

The California Partnership for Regional Economies

Summary: The recovery and sustained growth of California's regional economies will require close coordination among public and private sector leaders. At the regional level, leaders in the business, government, nonprofit and civic sectors will need to work closely together to develop the assets, and conditions that attract the private capital investment needed to generate quality jobs. State government needs an efficient and responsive mechanism to support the development of these regional collaborative efforts and align state-level policies to the needs of regional economies. A publicly chartered non-profit corporation is proposed to fill this necessary role.

Purpose and Function of the Partnership:

- For the regional prosperity collaboratives, the state partnership would provide a unified mechanism for working with state agencies that administer programs, control grants and other funding sources, and establish regulations that help or hinder regional economies.
- For the top leadership of state agencies, the partnership provides a meaningful and efficient way to communicate and coordinate with regional leadership on cross-cutting issues.
- The partnership would facilitate learning among the regional collaboratives, sharing best practices, data, policy initiatives and successes. This will be particularly valuable for those regions that are still developing public-private collaborations, and this mechanism will be invaluable as all collaboratives move from fixing problems to transforming systems.
- As a hybrid of state-local and public-private leaders, the state partnership will ensure sustained and continuous leadership that transcends particular administrations at the state and local level.
- The partnership also will be valuable to the policymaking process by providing guidance to state, regional and local venues with regard to the potential costs and benefits of new policy initiatives and in the implementation of those initiatives.

Organization of Partnership:

- The partnership would be incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. State participation would be authorized by an executive order or legislation.
- The coordinating function will be served by a governing board comprised of members of the governor's cabinet and regional leaders from the public and private sectors.
- A small staff (and consultants, as needed) would facilitate best practices and learning among the regional collaboratives and provide data and analysis to guide state-level decision-making.

Funding for the Partnership:

- The annual budget is projected at \$2 million a year, with half coming from state sources and half coming from philanthropy and other private sources.
- The nonprofit structure enables the partnership to draw philanthropic and public support.

For more information on the role of the Partnership, please contact *California Forward* at info@caforward.org.