultural Research Station.
- On August 29, BEAM Circular hosted a BioCircular Valley user feedback workshop with over 30 participants at UC Merced.
- On September 16, BEAM Circular hosted research teams who are part of the VIFF Program from across the country for a regional site visit showcasing the Central Valley's bioeconomy ecosystem. The visit included the Cortez Growers Association and Almond Board of California discussions, as well as tours of Hilmar Cheese Company and Stanislaus Food Products.
- On September 12, BEAM Circular visited Gallo Winery in Livingston alongside a group of researchers organized by the iCAMP Center at UC Davis.









(Left Up) VIFF Researchers at Cortez Growers Association (Left Down) VIFF Researchers at Cortez Growers Association (Right Up) VIFF Researchers at Hilmar Cheese (Center Down) BioCirV portal workshop at UC Merced



QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- On August 8, BEAM Circular organized and hosted a regional field trip for 45 participants from the North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee, BEAM's Community Steering Committee, and other partners. The group visited the Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts Process Development Unit (ABPDU) and the Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, as well as Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Tracy Renewables. The immersive, full-day experience deepened participants' understanding of how biomanufacturing can create sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel-based products and energy. The program featured presentations on life cycle analysis, environmental and economic impacts of emerging technologies, and the role of open-access biomass data in accelerating innovation. Participants toured the labs, met with funders of the startup Oleo, and learned from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers about decades of advancements in carbon capture, storage, and utilization (CCUS) and advanced manufacturing. At Tracy Renewables, participants met a local entrepreneur repurposing walnut byproducts to clean water and generate heat for food processing—while exploring expansion into hydrogen and renewable energy production. The company's pollution-control systems keep emissions well below permit limits, and the site also hosts a startup pioneering direct air carbon capture with algae.
- On August 20, BEAM Circular hosted a Stanislaus County Government Roundtable at Modesto Junior College to share information about the bioeconomy and BEAM updates.
- On September 17, BEAM Circular and Stan 2030 hosted County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), to showcase the ARPA investments from Stanislaus County supporting the growth of the regional bioeconomy.











(Left Up) North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee, BEAM's Community Steering Committee, and other partners at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Right Up) Same group of participants at Tracy Renewables (Left Down) Same group of participants at Joint BioEnergy Institute (Center Down) Stanislaus County Government Roundtable at Modesto Junior College (Right Down) Visit of Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)



QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- July Activities:
 - 7/15: Stanislaus County Fair Turlock
 - o 7/24: CBIO In person network at BEAM Circular Office Modesto
 - o 7/28: Stanislaus Student Field Trip to Stanford University with Invest in Me Patterson
- · August Activities:
 - o 8/02: Patterson Block Party Resource Fair Patterson
 - o 8/16: West Modesto Community Collaborative Back to School Resource Fair Modesto
 - 8/25: Community Ambassadors Training Session #1 (English and Spanish) Modesto
 - 8/29: BEAM Circular Community Steering Committee Meeting Virtual
- September Activities:
 - o 9/02: Community Ambassadors Training Session #2 (English and Spanish) Modesto
 - 9/04: Presentation at Waterford City Council Meeting Waterford
 - o 9/09: Community Ambassadors Training Session #3 (English and Spanish) Modesto
 - 9/26: BEAM Circular Community Steering Committee Meeting Virtual
- During Q3 (July September), BEAM directly engaged with 442 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.











