

Inland Empire 2030

Vision & Roadmap



Building a Shared Vision for the Future of the IE: Solutions, Strategies, and Commitments

September 2023

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Executive Summary

The IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap is a comprehensive report that outlines a transformative vision for the Inland Empire region and provides a roadmap for its sustainable and equitable development. This executive summary provides a condensed overview of the key findings, recommendations, and action items outlined in the full report.

Vision for the Inland Empire:

The report envisions an innovative, resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable Inland Empire, where all residents have access to opportunities, thrive in a healthy environment, and enjoy a high quality of life. The vision embraces collaboration, diversity, and community-driven solutions to address the region's pressing challenges and build a better future for generations to come.

Key Findings:

Through extensive community engagement and research, several key findings have emerged:

1. **Interconnected Challenges:** The Inland Empire faces interconnected challenges across 12 topic areas, including education, health, housing, transportation, and more. These challenges are exacerbated by systemic inequities and require holistic and collaborative solutions.
2. **Health Disparities:** Health disparities persist in the region, with communities of color disproportionately affected. Access to quality healthcare, mental health support, and addressing social determinants of health are critical focus areas.
3. **Housing Insecurity:** The Inland Empire faces significant housing challenges, including affordability, homelessness, and inadequate housing supply. A comprehensive approach is needed to address these issues and ensure stable and affordable housing options for all residents.
4. **Economic Opportunities:** The region has immense economic potential, but equitable access to education, workforce development, and entrepreneurship opportunities must be prioritized to create sustainable economic growth and reduce income disparities.
5. **Environmental Resilience:** Climate change impacts, air quality concerns, and limited access to green spaces necessitate sustainable environmental practices and the promotion of clean energy initiatives to protect public health and enhance quality of life.

Action Items & Strategies

The IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap provides a detailed set of strategies and action items to guide decision-makers, policymakers, philanthropy, and other stakeholders. The report emphasizes the importance of multisector collaboration, community-driven approaches, and long-term planning to address the region's challenges effectively. The recommendations focus on the following key areas:

1. **Integrated Solutions:** Encouraging multisolver approaches that address multiple topic areas simultaneously to maximize impact and foster synergies between sectors.



2. **Equitable Development:** Promoting policies and investments that advance equity, reduce disparities, and ensure access to essential services and opportunities for all residents.
3. **Community Engagement:** Enhancing community engagement and participation in decision-making processes, recognizing the expertise and lived experiences of diverse stakeholders.
4. **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Investing in sustainable transportation, energy, and environmental infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and enhance resilience to climate change.
5. **Civic Infrastructure:** Nurturing nascent cross-sector collaborations focused on specific issues, bolstering our region's capacity to achieve collective impact, attract and channel substantial investments, and swiftly respond to imminent needs. This endeavor necessitates the fortification of backbone support and integrated backend infrastructure to fuel these initiatives.

The IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap report sets a bold and transformative agenda for the Inland Empire's future. By embracing collaboration, equity, and sustainability, we can overcome challenges, harness opportunities, and build an inclusive and prosperous region that benefits all residents. The report's recommendations and action items provide a comprehensive roadmap for stakeholders to work together in achieving this shared vision, ensuring a better future for the Inland Empire.

Letter from the Design Committee & IE 2030 Team

Dear Readers & Community Members,

We are thrilled to present to you the IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap, a culmination of our collective efforts, collaboration, and shared commitment to building an innovative, resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable Inland Empire. As the Design Committee and the entire IE 2030 Team, we want to express our deep gratitude for your invaluable contributions, insights, and support throughout this transformative journey.

The IE 2030 initiative brought together community members, organizations, experts, and stakeholders from various sectors to create a truly cross-sectoral coalition. Your dedication, expertise, and active participation have been instrumental in shaping this vision and roadmap for the region's future. We are humbled by the incredible energy and passion that you have brought to the table, making this a truly community-driven process.

This report represents the culmination of hours of collaboration, dialogue, and collective problem-solving. It is a testament to our shared commitment to addressing the pressing challenges faced by the Inland Empire and envisioning a future that reflects the aspirations and needs of its diverse communities.

However, let us emphasize that this is only the beginning. The IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap is not merely a document to be shelved, but a call to action and a roadmap for real change. The true work lies ahead of us as we actionize the strategies, commitments, and recommendations outlined in this report. We recognize the significance and complexity of the tasks that lie before us, and we are committed to continuing this collaboration and fostering collective impact for the betterment of the region.

We acknowledge that the transformation we seek requires sustained effort, resources, and collaboration. As we move forward, we invite you to stay engaged, involved, and committed to the shared vision we have crafted together. Together, we can create tangible, lasting change that benefits all residents of the Inland Empire.

Once again, we express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication, input, and expertise. Your contributions have made this vision and roadmap a reality, and we are honored to have worked alongside you. We look forward to the next phase of our journey, where we will turn this vision into action and drive positive transformation in the Inland Empire.

With gratitude and determination,

The IE 2030 Design Committee & IE 2030 Team

About IE 2030

Background

Incubated by IE RISE (Inland Empire Roadmap for Inclusion, Sustainability, and Equity), the IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap for Community Wellbeing aims to develop a robust process of community development and inclusive regional planning that: a) engages grassroots, business, and government partners across its various sub-regions, and b) provides a policy and investment roadmap for more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable systems that advance community well-being.

The IE Vision and Roadmap is poised to set a bold and ambitious investment strategy for the region by 2030. Similar to the Fresno DRIVE and California100 initiatives in California, and the Working Places initiative in New England, our regional roadmap will attract public, private, and philanthropic investments, and will give them better shape—grounded in shared values and aligned towards common goals that will accelerate progress towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future. We anticipate millions of dollars in new investments aligned with the IE RISE roadmap in the next 5 years, with the potential to shape upwards of a billion in public and private investments over the course of a decade. *For more information visit:*

IE2030.org

IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap Approach

The work is being structured in a way to ensure not only social equity, but also geographic equity, so communities that have traditionally held less power in regional economic decisions (such as the High Desert, Coachella Valley, and San Bernardino metro) are empowered and united to shape our region's economic future.

The coalition's landscape scan and set of stakeholder listening sessions have produced a vision for economic growth and sustainability that: a) generates living wage jobs towards paths to better futures, b) promotes quality of life, community health, and responsible stewardship of natural resources, and c) proceeds in a manner that improves outcomes among historically disadvantaged communities. Our proposed work in creating a common data and research platform, and deeper collaborative design work in fleshing out a more detailed vision and roadmap that is grounded in DNA: data, narrative, and action will be essential to ensure further progress for inclusive regional planning in the Inland Empire.

Intentions & Purpose

Our goals are simple, yet powerful.

- 1) Create an **inspiring vision for success** for our region and all its people,
- 2) **Address major issues affecting our communities**, including a holistic view of health, mental health, public safety, affordable housing, reliable transportation, lifelong learning, and a thriving natural world, and

- 3) Create a **roadmap for achievements for 2030 and beyond**, with changes in policies and a package of coordinated investments that can bring millions of dollars to our communities, and have lasting impact.

We need your leadership and expertise to ensure that this project is impactful, and that it is reflective of our communities' hopes and dreams for the future.

The Inland Empire - A Region in Transformation

The Inland Empire, comprising Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, is a dynamic region home to nearly 4.6 million residents. Notably, while the Inland Empire experienced a population increase of 48,000 residents between 2020 and 2021, Los Angeles County, its neighboring counterpart, witnessed a decline of 184,000 residents during the same period. This underscores the ongoing transformation and attractiveness of the Inland Empire.

Over the last three decades, Riverside County has witnessed an impressive doubling in population, while San Bernardino County has also grown substantially by 50%. This sustained growth reflects the region's potential and the opportunities it offers for its residents and businesses.

The Inland Empire is a region with a distinct identity. While characterized by its diverse geography and a rich tapestry of communities, it shares a unique culture shaped by its special position within Southern California. This region has forged its path, balancing both its role as an integral part of the larger Southern California landscape and its individual, vibrant identity. It's a place brimming with energy, poised for significant growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

The IE 2030 project was born out of the recognition that this region, with its incredible assets, has the potential to achieve even greater heights. From the breathtaking natural landscapes of its mountains and valleys to its numerous educational institutions, burgeoning healthcare sector, and a diverse population, the Inland Empire boasts a wealth of strengths.

Nonetheless, there are also pressing challenges that need addressing. Housing and education have become increasingly unattainable for many, commutes continue to lengthen, and various health issues disproportionately affect communities of color and rural areas. Despite these hurdles, the Inland Empire remains a place of immense vitality, with a rich cultural heritage and a growing community of residents and innovators committed to collaboratively shaping a more resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future.

The IE 2030 project serves as a comprehensive and inclusive endeavor that unites government agencies, private enterprises, community organizations, and engaged citizens. This collective effort is geared towards confronting the region's challenges while seizing its opportunities. Through this collaborative partnership, the project aspires to mold a more equitable and sustainable Inland Empire capable of meeting the diverse needs of all its residents and communities.

How is IE 2030 Different?

IE 2030 is a unique and innovative project that sets itself apart from other efforts due to its comprehensive and inclusive approach to tackling the region's most pressing issues. Unlike other initiatives that have a narrow focus or specialty, IE 2030 takes a holistic approach to addressing the challenges facing the region by examining 12 different topic areas. By including a wide range of topics, from education to public safety and justice reform, IE 2030 is better equipped to address the interconnected issues that impact the lives of residents in the Inland Empire.

IE 2030 is different because it:

- Builds on statewide efforts, leveraging diverse networks and resources
- Translates abstract visions for the future of the region into concrete solutions, strategies and investments
- Includes comprehensive plans for 12 topic areas; touching many different sectors and issues

Furthermore, IE 2030 is different from other regional partnerships and collaborations because it leverages diverse networks and resources to achieve its goals. Rather than competing for funding and resources, IE 2030 brings together community leaders, organizations, and policymakers from across the region to work collaboratively towards shared goals. This approach enables IE 2030 to tap into a wider range of perspectives, expertise, and resources, resulting in more effective and sustainable solutions for the Inland Empire.

Finally, IE 2030's unique approach translates abstract visions for the future of the region into concrete solutions and strategies that are actionable and implementable. By providing clear and achievable goals, IE 2030 empowers community members and leaders to take action and make a real-world impact on the issues that matter most to the region. With its inclusive and comprehensive approach, we believe that IE 2030 is poised to make a significant and lasting impact on the Inland Empire, promoting innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability throughout the region.

Our Partners & Collaborators

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Champions for Change

(Former [IE RISE](#) partners and early participants in IE 2030 sessions)

Alianza Coachella Valley
Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
Center for Social Innovation, UC Riverside
Clay Counseling Solutions
Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR)
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)
Growing Inland Achievement (GIA)
Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) Data
Inland Empire Community Collaborative
Inland Empire Community Foundation
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Inland Equity Partnership
Inland SoCal Housing Collective
Making Hope Happen Foundation
National Core
Parkview Legacy Foundation
People's Collective for Environmental Justice (PC4EJ)
Reach Out
Robert Redford Conservancy at Pitzer College
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
Sigma Beta Xi Youth & Family Services
TruEvoution
Tzunu Strategies
Voice Media Ventures
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Youth Mentoring Action Network

Frameworks

The IE 2030 project is a comprehensive effort to create a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire, centered on the values of resilience, inclusion, sustainability, and equity. To achieve this goal, the project utilizes a number of frameworks and models to guide its approach. One such framework is the [Seven Vital Conditions for Community Health and Wellbeing](#), which provides a holistic view of the factors that contribute to community health and wellbeing. This framework helps the project team identify the key areas of focus for creating a healthy and sustainable future for the Inland Empire. In addition, the project team also utilizes the [IE RISE Systems Change Framework](#), which provides a structured approach to identifying, analyzing, and addressing complex social and environmental issues. This framework helps the team develop strategies and interventions that can drive systems-level change and achieve the project's vision for the future of the Inland Empire. By leveraging these frameworks and models, the IE 2030 project is able to take a comprehensive and strategic approach to creating a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire, and developing actionable solutions and strategies to achieve that vision.

Vital Conditions for Community Health & Well-Being Framework

The Seven Vital Conditions for Well-Being is a useful framework for conceptualizing holistic well-being and the conditions that give rise to it, as well as identifying levers for community change and improvement. It brings together major determinants of health, exposing how parts of a multi-faceted whole work as a system to produce population well-being. This framework helps users consider the properties of places and institutions that all people need all the time to be healthy and well. This framework advances a collaborative, cross-sector approach to improving community health and well-being and helps identify where and how to invest in communities to yield better results over time.

The Seven Vital Conditions for Community Health & Well-Being



Source: Originated by Rethink Health, the Vital Conditions for Well-Being framework is being advanced through the Well-Being in the Nation (WIN) Network. Indicators included were selected through a collaborative process with WIN partners and further refined by the IP3 team for relevance, granularity, recency, and other factors.

Each vital condition is distinct and indispensable. Together, they form an interdependent system that shapes opportunities for people and places to thrive. If any vital condition is denied or otherwise unfulfilled, serious adversity can accumulate, revealing itself in excess rates of illness, unemployment, housing distress, food insecurity, loneliness, and more.

[Learn more about the *Vital Conditions Framework*](#)

The Well-Being Economy

The [well-being economy](#) is an approach to economic development and governance that prioritizes the overall well-being and quality of life of individuals and communities, rather than solely focusing on traditional economic indicators such as GDP growth. It recognizes that a thriving economy should not only generate wealth but also promote social progress, environmental sustainability, and human flourishing.¹

In the context of our work with IE 2030, the well-being economy provides a guiding framework that aligns with our goals of creating a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient region in the Inland Empire. By placing people's well-being at the center of our efforts, we can ensure that economic development strategies and policies are designed to enhance the overall quality of life for all residents.

¹ Fioramonti, Lorenzo. "Well-being economy." *Pan Macmillan, Johannesburg* (2017).

The well-being economy approach emphasizes the integration of multiple dimensions of well-being, including social, environmental, and economic factors. It recognizes that these dimensions are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and that a holistic approach is necessary to achieve sustainable and equitable outcomes.²

In practical terms, embracing the well-being economy within the context of IE 2030 involves several key considerations. First, it means going beyond traditional economic metrics to measure progress and success. While economic growth is important, it should be balanced with indicators such as social equity, health outcomes, educational attainment, environmental sustainability, and community resilience.

Second, the well-being economy approach requires collaboration and partnership among various stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, community organizations, and residents. It recognizes the importance of engaging diverse perspectives and fostering inclusive decision-making processes that reflect the needs and aspirations of all members of the Inland Empire community.

Third, the well-being economy approach calls for investment in key areas that contribute to overall well-being, such as affordable housing, accessible healthcare, quality education, sustainable transportation, environmental conservation, and social infrastructure. These investments aim to address social determinants of well-being and promote equitable access to essential resources and opportunities.

By embracing the principles of the well-being economy in our work with IE 2030, we can build a better future that prioritizes the health, happiness, and prosperity of the people in the Inland Empire. It offers a transformative vision that goes beyond traditional economic paradigms and fosters a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient region.

Additional References on the Well-Being Economy:

WHO on [Transforming Economies to Deliver what Matters](#)

The Big Shift: An Economy Built for Thriving Together (access code = NCL23)

<https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/ncr-article/the-big-shift-an-economy-built-for-thriving-together/>

Thriving Together Springboard: Renewing Economic Life

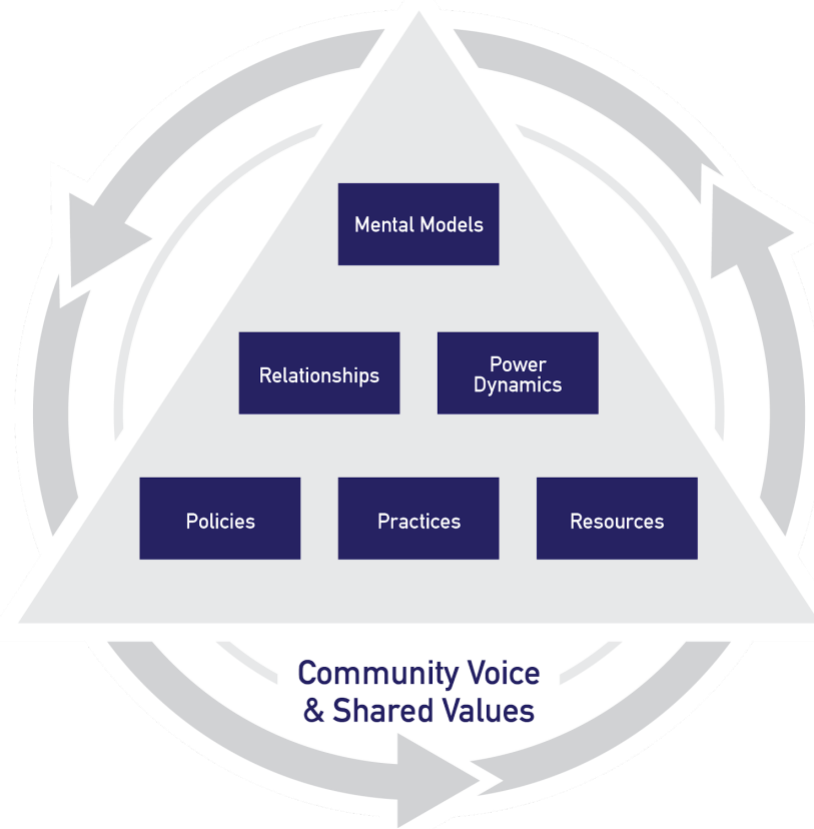
<https://thriving.us/renewing-economic-life/>

Surgeon General's Report -- Community Health and Economic Prosperity: Engaging Businesses as Stewards and Stakeholders

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/community-health-economic-prosperity/index.html>

² Diener, Ed, and Martin EP Seligman. "Beyond money: Toward an economy of well-being." *Psychological science in the public interest* 5.1 (2004): 1-31.

IE RISE Systems Change Framework



Building on the success of Census and COVID outreach efforts, leaders in the region launched the [Inland Empire Roadmap for an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy \(IE RISE\)](#). IE RISE is a two-county-wide collaborative that works towards amplifying community voices around a unified vision and activating shared values to reform systems to make them truly equitable. Through this collaborative effort, the IE RISE Systems Change Framework was developed.

Systems change is a relatively new concept in philanthropy and the nonprofit sector, and it can mean different things to different people. Most broadly, it means “systems shifting the conditions that are holding the problem in place.” One of the most influential frameworks in this emerging field is the one produced by FSG (formerly called Foundation Strategy Group).

The revised framework on systems change noted above was based on input and feedback from the local community. Importantly, the community decided to add Community Voice and Shared Values to the framework. Community voice and shared values provide not only the baseline for this model, but they also act as a feedback loop in which the model can be continually refined and tailored to community needs.

Policies: Government, institutional and organizational rules, regulations, and priorities that guide the entity’s own and others’ actions.

Practices: Espoused activities of institutions, coalitions, networks, and other entities targeted to improve social and environmental progress. Also, within the entity, the procedures, guidelines, or informally shared habits that comprise their work.

Resource Flows: How money, people, knowledge, information, and other assets such as infrastructure are allocated and distributed.

Relationships & Connections: Quality of connections and communication occurring among actors in the system, especially among those with differing histories and viewpoints.

Power Dynamics: The distribution of decision-making power, authority, and both formal and informal influence among individuals and organizations.

Mental Models: Habits of thought—deeply held beliefs and assumptions and taken-for-granted ways of operating that influence how we think, what we do, and how we talk. This includes understandings about root causes of problems; what solutions are possible, available, and effective; and who are the leaders and stakeholders needed to produce durable solutions.

[Learn more about the FSG: *The Water of Systems Change Framework*](#)

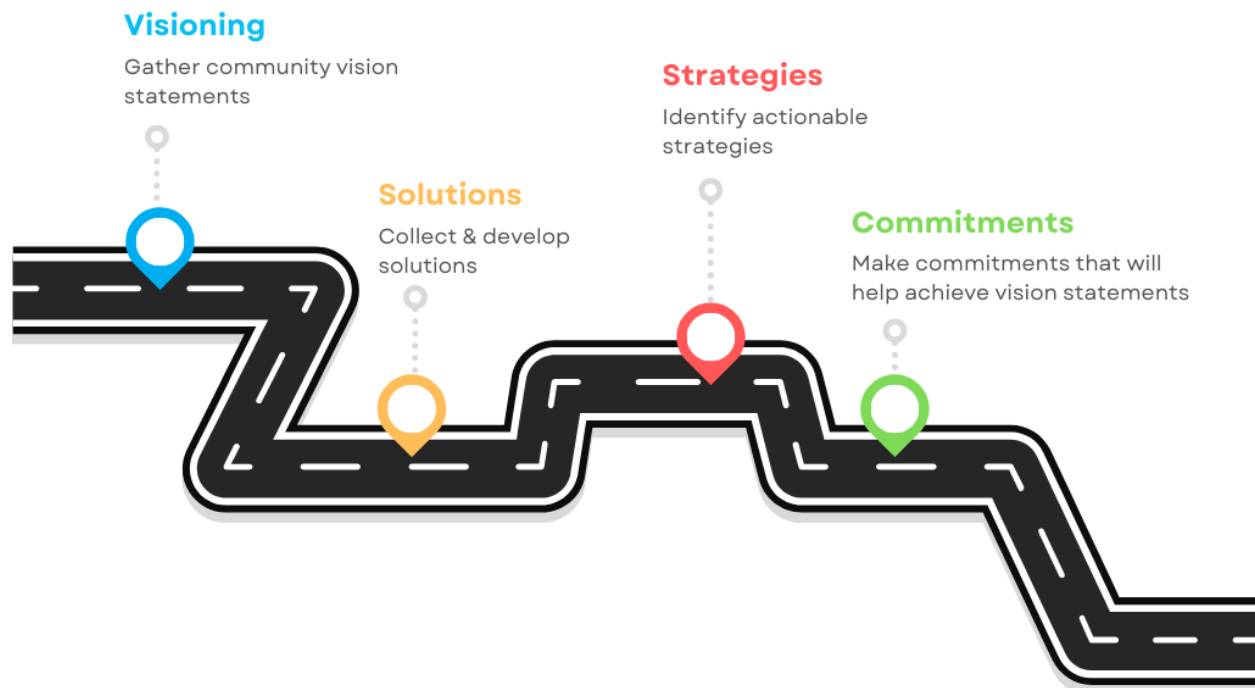
Process & Data Collection

The IE 2030 project has relied heavily on community workshops and sessions to build a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire. These sessions have provided an opportunity for community members, stakeholders, and local experts to come together and share their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing the region, and to work collaboratively to develop actionable solutions and strategies.

Through these sessions, the project team has been able to solicit a wide range of policy ideas and solutions from the community, which have been carefully analyzed and evaluated for their potential impact and feasibility. This approach has allowed the project team to develop a deep understanding of the needs and priorities of the community, and to identify solutions that are both impactful and achievable.

Moreover, by engaging community members and local experts in the process of developing the shared vision and roadmap, the IE 2030 project has been able to build broad-based support for its goals and strategies. This community engagement has helped to ensure that the project's vision and solutions are grounded in the needs and aspirations of the community, and that they have the best possible chance of success. Overall, the community workshops and sessions

have been an essential component of the IE 2030 project, providing a critical platform for community engagement and collaboration, and helping to build a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire that is both inspiring and achievable.



Stage 1: Vision Statements

The IE 2030 project has sought to engage the community in a collaborative process of developing a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire. One key component of this process has been the solicitation of "vision statements" from community members, which have been collected through a variety of exercises and workshops.

These vision statements represent the dreams and aspirations of the community for the future of the Inland Empire. By soliciting these statements, the project team has been able to gain a deeper understanding of the needs and priorities of the community, and to identify common themes and values that can inform the development of strategies and solutions.

Importantly, the project team has identified shared values of innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability that serve as common principles for the development of the shared vision and roadmap. By using these shared values as a foundation for the project, the team has been able to ensure that the vision and solutions are grounded in the needs and aspirations of the community, and that they reflect the values and principles that are most important to the region.

The solicitation of vision statements from the community has been an essential component of the IE 2030 project, providing a critical platform for community engagement and collaboration, and helping to build a shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire that is both inspiring and achievable.

Stage 2: Solutions

The IE 2030 project has been actively seeking policy "solutions" from the community, through both open sessions and an online form submission process. These solutions are intended to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Inland Empire, and to help achieve the shared vision for the region that is at the heart of the project.

Through these processes, the project team has received a wide range of policy solutions from community members, stakeholders, and local experts. These solutions have been carefully analyzed and evaluated for their potential impact and feasibility, with the goal of identifying strategies that are both impactful and achievable.

Importantly, the project team has recognized the interconnectedness of these policy solutions and their potential impact on each other. For example, policies related to transportation may have implications for housing and community development, while policies related to energy and environment may have implications for health and well-being.

By taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to these policy solutions, the IE 2030 project can identify strategies that not only address the immediate challenges facing the Inland Empire, but also promote long-term sustainability and resilience for the region. This collaborative approach to policy development helps to ensure that the solutions are grounded in the needs and aspirations of the community, and that they reflect the values and principles that are most important to the region.

The policy solutions submitted through the open sessions and online form submission process have been an essential component of the IE 2030 project, providing a critical platform for community engagement and collaboration, and helping to develop actionable strategies and policies that can help achieve the shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire.

Stage 3: Strategies

The IE 2030 project has utilized the input and feedback from the community to develop a set of actionable strategies that can help implement the policy solutions and achieve the shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire. The project team has analyzed the community feedback and identified common themes and priorities, and has worked collaboratively to develop strategies that can address these needs and challenges.

Importantly, the project team has taken a comprehensive and integrated approach to these strategies, recognizing the interconnectedness of the different policy solutions and their potential impact on each other. By developing strategies that are aligned with the shared values of innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability, the project team has been able to ensure that the strategies are grounded in the needs and aspirations of the community.

The strategies developed through this process are intended to be actionable, achievable, and impactful, and to help promote long-term sustainability and resilience for the Inland Empire. By utilizing a collaborative approach that draws on the expertise and perspectives of community members, stakeholders, and local experts, the IE 2030 project is well positioned to identify and implement the strategies that will help achieve the shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire.

The strategies developed through the IE 2030 project are a testament to the power of community engagement and collaboration, and represent a critical step forward in the effort to create a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable future for the Inland Empire.

Stage 4: Commitments

The final stage of the IE 2030 project is the development of commitments from community members, local leaders, and regional stakeholders to help implement the strategies and achieve the shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire. These commitments can take many forms, including individual actions, organizational commitments, and governmental policy changes.

It is essential that these commitments are made and acted upon in order for the vision and strategies developed through the IE 2030 project to become a reality. The project team recognizes the importance of ongoing engagement and collaboration with community members and stakeholders to ensure that commitments are made and followed through on, and that progress is continually monitored and evaluated.

Moreover, the IE 2030 team is committed to continuing to workshop and add to the Vision and Roadmap document as a "living document" that can be updated and revised as needed to reflect changing circumstances and emerging opportunities. This is particularly important given the dynamic and rapidly changing landscape of economic development, workforce automation, and the impacts of climate change on the region and beyond.

Ultimately, the success of the IE 2030 project will depend on the commitment and engagement of the community, local leaders, and regional stakeholders. By working collaboratively to implement the strategies and achieve the shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire, the project team believes that the region can build a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Topic Areas



The IE 2030 project has identified 12 topic areas that are critical to shaping the future of the Inland Empire: arts and culture, economic development, education, energy and environment, food systems, health and well-being, housing and community development, labor and workforce, media and democracy, public safety and justice reform, social services, and transportation. These topic areas are all interconnected and intersect with one another in a number of important ways.

For example, improving transportation infrastructure can have a significant impact on economic development by improving access to jobs and increasing mobility for workers. At the same time, transportation planning can have a significant impact on the environment, by reducing emissions and improving air quality. Similarly, improving access to healthy food and promoting sustainable food systems can have a significant impact on public health, while also supporting economic development and local agriculture.

It is essential to understand these interrelationships and interdependencies when developing solutions and policies that address these 12 topic areas. While each topic area may require specific policy solutions and strategies, it is important to consider the holistic socio-economic and political landscape of the region and how different topic areas intersect with one another. By taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to these 12 topic areas, the IE 2030 project can develop solutions and policies that not only address the immediate challenges facing the Inland Empire, but also promote long-term sustainability and resilience for the region.



A Multi-Solver Approach

The challenges and issues faced by the Inland Empire are often interconnected and complex, requiring a comprehensive and collaborative Multi-Solver Approach to find effective solutions. This approach is guided by the principles of co-designing solutions, making the most of multi sector partnerships, acknowledging past legacies, combining short- and long-term strategies, introducing new ways of identifying and evaluating actions, finding higher leverage for lasting system change, and breaking from business-as-usual in a siloed system.

One key aspect of this approach is recognizing that addressing one issue within an issue area can have positive effects on other related issues, creating a cascading and catalytic effect that positively impacts multiple sectors simultaneously. For example, improving healthcare accessibility and affordability can have profound implications for labor and workforce, justice reform, housing, and education. By implementing targeted solutions in these areas, we can create a domino effect of positive change throughout the region.

Throughout the planning process of IE 2030, we engaged with diverse community groups, organizations, and residents to better understand their concerns, aspirations, and the solutions that matter most to them. We held topic-specific discussions, workshops, and community sessions to ensure that the voices and perspectives related to each specific topic area were accurately represented. By focusing on the unique challenges faced within each sector, we developed targeted strategies and actions that directly addressed the concerns and priorities expressed by the communities we aim to serve.

While recognizing the interconnections between various topic areas and the potential for synergistic solutions, we approached each issue area distinctively within this document. This enabled us to effectively organize and uplift the voices of the community members we engaged with, ensuring that their perspectives and needs were properly reflected. By centering our discussions around specific topic areas, we were able to delve deeply into the concerns and solutions that mattered most to the residents, organizations, and stakeholders involved.

By then employing the Multi-Solver Approach, we recognize the interdependencies and potential cross-sectoral benefits of our strategies and solutions. This approach encourages us to think holistically, leverage synergies, and identify solutions that address multiple challenges simultaneously. It allows us to consider how actions in one sector may have positive ripple effects on other related issues. For example, each topic area in this document includes a section called “Multi-Solver Opportunities” which highlights different areas in which enacting a strategy or solution could greatly benefit a different topic area.

Through this collaborative and comprehensive approach, we seek to create a more resilient, thriving, and equitable Inland Empire. By integrating the insights and aspirations of the

community members and leveraging the principles of multi-solving, we can unlock the potential for integrated and impactful solutions that address the complex challenges faced by our region.

The Vision

This document is structured into two sections: "The Vision" and "The Roadmap." Each section serves a specific purpose in guiding our actions and investments towards achieving our vision for the future of the Inland Empire.

Section 1: The Vision: "The Vision" section outlines the comprehensive understanding of the 12 topic areas, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and aspirations associated with each. It provides a deep dive into the sector challenges, presents vision statements that reflect our desired outcomes, showcases community-generated solutions, and offers recommended strategies and commitments.

Within this section, we explore the interconnections and interdependencies between the topic areas and the potential for multisolving—solutions that address multiple challenges simultaneously. By understanding these connections, we can identify opportunities for synergy and collaboration across sectors, enhancing the overall impact of our actions.

Section 2: The Roadmap: "The Roadmap" section presents a practical framework for implementing our vision. It outlines action items and investments for each of the 12 topic areas, organized into different timeframes: immediate action items/investments, the next 5-10 years, the next 10-20 years, and the long-term perspective beyond the year 2050.

The roadmap guides our decision-making by providing specific and actionable steps to prioritize our efforts and allocate resources effectively. Within each timeframe, we identify priority action items or investments that align with our vision and goals. These priority items are chosen strategically, considering their potential to be multisolvers—benefiting multiple topic areas simultaneously.

"The Vision" section sets the foundation for our work, defining the challenges, opportunities, and aspirations for each topic area. It lays out the vision we aim to achieve, inspired by the input and insights from community members, organizations, and stakeholders. "The Roadmap" section provides a practical framework for translating our vision into action. It outlines specific action items and investments, prioritizing those with the potential for multisolving, and offers a clear timeline for implementation. Together, these sections create a comprehensive approach, combining a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities with a practical plan of action. By following this structure, we can drive progress, prioritize our efforts, and ultimately achieve our shared vision for the future of the Inland Empire.

Arts & Culture

Arts and culture refer to the broad range of creative and expressive activities and practices that are characteristic of a particular society, community, or group. This can include visual arts, music, theater, dance, literature, film, architecture, cuisine, festivals, and other cultural practices, traditions, and experiences. Arts and culture also manifest in the built environment, museums, educational institutions, cultural practices, and more. Arts and culture are an essential part of human experience and play a vital role in personal and social development. They are a means of expressing and interpreting human experience, reflecting cultural diversity and identity, promoting social cohesion and understanding, and fostering creativity and innovation.

Moreover, arts and culture are not just about personal expression and creativity, but also about economic and community development. The arts and culture sector fosters job and economic growth, attracting visitors and investment, and contributing to the vitality and vibrancy of communities. The arts and culture sector is integral to economic vitality, civic belonging, and the creation of destination places where residents want to live, work, and play. California leads the nation in creativity, employing over 1.8 million creative workers, which accounts for almost 7.6% of the state's workforce. Further, the creative economy contributes 14.9% (\$507.4 billion) to California's \$3.4 trillion economy. The creative economy was on an upward trend before the pandemic, but then lost 10% of jobs in 2020 while the economy overall lost 4% of jobs; in 2021, while the economy overall sits nearly 3% above pre-pandemic levels, the creative economy is still 5.4% below its 2018 value. (Otis, 2023).

Arts and culture are inherently multi-solving, intersecting often with economic development, education, energy and environment, food systems, health and well-being, housing and community development, labor and workforce, media and democracy, public safety and justice reform, social services, and transportation. The arts and culture sector offers anchor institutions and civic character, catalyzes innovation, builds holistic healthy and sustainable solutions, supports creative workforce development, and shapes vibrant and meaningful partnerships with community stakeholders. More than just a mode of beautification, arts and culture involve practices that include urban planning, architecture and landscape, design and technology, marketing and advertising, entertainment and media, and social practices that support health and well being.

First Nations & Indigenous Peoples

The history of cultural expression in the Inland Empire (IE) begins with the indigenous tribes and nations who flourished in the region for thousands of years before European conquest and occupation. The first forms of cultural expression in the IE were expressed by indigenous tribes and communities. Paintings, practices, and cultural expression were used to tell stories, express creativity, and a part of daily life. Some early examples of early cultural expression can be viewed at venues like the Ontario Museum of History and Art and the San Bernardino County Museum. With each wave of settler colonialism, European settlers brought with them their art

and culture, which were forced upon the native peoples in the name of assimilation, and native culture was suppressed. (See the Sherman Institute of Riverside, 1903)³.

Today, tribal communities play vital roles in supporting and preserving culture in the region, and they steward substantial philanthropic efforts in support of education, non-profits, under-resourced local and tribal communities as well as Native cultural preservation and empowerment. Native culture bearers and artists in the region share their history and language as well as environmental, colonial, and self-reliant narratives in unceded homelands that dismantling the doctrine of discovery. There are many tribal festivals and events throughout the year that celebrate Native American culture and provide opportunities to learn more about the traditional practices, music, dance, and cultural activities throughout the region. Regional cultural institutions stewarded by tribes include The Malki Museum, The Sherman Indian Museum, the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs, and the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center, among others.

Art Associations & Groups

In the early 1900s, art museums and associations began to form in the region. For example, in 1932, the San Bernardino Art Association was founded as a non-profit arts organization serving the multicultural art community of the IE. Art associations and other groups around this time were an innovative way to pool resources and catalog and support local artists. More informal artists and groups also continued to contribute to the arts and culture of the IE. While it is difficult to quantify the collective impact of the region's art and cultural leaders, their influence can be seen and felt throughout the two-county region. The region currently has two state-local partners to the California Arts Council, Riverside Arts Council and Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, and some 400 hundred arts and culture nonprofits and groups.

Arts & Culture in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a vibrant arts and culture scene that reflects the diverse population of the region, with museums, performing arts venues, music and cultural festivals, visual arts galleries, and cultural centers. These institutions showcase the region's history, art, and culture, providing opportunities for residents to learn about and experience the diverse cultures of the region. Moreover, investment and spending in arts and culture has had a dynamic effect on our disinvested areas, our K-16 institutions, and civic life, and arts and culture serve as anchors for reinvestment.

- **Visual Arts:** The Inland Empire is a haven for visual arts, with numerous galleries, art studios, and collectives showcasing a variety of mediums, including painting, sculpture, and photography. Riverside County is home to the Riverside Art Museum, UCR ARTSblock, and , providing spaces for artists and art lovers to connect and appreciate artistic expressions. In San Bernardino County, the Chaffey Community Museum of Art

³ <https://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/blogs/lapl/sherman-institute>



in Ontario and the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art offer opportunities to explore and engage with diverse visual arts. Additionally, the Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum at California State University San Bernardino serves as a platform for thought-provoking exhibitions and artistic exploration. Nestled in the heart of Downtown Palm Springs, the Palm Springs Art Museum and Architecture and Design Center is an innovative and forward-thinking artistic cultural center in the Coachella Valley.

- **Cultural Centers:** The Inland Empire is rich in cultural centers that celebrate the diverse communities within the region. In Riverside County, the Riverside Multicultural Historical Society, the Riverside African American Historical Society, and the Riverside Latino Network provide opportunities for residents to learn about and experience the diverse cultures of the region. The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Arts and Culture in downtown Riverside houses a critical Chicana art collection, has been nationally recognized, and has established itself as a key anchor institution in downtown Riverside. San Bernardino County is also home to cultural centers such as the Garcia Center for the Arts in San Bernardino, which serves as a hub for art exhibitions, cultural events, and workshops. The Inlandia Institute, with locations in Riverside and San Bernardino, promotes literature and cultural arts through readings, writing workshops, and community engagement. In Rancho Mirage, The Annenberg Foundation Trust established the Sunnyslands Center and Gardens, preserving it as a place of history, hospitality, and international diplomacy in the California desert.
- **Local Museums:** The region is home to several museums that showcase the rich history, art, and culture of the Inland Empire. In Riverside County, the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California and the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties offer exhibitions that delve into the area's heritage. The March Field Air Museum and the Palm Springs Air Museum highlight the significance of aviation and military history. The Western Science Center, located in the San Jacinto Valley, is internationally recognized as one of the largest natural history museums in Riverside County, promoting a more sustainable future while preserving our region's ancient history. In San Bernardino County, the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands presents exhibits on natural and cultural history, providing insights into the region's diverse landscape and cultural history. The Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley offers a fascinating glimpse into High Desert local history, and the Coachella Valley History Museum is an adobe structure with gardens that celebrate the date industry. The Ontario Museum of History & Art recently opened "Built on Water" and engages visitors through educational experiences and events that inspire creative action, serving as an anchor to the growing downtown arts district.
- **Performing Arts:** The Inland Empire boasts a vibrant performing arts scene, with numerous venues showcasing a wide range of theatrical performances, music concerts, and dance shows. In Riverside County, the Riverside Community Players, the Riverside City College Landis Performing Arts Center, and the Fox Performing Arts Center are among the prominent venues hosting a variety of performances. San Bernardino County also offers a diverse selection of performing arts venues, such as the historic California Theatre of the Performing Arts in San Bernardino, which presents Broadway productions



and concerts, and the Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga, known for its diverse lineup of theatrical productions and musical performances. In Coachella Valley, the Annenberg Theatre boasts a 430-seat, state-of-the-art theater for dance, concerts, and performing arts

- **Music and Festivals:** The Inland Empire has a thriving music scene with numerous venues hosting live music performances, along with vibrant music festivals and events. Riverside County hosts the Riverside International Film Festival, the Riverside Festival of Lights, and the Riverside Tamale Festival, showcasing diverse cultural expressions through film and literature respectively. In San Bernardino County, the Joshua Tree Music Festival, the Upland Lemon Festival, and the Houghton Music Festival in Barstow attract music enthusiasts from near and far, offering immersive experiences of different genres and musical talents. In Coachella Valley, the iconic Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival brings some \$200-\$600 million to the local economy, according to studies
- **Arts and culture nonprofits and groups and individual artists:** Though the region boasts numerous institutions, arts and culture non-profits, groups, and individual artists have been instrumental in bringing arts and culture experiences to the Inland area, especially where there are no anchor institutions. Art and culture non-profits and groups have brought millions in state and federal funds into our region as well as funding from foundations, such as James Irvine, and artists have also drawn considerable funds to usher in arts and culture programming, murals, community engagement projects, and more. Independent artists and creative gig workers are often self-employed – and are usually 3.6 times as likely as other workers to be self-employed (NEA, 2019). SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research, found that independent artists score in 89th (San Bernardino County) and 92nd percentile (Riverside County) on the Arts Vibrancy Index Report, indicating the key role that individual artists play in creating sites and spaces for arts and culture.

Recent Efforts

Recent formal cultural investments in the region include the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture and Industry, the Riverside Food Lab, the Riverside Convention Center expansion. Acrisure Arena, the 11,000 seat, \$300M+ venue opened in December 2022 in Palm Desert and is the first large-scale arena in the desert. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, the world's largest electric guitar manufacturer, is expanding its manufacturing operations in the Inland Empire; the Corona facility will provide an additional 100,000 square feet of space due to rising product demand and create hundreds of new jobs for the region's workforce. (Otis, 2023).

Regional Arts and Culture Leadership

Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, Riverside Arts Council, and the California Desert Arts Council launched Inland Leadership for Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy (ILACCE), a bi-county arts and culture consortium that is co-creating a regional strategic framework with actionable strategies alongside regional arts and culture leaders.

Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, Riverside Arts Council, and the California Desert Arts Council worked with Americans for the Arts to facilitate the Arts and

Economic Prosperity Report, compiling critical economic art and culture data for the Inland Empire. The report will debut in October 2023.

Administered by California Desert Arts Council, Riverside Arts Council, and Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, and IECF, Creative Corps Inland SoCal is a particularly ambitious project, bringing in \$4.7 million from the California Arts Council for regranting to Inland SoCal artists working on public health and pandemic recovery, water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, disaster preparedness and recovery, voter and civic participation, and social justice and community engagement. This funding is designed to put artists to work by lifting up the voices of local under-resourced communities.

The Creative Economy

The creative economy in the Inland Empire is a vibrant force that drives innovation, fosters cultural expression, and enhances the region's well-being. Creatives play a vital role in shaping the cultural identity and vibrancy of the region. They bring their unique talents and perspectives to the arts and culture sector, including visual artists, musicians, performers, writers, and designers. Inland Empire creatives contribute to the region's economy, attracting visitors, fostering tourism, and providing anchor industries or institutions that drive the economy.

The creative economy in the Inland Empire excels in fostering collaboration and cross-sector partnerships. Artists, entrepreneurs, and community organizations collaborate to create innovative projects, events, and initiatives that bridge different sectors and bring people together. This collaboration enhances the cultural fabric, drives economic growth, and promotes social cohesion. Investing in the creative economy brings numerous benefits. Supporting artists, cultural organizations, and creative enterprises creates an environment for talent retention, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

IE Arts & Culture Snapshot: Key Facts and Highlights

1. The arts & culture sector received notable funding of around 7% of total giving in the Inland Empire, affirming its significance in the region's economic landscape.⁴
2. A substantial \$4.7 million grant was awarded to Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, Riverside Arts Council, IECF, and California Desert Arts Council for the Creative Corps Inland SoCal, a regranting program to put artists to work and address social and environmental issues.
3. The recently passed Proposition 28 will provide annual funding for arts education programs in K-12 schools (approximately \$800m – \$1 billion a year in the State of California).
4. Noteworthy music festivals, such as Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Stagecoach Country Music Festival, and Joshua Tree Music Festival, amplify the region's musical vibrancy and contribute over \$200 million to tourism and hospitality

⁴ <https://california.foundationcenter.org/dashboard/year/2018/region/inland-empire/tab/priorities/>



economies. Museums, galleries, and other anchor institutions also contribute significantly to the region's cultural richness and local economies.

5. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, Riverside Arts Council, and the California Desert Arts Council launched Inland Leadership for Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy (ILACCE), a bi-county arts and culture consortium that is co-creating a regional strategic framework with actionable strategies alongside regional arts and culture leaders.
6. A strong tradition of Chicano art and culture, represented by prominent artists and the anchor institutions like The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture, enriches the cultural fabric and drives tourism to the region.
7. The Inland Empire boasts a dynamic street art scene, characterized by captivating murals and public art installations throughout the region which support reinvestment.
8. A burgeoning film industry finds its home in the region, evident through renowned film festivals and major productions shot within the area, suggesting opportunities for sector growth.
9. The region's literary legacy is upheld by esteemed writers like U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera, Susan Straight, Isabel Quintero, and Mike Davis and supported by local publishers, such as Inland Institute, Curious Publishing and Elyssar Press.
10. Rich cultural festivals and events, such as Riverside Festival of Lights, Riverside Dickens Festival, Riverside Tamale Festival, and Riverside Lunar Festival, contribute to the region's vibrant cultural calendar.
11. Culinary arts add to the region's creative tapestry, with a growing emphasis on food innovation, farm-to-table concepts, and cultural gastronomy.
12. The creative sector employs a notable portion of the region's workforce, with Entertainment and Digital Media emerging as the highest-paying segment.
13. Creatives comprise 2.9% of the regional economy (61,934 jobs) with annual wages at \$47,785, but creative self-employment and gig work is widely under-represented in data sets.
14. A surge in nonemployer businesses, particularly in creative industries, underscores the region's robust gig economy and entrepreneurial spirit. Despite their contributions to the economy, the built environment, our community, creatives, artists, and arts workers are often "gig" workers without benefits or job security.
15. The Fine Arts/Performing Arts sector has experienced impressive growth, showcasing a 79% increase in the Inland Empire, the fastest region-wide expansion in the state.
16. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, Riverside Arts Council, and the California Desert Arts Council worked with Americans for the Arts to facilitate the Arts and Economic Prosperity Report, compiling sweeping economic art and culture research for the Inland Empire.
17. The creative economy in the Inland Empire has not fared as well as the economy overall following the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the Arts and Culture sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges, working towards a more resilient, thriving, and inclusive arts and culture sector in the Inland Empire.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Need to Establish Arts and Culture in Economic Development Goals:** Arts and culture is often viewed as beautification or an addition to our communities. In reality, arts and culture drives tourism, economic investment, and builds community. The arts and culture sector is a *place maker*, and it will be critical to *place keeping*. Having thriving, vibrant places to live will prevent “brain drain,” the loss of local talent to other counties or states. Commit to peer learning and education about the expansive benefits of arts and culture.
2. **Limited Funding and Budgets:** Many arts and cultural organizations and creatives in the Inland Empire face financial constraints due to limited funding streams, lack of city and county budget line items, and a highly competitive grant landscape, making it difficult to sustain operations, fund projects, and pay artists and staff adequately. Leverage partnerships and identify funders for existing programs.
3. **Access to Workforce Resources:** Limited creative workforce development programs and limited access to resources such as innovation hubs or arts incubators, small business resources, affordable live-work space, creative training programs, and marketing support hinders the growth and development of arts and culture businesses and initiatives. Leverage partnerships and identify funders for existing programs.
4. **Infrastructure, Facilities, and Work/Practice Space:** Inadequate infrastructure to support practice and performance spaces, high rents on work or practice space, limited or no access or high cost of maker or innovation spaces, inadequate communal space to practice, create, and showcase work
5. **Limited arts and culture anchor institutions and creative built environment:** While some cities and towns in the region have anchor cultural institutions, the majority of towns and cities lack arts and culture anchors that galvanize communities, foster visitor and local spending, and spur investment. In general, cultural investment is very low in the Inland Empire.
6. **Limited support at the government level:** There are very limited arts and culture commissions, cultural planning documents, arts and culture staff roles, and budget funding strategies and line items for arts and culture.
7. **Unique needs of rural, remote, and unincorporated areas:** AirBNBs are decreasing housing stock and increasing housing prices due to cultural tourism in desert regions,

and there is a lack of public and broadband services to support increasing arts and culture tourism in the desert.

8. Affordable housing: Lack of live-work space or communal artist spaces and the general lack of affordable housing do not currently support creative talent in the region.
9. Equity and Inclusion: Though advancements have been made, ensuring equitable access, representation, and opportunities for artists from underrepresented communities and historically marginalized backgrounds continues to be vital in promoting diversity and inclusion within the sector. Philanthropic efforts can address access and inclusion issues by supporting programs close to transit or addressing transportation barriers, investing in translation services for the sector, and by supporting community- and artist-driven local visioning, programming, and investment at the community level.

Long-Term Challenges:

1. Sustainable Funding: Building asset-based long-term sustainability for arts and culture organizations and artists requires support for the sector in developing funding streams and innovation in funding models, fostering partnerships, and supporting local investment in capacity building programs to withstand economic fluctuations. Building capacity among creatives and arts and culture organizations is key.
2. Education and Arts Integration: Advocating for arts education and integrating arts into mainstream educational curricula is crucial for fostering creativity, critical thinking, and cultural appreciation among students in the long run.
3. Workforce Development: Expanding professional development opportunities, training programs, business programs, mentorship programs, and sustainable career pathways for artists and cultural practitioners is essential to support the growth and vitality of the sector.
4. Cultural Investment: Investing in the cultural district and anchor institutions in every city or town as well as development of cultural infrastructure, including community-driven art centers, neighborhood level arts and design incubators, affordable live-work space, communal practice space, and other creative hubs, can provide spaces and resources for artists, foster collaborations, and strengthen the overall arts ecosystem.
5. Policy and Advocacy: Advocating for arts and culture commissions, cultural planning documents, arts and culture staff roles, and budget funding strategies and line items for arts and culture, supportive policies, incentives, and public investment in the arts and culture sector at local, regional, and state levels is necessary to prioritize and advance the sector's interests.

Arts & Culture - Vision Statements

This section presents the vision statements that have been crafted through a collaborative community process, capturing our collective goals and aspirations for the future of the Inland Empire, both for 2030 and beyond. These vision statements are intended to guide our actions and initiatives towards a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable region. It is important to note that this document is a "living document," designed to evolve and adapt as economic,

political, and social changes unfold. As we navigate the dynamic landscape of our region, we remain committed to revisiting and refining these vision statements, ensuring their continued relevance and alignment with our shared vision for the Inland Empire's future.

1. We envision a vibrant arts and culture hub or district in every city or town that celebrates the unique identity and history of each place and is interconnected across the region, creating a destination region that supports a thriving creative sector and healthy economic engine while creating meaningful and healthy places to live.
2. Our vision for the future of arts and culture in the Inland Empire is a community that celebrates and embraces diversity, promotes social cohesion and understanding, and fosters creativity and innovation.
3. We envision a future where arts and culture are accessible to all, regardless of background or socio-economic status, and where they play a vital role in promoting community well-being and resilience.
4. Our vision is to create an Inland Empire that is recognized as a hub of artistic and cultural activity, where artists and creatives can thrive, and where residents and visitors alike can experience a rich and diverse range of cultural expressions.
5. We envision an Inland Empire where arts and culture are integral to the region's economic and social development, and where they contribute to the creation of sustainable and inclusive communities.
6. Our vision is to promote a future where arts and culture play a critical role in addressing social and environmental challenges, and where they inspire and empower individuals and communities to take action towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

Arts & Culture - Solutions

This section of the roadmap provides an overview of the diverse range of solutions proposed by the community to address the challenges within each topic area and to help our region achieve our vision statements. To ensure clarity and accessibility, these solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the proposed actions. It is important to note that these categories also include existing efforts in the region that align with our values and have already demonstrated a significant impact. While the list is not exhaustive, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team to include their programs or initiatives that may be relevant. Additionally, this section highlights promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities within each solution category, presenting a menu of options to address various issues within the topic. For a detailed exploration of the community solutions, please refer to our IE 2030 Community Solutions Appendix on the IE 2030 website.

1. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Solutions that promote access to and participation in arts and culture for all residents, regardless of socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or other background factors. This may include initiatives to make arts and culture more affordable, outreach to underrepresented communities, and efforts to remove barriers to participation.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Transit-Oriented Arts and Culture Hubs and Innovation Labs across the Region to Foster Access and Create Inclusive Arts Training*
 - ii. *Creative Workforce Development Fund*
 - iii. *Inland Empire Arts and Culture Investment Fund*
 - iv. *Cultural planning for Rural, Remote, and Unincorporated Areas*
 - v. *The Inland Empire Arts & Culture Equity Fund*
 - vi. *The Inland Empire Moving Artscapes Program (1)*
 - vii. *The Inland Empire Artist-in-Residence Program with Workshop & Outreach Components (1)*
 - viii. *Inland Empire ArtWalk Nights (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
 - ii. Riverside Arts Council
 - iii. Creative Corps Inland SoCal
 - iv. Inland Empire Latino Art Association
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. The California Arts Council (CAC)
 - ii. The Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)
 - iii. Arts Connection - The Arts Council for San Bernardino County
 - iv. The Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative (IEDC)
 - v. The Arts & Cultural Affairs Division of the City of Riverside (ACAD)
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Partner with local developers and community advisory groups on infill arts and culture investments in disinvested downtown core areas and rural, remote, and unincorporated areas
 - ii. Partner with local transportation to provide arts and culture access passes.
 - iii. Partnerships with local government agencies and officials to secure funding and resources for accessible arts programming and events.
 - iv. Collaborations with funders, community organizations, and nonprofits serving marginalized communities to develop inclusive arts programs, initiatives, and investments or funding.
 - v. Partnerships with local schools and educational institutions to co-learn with schools and local arts organizations about the incorporation of accessible arts education into curricula.



- vi. Collaborations with disability advocates and organizations to ensure that events and programming are funded to provide accessible to individuals with disabilities.
 - vii. Collaborations with technology companies and startups to incorporate assistive technologies and innovations into arts programming and events.
 - viii. Partnerships with private foundations and philanthropic organizations to secure funding for accessible arts programming and events and existing programming.
2. **Community Well-being and Resilience:** Policies and programs that leverage the power of arts and culture to promote community well-being and resilience. This may include initiatives to address issues such as mental health, social isolation, and community cohesion, as well as strategies to build capacity for community-led cultural initiatives.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Creative Workforce Development Fund*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Arts and Culture Investment Fund*
 - iii. *Arts and Culture Commissions, Cultural Districts, and Cultural Planning in Every City*
 - iv. *Artist in Residence and Artist Live-Work Space in Every City*
 - v. *Movement for Mental Health*
 - vi. *The Inland Empire Creative STEAM Initiative (1)*
 - vii. *Local Senior Storytelling Program (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
 - ii. The Branch and Eastside Arthouse
 - iii. Cultural Arts Commission - City of Redlands
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Percent for the Arts Program
 - ii. Inlandia Institute
 - iii. Riverside Arts Council
 - iv. California Arts Council
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Work with municipalities to establish arts and culture staff roles, cultural planning, and budget line items
 - ii. Collaborate with local developers and local arts organizations to envision and plan cultural districts
 - iii. Identify funders to support collaborations between local arts organizations and community-based organizations to address social issues and promote community resilience.
 - iv. Foster productive partnerships between arts and cultural institutions and health care providers and identify funders to promote arts and culture

health and wellness through creative expression and community engagement.

- v. Joint initiatives between local government agencies, community-based organizations, and arts and cultural institutions to support neighborhood revitalization efforts through public art projects, cultural programming, and community events.
 - vi. Partnerships between educational institutions and arts organizations to promote arts education and creative expression as tools for personal growth, community building, and social change.
 - vii. Collaborations between private businesses, arts organizations, and community-based organizations to promote economic development, job creation, and community well-being through creative industries and cultural tourism.
 - viii. Partnerships between arts and cultural institutions and social service providers to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness, poverty, and other forms of social disadvantage through creative interventions and supportive services.
 - ix. Joint initiatives between local government agencies, arts organizations, and community-based organizations to promote cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion through cross-cultural dialogue, programming, and community engagement.
 - x. Partner with or support local chambers to collaborate with local arts and culture organizations in rural, remote, and unincorporated areas
3. **The Creative Economy:** Funding initiatives to support existing efforts to prepare the creative workforce. Policies and programs that support the growth of a prosperous and sustainable creative sector in the Inland Empire. This may include initiatives to support funds for artists and creative entrepreneurs, build arts infrastructure, affordable live-work space, and innovation incubators, and promote the region's cultural assets to visitors and investment opportunities to investors.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Creative Workforce Development Fund*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Arts and Culture Investment Fund*
 - iii. *Transit Oriented Innovation Hubs or Arts Incubators in Every City*
 - iv. *The Inland Empire Creative STEAM Initiative (2)*
 - v. *The Inland Empire Artist-in-Residence Program with Workshop & Outreach Components (2)*
 - vi. *Fund to Support Cultural Planning and Advocacy in the IE*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. CREATE Center for the Arts
 - ii. The Arts Area
 - iii. Inland Empire Film Services
 - iv. Riverside Arts Council

- v. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Arts & Cultural Affairs (CEDD) - City of Riverside
- ii. Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship - CSUSB
- iii. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
- iv. Riverside Artswalk
- v. Local cultural and arts grant programs (see LA, West Hollywood, Oakland, etc.)

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Foster partnerships across local schools, universities/colleges, local arts agencies, and creatives: Collaboration with local educational institutions can provide access to research support which can help to develop and expand funding opportunities in the region for the creative sector.
- ii. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies, workforce development, and local creative industries to develop creative workforce training: Collaboration can prepare local creatives in industries, such as music, film, and digital media, etc. Identify funders to support existing skills development and training programs to support sector growth.
- iii. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies and local government: Collaboration with local government agencies, such as economic development departments and planning commissions, can help to collectively shape policies and initiatives that support the growth of the creative economy in the region. Advocate for anchor and incubator investments, the tourism sector, live-work space, cultural planning, arts and culture staff and commissions where none exist.
- iv. Foster partnership between local arts agencies and the private sector: Collaboration with the private sector, including corporations, foundations, and philanthropic organizations, can provide access to funding, resources, and expertise to support the development of the creative economy and the existing goals of local arts agencies in the Inland Empire.
- v. Support art, design, and technology: We can identify partners or fund to provide the necessary technology to equip our emergent creatives with tools necessary to expand their skills and compete for high-quality creative jobs.

4. **Environmental Sustainability:** Policies and programs that leverage arts and culture to promote environmental sustainability and address environmental challenges. This may include initiatives to support intersections between art, design, and technology, transit-oriented planning and development, and urban and landscape design.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Transit-Oriented Arts and Culture Hubs and Innovation Labs across the Region to Foster Access and Create Inclusive Arts Training*

- ii. *Solar Panel Innovation Lab*
- iii. *Sustainable IE Urban Design Program*
- iv. *Edible Landscape Program*
- v. *The Inland Empire Moving Artscapes Program (2)*
- vi. *Sustainability Innovation Lab*
- vii. *Environmental Health Lab*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Land Art Generator
- ii. Green Museums Initiative (California Association of Museums)
- iii. Art in the Gardens - UCR Botanic Gardens
- iv. Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Creative Climate Awards (Human Impacts Institute)
- ii. Creative Corps Inland SoCal grants (IECF, Arts Connection, Riverside Arts Council, California Desert Arts Council) NOTE: These grants have been disbursed. Invest in the continuation of sustainable programs.
- iii. The Puffin Foundation - grants
- iv. Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy - grants

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies, local environmental organizations to develop creative sustainability programs: Collaboration can prepare local creatives in environmental issues and innovation. Identify funders to support existing skills development and training programs to support programs.
- ii. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies and higher education to develop innovation labs and programs.
- iii. Foster partnerships with local government agencies and officials to secure funding and resources to develop creative sustainability initiatives and projects, working with public utilities, public works, and parks and recreation.
- iv. Foster partnership between local arts agencies and the private sector: Collaboration with the sustainability private sector can provide access to funding, resources, and expertise to support the development of the innovation labs and programs at the intersection of arts and sustainability.
- v. Support art, design, and technology: We can identify partners or fund to provide the necessary technology to equip our emergent creatives with tools necessary to expand their skills and compete for high-quality creative jobs.

5. **Social Justice and Equity:** Funding, policies, and programs that promote social justice and equity through arts and culture. This may include initiatives to support diverse representation in the arts, use the arts as a tool for social justice advocacy and activism, and promote cultural exchange and understanding across communities.

- a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. Inland Empire ArtWalk Nights (2)*
 - ii. Local Senior Storytelling Program (2)*
- b. Existing Efforts**
 - i. Civil Rights Institute
 - ii. Inland Empire Concerned African-American Churches
 - iii. Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
 - iv. UCR ARTS
 - v. Inlandia Institute
 - vi. TODEC Legal Center
 - vii. Riverside Art Museum
 - viii. Music Changing Lives - Concert Under the Stars
 - ix. The Artlands
 - x. Creative Grounds
 - xi. Mural Movement
- c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Grants and funding from the California Arts Council
 - ii. Inland Empire Community Foundation
 - iii. Fund arts-based community development initiatives: Local governments, local arts agencies, and community development organizations are increasingly turning to arts-based strategies to promote social justice and equity and revitalize and empower communities. Identify funding to support existing programs and existing community partnerships.
 - iv. Arts and culture organizations are already partnering with community-based organizations to promote social justice and equity, through advocacy groups and community development organizations. Identify funding to support these partnerships which can help to amplify the impact of arts-based initiatives and connect artists and cultural bearers with communities in need.
 - v. Foster funds and support existing initiatives for artists and culture workers and other creatives: Investing in local arts agencies that provide existing and new professional development programming that supports the well-being of creatives can help to promote social justice and equity in the arts. This can include providing training and resources to support local arts agencies as well as funding opportunities to support artists and culture bearers from underrepresented communities.
- d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Partnerships between community-based organizations and arts and culture agencies: Arts and culture organizations collaborate with local community-based organizations that focus on social justice and equity issues to create joint programs, training, artwork, and events that promote awareness and dialogue on these topics. Identify funding to support existing programs.

- ii. Collaboration between artists and culture bearers and arts and culture organizations: Arts and cultural organizations can partner with artists and culture bearers from underrepresented communities to create programs, training, artwork, and events that highlight their perspectives and experiences. Identify funding to support existing programs.
- iii. Foster partnerships across schools, academic institutions, and arts and culture organizations to support existing creative social justice programs and initiatives, artwork, and events that promote social justice and equity issues. Support existing curriculum that integrates arts and culture education with topics related to social justice, or co-create with the community where none exists.
- iv. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies and local government and the public: Arts and culture organizations can partner with public agencies, such as city departments or local governments, to co-create with social justice advocates and artists public art installations or events that promote social justice and equity issues. Identify funding to support existing programs.
- v. Foster partnerships across local arts agencies and businesses: Arts and culture organizations can collaborate with businesses that have a focus on social justice and equity, such as organizations that promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace, to create programs and events that highlight the intersection of arts, culture, and social justice.

Arts & Culture - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

This section of the roadmap outlines different pathways that have been co-developed through collaborative community sessions and extensive research. These strategies are designed to cultivate innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire through the arts and cultural activities. They serve as actionable steps to coordinate our collective efforts, support existing solutions, and enact new initiatives that align with our shared values. By embracing these strategies, we aim to bridge the gap between vision and action, ensuring that our region moves closer to realizing our desired future. These strategies provide a framework for stakeholders to work together, driving positive change and creating a vibrant, dynamic, and culturally enriched Inland Empire.

1. **Proactively promote cultural diversity and inclusion through public art and cultural practices:** By investing in public art and cultural practices that reflect the diversity of the Inland Empire, including community, cultural, and geographic diversity, we can promote a greater sense of community and belonging, while also supporting local artists and culture bearers while promoting economic development.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for local artists and culture bearers: We can provide support and resources to local artists and culture bearers, including funding



opportunities, creative workforce development, grants, exhibition spaces, and incubator spaces. This support can help them create and showcase arts and culture projects that celebrate the diversity of the Inland Empire, amplifying underrepresented voices and cultural practices.

- ii. Advocacy for local arts and culture organizations who work in partnership with the community, artists and culture bearers, and community-based organizations. This support honors their leadership the field, builds their capacity to serve, and provides support to their existing arts and culture projects and programs that celebrate the diversity of the Inland Empire.
- iii. Advocacy for public art initiatives: We can advocate for the inclusion of public art in urban planning, development projects, and in rural, remote, and unincorporated areas. This can involve engaging with local government officials, developers, and community stakeholders to prioritize the integration of public art in public spaces, parks, and infrastructure projects, ensuring that cultural diversity is represented and celebrated.
- iv. Creation of cultural festivals and events: We can co-create and support cultural festivals and events that showcase the diverse traditions, arts, and cuisines in collaboration with Inland Empire's communities. These events can foster cross-cultural understanding, dialogue, and appreciation, while also providing economic opportunities for local businesses and artists.
- v. Collaboration with community organizations: We can collaborate with community organizations, cultural institutions, and grassroots initiatives to promote cultural diversity and inclusion. This can involve partnering with organizations that focus on preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of different communities, supporting their programs and initiatives, and co-creating platforms for cultural exchange and dialogue.
- vi. Co-created education and awareness programs : We can co-develop with the community and support educational programs and initiatives that promote cultural diversity and inclusion. This can involve partnering with local arts agencies, schools, colleges, and community centers to provide workshops, exhibitions, and educational resources that celebrate cultural diversity and foster intercultural understanding.

2. **Co-create arts education programs that support and train local talent:** By investing in arts education programs that support and train local talent, we can create a pipeline of artists and creatives who contribute to the local arts scene and who drive economic growth. By investing in arts education programs that support local talent, including both traditional certification programs and non-certificated and community-based programs, we can ensure a diverse pool of artists and cultural creatives who can contribute to the local arts scene, drive economic growth, and foster a thriving creative community in the Inland Empire.

- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Supporting art, design, and technology:** We can identify partners or fund to provide the necessary technology to equip our emergent creatives with tools necessary to expand their skills and compete for high-quality creative jobs.
 - ii. **Support for arts education programs:** We can provide financial support and resources to arts education existing programs in schools, community centers, and arts and culture organizations. This support can help these programs offer quality arts education experiences and skills building, including visual arts, performing arts, music, dance, and literary arts, to students of all ages and backgrounds.
 - iii. **Advocacy for arts education funding in school settings and after-school settings:** We can advocate for increased funding and resources for arts education programs at the local, state, and federal levels. This can involve engaging with policymakers, school boards, and community leaders to emphasize the importance of arts education and its positive impact on students' creativity, critical thinking, and social-emotional development.
 - iv. **Collaboration with local artists and cultural organizations:** We can collaborate with local artists, arts organizations, and cultural institutions to co-develop and implement and fund arts education initiatives. This can involve partnering with artists-in-residence programs, mentorship programs, and community-based organizations to fund opportunities to learn from and engage with local talent.
 - v. **Creation of arts scholarships and grants fund:** We can establish scholarships and grants to support aspiring artists and creatives in pursuing their education and professional development. These financial resources can help alleviate barriers to access and provide opportunities for talented individuals to develop their artistic skills and contribute to the local arts scene.
 - vi. **Expansion of arts education into community programs:** We can expand arts education into existing community programs, such as after-school programs, summer camps, and community centers where none currently exist.

3. **Foster a collaborative arts community:** Foster a more collaborative arts community in the Inland Empire by supporting existing artist networks and forums, collaborative projects, creative partnerships with other industries, and resources and workspaces for collaboration. By fostering a collaborative arts community, we can support artists and creatives who are already sharing resources and ideas and working together to create innovative projects. Our support should be community-driven and with the goal of creating self-sustaining arts communities throughout the Inland Empire.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**



- i. Support existing artist networks and forums: We can support the existing networks and forums by providing funding or resources to organize regular gatherings, workshops, and networking events that facilitate knowledge sharing, skill development, and collaboration among artists in the region.
 - ii. Support for collaborative projects: We can support collaborative projects by providing funding or resources for collaborative projects. This can involve engaging with local arts councils, government agencies, and philanthropic organizations to identify potential collaborative projects and encourage the allocation of resources and support for such initiatives.
 - iii. Facilitate creative partnerships with other industries: We can actively seek out funding and collaboration opportunities for creative partnerships between artists and other industries, such as technology, healthcare, tourism, and urban planning. This can involve connecting artists with organizations or businesses that can benefit from creative input, collaborating on projects that integrate art into non-traditional settings, and advocating for the inclusion of artists in community development initiatives.
 - iv. Funding for resources and workspaces for collaboration: We can fund dedicated resources and workspaces that facilitate collaboration among artists and creatives. This can include working with local arts and culture agencies and creative to fund co-working spaces, artist residencies, and maker spaces where artists can come together to collaborate, experiment, and exchange ideas. Additionally, providing grants or funding for collaborative projects and providing funds to regional arts organizations who deliver technical support and mentorship can further support artists in their collaborative endeavors.
 - v. Promote community-driven initiatives: We can actively support and fund community-driven initiatives that foster a collaborative arts community. This can involve partnering with arts organizations, community organizations, neighborhood associations, and local leaders to identify and support grassroots initiatives that promote collaboration among artists. By recognizing and elevating community-led efforts, we can empower local artists and ensure that the arts community reflects the values and priorities of the Inland Empire.
4. **Invest in arts and culture institutions, artists, and culture bearers:** Investing in cultural and arts institutions, artists, and culture bearers is crucial for developing a thriving and sustainable arts ecosystem in the Inland Empire. This can be achieved through various means, including providing funding and grants that provide residencies and fellowships, supporting local arts agencies' capacity building and professional development, advocating for arts and culture infrastructure and arts-driven reinvestment in disinvested downtowns and rural, remote, and unincorporated areas, and providing



support for existing and innovative partnerships and collaborations. These investments not only empower arts and culture organizations and artists and culture bearers but also provide avenues for them to foster community engagement, stimulate cultural investment, and contribute to the creation of vibrant and resilient communities in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support funding and grants: We can support increased funding and grants for arts and culture institutions who can regrant to artists and cultural practitioners in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for government funding, collaborating with philanthropic organizations, and supporting initiatives that provide financial resources to support arts and culture organizations and regional initiatives.
- ii. Offer residencies and fellowships: We can create funding opportunities to arts and culture organizations and other sectors to provide residencies and fellowships. This can involve partnering with arts organizations, private and public funders, and cultural institutions to develop programs that provide artists with dedicated time, space, and resources to develop their work, engage with the community, and collaborate with other artists.
- iii. Support capacity building and professional development: We can provide support to local arts agencies and their partners to increase capacity building and existing professional development opportunities for artists and cultural practitioners. This can include workshops, training programs, mentorship, and networking events that help artists enhance their skills, expand their networks, and navigate the business aspects of the arts industry.
- iv. Develop arts and cultural infrastructure: We can advocate for the development of arts and cultural infrastructure in the Inland Empire. This can include supporting the construction or renovation of arts venues, galleries, performance spaces, and cultural centers that provide dedicated spaces for artists to showcase their work and engage with the community as well as infrastructure and services needed for cultural tourism in rural, remote, and unincorporated areas.
- v. Promote arts-driven reinvestment: We can advocate for arts-driven reinvestment in disinvested downtowns, rural, remote, and unincorporated areas of the Inland Empire. This can involve supporting initiatives that revitalize these areas through the arts, such as the development of anchor institutions, arts and innovation incubators, live-work space, public art installations, cultural festivals, and creative placekeeping projects that attract visitors, stimulate economic activity, and create a sense of place and identity.
- vi. Foster partnerships and collaborations: We can facilitate partnerships and collaborations between artists, cultural institutions, educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations. This can involve



connecting stakeholders, providing resources and support for collaborative projects, and fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange that strengthens the arts ecosystem in the Inland Empire.

5. **Promote sustainable art practices, projects, and investments:** By fostering sustainable practices, including the use of technology, carbon reduction, and incorporating arts-driven engineering and cross-sector practices, the arts and culture sector is poised to advance innovation in the Inland Empire, promoting innovation, collaboration, and the intersection of arts and sustainability. By embracing sustainable art practices, we can cultivate a thriving arts community that not only enriches our cultural landscape but also aligns with broader sustainability goals, creating a more resilient and forward-thinking Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support sustainable arts initiatives: We can support and advocate for initiatives that promote sustainable art practices, projects, and investments in the Inland Empire. This can involve providing resources and information to creative and arts and culture organizations about sustainability workshops and training sessions and recognizing and promoting artists who prioritize the environment in their work.
 - ii. Support opportunities for collaboration: We can work with local arts agencies to fund platforms and networks that foster collaboration between artists, engineers, scientists, and sustainability experts. This can involve co-organizing interdisciplinary events, forums, and workshops where creatives and professionals from different sectors can come together to exchange ideas, share best practices, and collaborate on projects that integrate arts and sustainability.
 - iii. Encourage sustainable investments in the arts: We can advocate for and support sustainable investments in the arts in the Inland Empire. This can include encouraging philanthropic organizations, government agencies, and businesses to prioritize funding and grants for sustainable art projects and start up initiatives, as well as supporting sustainable ventures through crowdfunding platforms and other alternative funding sources.
 - iv. Support awareness campaign efforts: We can work with creatives, local agencies, and experts to foster education campaigns for the public and to support efforts to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable practices and their positive impact on the environment and community. This can involve work with local arts organization to support exhibitions, workshops, and educational programs that highlight the intersection of arts and sustainability, as well as co-promoting sustainable art initiatives through various media channels and community outreach efforts.



6. **Centering Art and Artists in Economic and Community Development in the Inland Empire:** By recognizing the intrinsic value of arts and culture and their potential to drive economic growth, social cohesion, and community well-being, we can help elevate the role of arts organizations, artists, and culture bearers as key stakeholders in the region's development. It is important that we think beyond treating art as an "add-on" or an afterthought and emphasize cultural investment, including the establishment of community-driven arts incubators and live-work space, to nurture and support the local creative ecosystem.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support local arts and cultural organizations: We can support and advocate for the recognition and inclusion of arts and culture organizations as integral participants in economic and community development plans. This can involve advocating for increased funding and resources for local arts and culture organizations, supporting initiatives that provide grants, fellowships, and residencies to artists and culture bearers, and providing support for the integration of arts and culture in the planning process
 - ii. Advocate for cultural investment: We can advocate for increased investment in arts and culture as a driver of economic growth and community well-being. This should include advocating for anchor institutions, affordable live-work space, and arts and innovation hubs, public and private funding for arts-driven initiatives, collaborating with economic development agencies to integrate arts and culture into regional development plans, and promoting the value of arts and culture in attracting tourism, retaining talent, and fostering a vibrant and diverse community and built environment.
 - iii. Create community-driven arts incubators: We can support the co-creation of community-driven arts incubators that provide resources, training, and networking opportunities for local artists and creative entrepreneurs. This can involve partnering with local arts organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and the private sector to establish physical spaces where creatives can live, work, collaborate, and innovate. Additionally, these incubators can offer business and professional development support to help creative build self-sustaining businesses, thrive, and contribute to the economy and community.
 - iv. Foster collaboration between art and other sectors: We can advocate for and co-create opportunities for collaboration between arts and culture organizations, creatives, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations. This can involve co-organizing cross-sector forums and events where the creative sector and stakeholders from different sectors can exchange ideas, form partnerships, and work together on projects that integrate creativity into various aspects of

community development, such as urban planning, education, and health initiatives.

- v. Promote arts and culture in local policies: We can advocate for the integration of arts and culture in local policies and plans, ensuring that they are considered in community development projects, budget line items, zoning regulations, and public space design. By advocating for policies that support public art, cultural districts, and arts-friendly spaces, we can create an environment that values and supports the presence of art in the community.

Multi-Solver Opportunities in Arts & Culture

1. **Cultural Investment for Community Revitalization:** Support anchor cultural institutions, incubators, affordable live-work space, and public art as a tool for community revitalization, economic development, cultural tourism, and placemaking. By integrating cultural planning into urban planning and redevelopment initiatives, we can create vibrant public spaces, attract businesses, foster destination places to visit and live, and improve the overall quality of life for residents.
2. **Arts-Based Education for Social Equity:** Work with the arts and culture sector to fund arts-based education programs that address social equity issues and promote inclusivity. By incorporating arts into educational curricula, the arts and culture sector can foster empathy, promote cultural understanding, and address social issues such as racism, discrimination, and social inequality.
3. **Arts and Health Partnerships:** Collaborate with healthcare institutions and practitioners to foster arts and cultural activities into healthcare settings in collaboration with the arts and culture sector. This can include funding art therapy programs, creative expression workshops, and practices that enhance well-being, support healing, and improve the overall patient experience.
4. **Arts for Environmental Stewardship:** Work with the arts and culture sector to promote environmental awareness, sustainability, and conservation. Engage arts and culture organizations in offering projects to creatives that raise awareness about environmental issues, encourage sustainable practices, and inspire community action towards a more sustainable future.
5. **Arts-Based Economic Development:** Leverage arts and culture as a driver of economic growth and job creation. Support creative workforce development, cultural tourism, and creative entrepreneurship to stimulate local economies, attract visitors, and generate employment opportunities.
6. **Arts for Social Justice and Activism:** Empower regional artists and culture bearers to create projects or programs advocating for social justice and activism. Support initiatives that amplify marginalized voices, address systemic inequities, and advocate for social change through artistic platforms.

7. **Arts and Technology Innovation:** Foster collaborations between artists, technologists, and entrepreneurs to drive innovation and creativity in emerging technologies, especially in design and entertainment. Support initiatives that explore the intersection of arts and technology, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and digital storytelling, to expand artistic possibilities and advance technological innovation.

Economic Development

Economic development refers to the sustained, long-term growth and improvement of an economy, with a focus on creating jobs, increasing incomes, and improving overall living standards. It involves a range of activities and strategies, including attracting new businesses and investment, supporting existing businesses, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, developing workforce skills, and investing in infrastructure and amenities.

Economic development is not just about generating economic growth, but also about ensuring that growth is inclusive and equitable, and that it benefits all members of society. This includes promoting access to education and training, addressing income inequality, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Overall, economic development is a holistic and multidimensional process that involves a range of stakeholders and strategies, and that seeks to promote long-term prosperity and well-being for individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Economic Development in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has been experiencing significant economic growth in recent years. Despite some challenges such as a high poverty rate, lack of affordable housing, and poor air quality, the region is experiencing growth and job opportunities. The IE has a diverse economy, with several key industries driving economic development, including:

- **Logistics and Distribution:** The Inland Empire is home to several major transportation hubs, including the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the Ontario International Airport, which makes it an attractive location for logistics and distribution companies. The region is also home to a large number of warehouses and distribution centers, which employ many people in the area.
- **Manufacturing:** The Inland Empire has a strong manufacturing sector, with many companies producing goods such as medical equipment, furniture, and food products. The region also has a large aerospace industry, with many companies developing and manufacturing aircraft components.

- **Healthcare:** The Inland Empire has a growing healthcare sector, with several hospitals and clinics located in the area. The region also has a large number of healthcare-related research institutions, such as Loma Linda University Health and Abbott in Temecula, which help drive innovation and job growth in the healthcare sector.
- **Education:** The Inland Empire is home to several colleges and universities, including the University of California, Riverside, which contribute to the region's economy by providing jobs and services to the community. Notably, the Riverside Unified School District was the first district in the U.S. to voluntarily desegregate, marking an important milestone in the region's educational history. Additionally, the area boasts a large number of school districts and community colleges which help provide education and employment opportunities for residents.
- **Tourism:** The Inland Empire also has a growing tourism industry, with many visitors coming to the area for outdoor activities, such as hiking, skiing, and fishing. The area also has several historical sites which attract visitors interested in history and culture.

IE Economic Development Snapshot: Key Facts and Highlights

1. The Inland Empire boasts remarkable population growth, making it the fastest-growing region in Southern California.
2. A diverse economy characterizes the region, encompassing logistics, healthcare, manufacturing, and professional services.
3. Post-pandemic recovery in the Inland Empire has surpassed national rates, with significant employment growth.
4. Industries like transportation, warehousing, manufacturing, and healthcare are anticipated to exhibit substantial growth.
5. Collaborative economic partnerships are expanding, exemplified by High Road Training Coalitions and the Entrepreneurship and Economic Mobility Task Force.
6. Equity-centered funding opportunities for economic development are arising, promoting inclusivity and job creation for historically marginalized groups.
7. The Inland Empire's strategic location with major airports and seaports positions it as a vital trade and commerce hub.
8. A robust healthcare industry is flourishing, underscored by prominent hospital systems and medical facilities.
9. Renowned universities and research institutions, such as UC Riverside and CSU San Bernardino, contribute to the region's growth.
10. A vibrant small business ecosystem thrives, propelled by local chambers of commerce and organizations fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the economic development sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term

challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Workforce Development:** One immediate challenge is the need for a skilled and adaptable workforce to meet the demands of a changing economy. The Inland Empire faces the task of equipping its residents with the necessary skills and training to access quality employment opportunities and keep pace with evolving industries.
2. **Economic Diversification:** The region heavily relies on industries such as logistics, warehousing, and manufacturing, which can be susceptible to economic fluctuations and disruptions. Developing a more diversified economy that encompasses sectors like technology, healthcare, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing is crucial for long-term stability and resilience.
3. **Small Business Support:** Small businesses are the backbone of the local economy, but they often face challenges in accessing capital, resources, and technical assistance. Supporting the growth and sustainability of small businesses, including minority-owned and women-owned enterprises, is essential for fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic vitality.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Education and Workforce Alignment:** Ensuring a strong connection between educational institutions, workforce development programs, and industry needs is a long-term challenge. Aligning educational curricula with the skills demanded by emerging industries and promoting collaboration between educational institutions and businesses can bridge the skills gap and enhance long-term economic prospects.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** The Inland Empire's rapid population growth and economic expansion require robust infrastructure systems to support transportation, logistics, and connectivity. Investing in transportation networks, broadband access, utilities, and sustainable infrastructure is vital to facilitate business growth, attract investment, and improve overall competitiveness.
3. **Income Inequality and Poverty:** Addressing income inequality and reducing poverty rates are persistent long-term challenges. The Inland Empire has a significant population living

below the poverty line, and ensuring equitable economic opportunities for all residents is essential for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

4. **Environmental Sustainability:** Long-term economic development must be aligned with environmental sustainability goals. Balancing economic growth with environmental conservation, renewable energy adoption, and responsible land use practices is crucial for preserving the region's natural resources and promoting a resilient and sustainable economy.

Economic Development - Vision Statements

This section presents the vision statements that have been crafted through a collaborative community process, capturing our collective goals and aspirations for the future of the Inland Empire, both for 2030 and beyond. These vision statements are intended to guide our actions and initiatives towards a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable region. It is important to note that this document is a "living document," designed to evolve and adapt as economic, political, and social changes unfold. As we navigate the dynamic landscape of our region, we remain committed to revisiting and refining these vision statements, ensuring their continued relevance and alignment with our shared vision for the Inland Empire's future.

1. Our vision for economic development in the Inland Empire is to create a vibrant and sustainable economy that promotes innovation, social and environmental responsibility, and equitable opportunities for all.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where economic development is focused on creating good-paying jobs that provide a living wage, benefits, and opportunities for career advancement.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where economic development is aligned with the region's natural resources, cultural diversity, and unique strengths, and where it is integrated with broader social and environmental objectives.
4. We envision an Inland Empire that is recognized as a leader in green and sustainable industries, where the economic benefits of growth are equitably shared, and where communities are empowered to shape their economic future.
5. Our vision for economic development is one where we prioritize and invest in community-driven initiatives that prioritize equity and inclusion, and that create a more just and prosperous future for all residents of the Inland Empire.

Economic Development - Solutions

This section of the roadmap provides an overview of the diverse range of solutions proposed by the community to address the challenges within each topic area and to help our region achieve our vision statements. To ensure clarity and accessibility, these solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the proposed actions. It is important to note that these categories also include existing efforts in the region that align with our values and have already demonstrated a significant impact. While the list is not exhaustive, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team to include their programs or initiatives that may be relevant. Additionally, this section highlights promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities within each solution category, presenting a menu of options to address various issues within the topic. For a detailed exploration of the community solutions, please refer to our IE 2030 Community Solutions Appendix.

1. **Sustainable and innovative industries:** Solutions that prioritize the development of sustainable and innovative industries, aligning economic growth with social and environmental responsibility.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Innovation Hub (1)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Thrive (IE Thrive) (1)*
 - iii. *The Inland Empire Regional Investment Playbook (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
 - ii. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP)
 - iii. Just San Bernardino (Just SB)
 - iv. Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC)
 - v. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity
 - vi. CA Workforce Development Board
 - vii. Opportunity to Advance Sustainability, Innovation and Social Inclusion (OASIS)
 - viii. San Bernardino Investment Playbook
 - ix. San Bernardino Economic Development Agency
 - x. Just San Bernardino
 - xi. Grow Riverside
 - xii. UCR Inland Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD)
 - xiii. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP)
 - xiv. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
 - xv. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO)
 - xvi. CA Workforce Development Board
 - xvii. Opportunity to Advance Sustainability, Innovation and Social Inclusion (OASIS)
 - xviii. San Bernardino Investment Playbook

- xix. Consortium for Excellence in Logistics - Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP)
- xx. EPIC SBDC - UC Riverside
- xxi. ExCITE - UC Riverside
- xxii. Opportunity Riverside - Riverside County
- xxiii. Our Salton Sea: Investing in People for a Thriving Region - Alianza Coachella Valley

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Inland Empire Solar Partnership
- ii. Riverside County Department of Agriculture
- iii. California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program
- iv. Inland Empire Energy Center
- v. University of California, Riverside's Office of Technology Commercialization
- vi. US Green Building Council's Inland Empire Chapter
- vii. the Inland Empire Clean Cities Coalition
- viii. Riverside Transit Agency
- ix. Strategic Growth Council
- x. Environmental Protection Agency
- xi. California Energy Commission's Energy Innovation Grant Program
- xii. U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.
- xiii. USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program
- xiv. California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program.
- xv. California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
- xvi. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program
- xvii. California Arts Council's Local Impact program
- xviii. National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town program.
- xix. CIELO Fund
- xx. Inland Empire Black Equity Fund
- xxi. Inland Empire Community Foundation

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- xxii. Public-Private Partnerships: The Inland Empire has several public-private partnerships aimed at promoting sustainable and innovative economic development.
- xxiii. University-Industry Partnerships: The Inland Empire has several universities and colleges with strong programs in sustainable and innovative industries, such as the University of California, Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino.
- xxiv. Regional Collaboration: The Inland Empire is a large and diverse region, and collaboration among its cities and counties can promote sustainable and innovative economic development.
- xxv. Nonprofit-Private Partnerships: There are several nonprofit organizations in the Inland Empire that focus on sustainable and

innovative economic development, such as the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District and the Inland Empire Clean Cities Coalition.

xxvi. Community Partnerships: Engaging with the community can be an important aspect of sustainable and innovative economic development. Community partnerships can provide opportunities for outreach, education, and collaboration on projects and initiatives. Local chambers of commerce, business associations, and community organizations can all be potential partners for sustainable and innovative economic development.

2. **Good-paying jobs and career advancement:** Solutions that prioritize the creation of good-paying jobs that provide a living wage, benefits, and opportunities for career advancement.

a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**

- i. *“Stop the Brain Drain” - Pilot Program (1)*
- ii. *Inland Empire Small Business Empowerment Program (IESBEP) (1)*

b. **Existing Efforts**

- i. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- ii. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire - mentorship programs
- iii. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP)
- iv. Just San Bernardino (Just SB)
- v. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO)
- vi. CA Workforce Development Board
- vii. Opportunity to Advance Sustainability, Innovation and Social Inclusion (OASIS)
- viii. San Bernardino Investment Playbook
- ix. Guided Pathways - Growing Inland Achievement
- x. Job Driven SlingShot Initiative - San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board and the Riverside Workforce Development Board

c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**

- i. CA Workforce Development Board
- ii. Inland Empire Small Business Development Center
- iii. Workforce Development Board of San Bernardino County
- iv. UC Riverside's Office of Technology Partnerships
- v. Riverside County Office of Economic Development
- vi. California Energy Commission's Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program
- vii. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- viii. CIELO Fund
- ix. Inland Empire Black Equity Fund
- x. San Bernardino Economic Development Agency

d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**

- i. Public-Private Partnerships: Public-private partnerships can be an effective way to promote economic development in the region.

- ii. Workforce Development Partnerships: Workforce development partnerships between employers, educational institutions, and government agencies can help create training programs and job opportunities in high-growth industries.
 - iii. Industry-Specific Partnerships: Partnerships between businesses and organizations in specific industries can also be effective in promoting economic development and creating good-paying jobs.
 - iv. Infrastructure Partnerships: Infrastructure partnerships between government agencies and private sector partners can help fund and develop infrastructure projects that create jobs and support economic growth.
 - v. Real Estate Development Partnerships: Real estate development partnerships between public and private sector partners can help fund and develop new commercial and residential projects that create jobs and support economic growth.
3. **Equitable economic benefits:** Solutions that prioritize equitable sharing of economic benefits, ensuring that all communities have access to the benefits of economic growth and development.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Local Equitable Economic Development Zones (EEDZs) (1)*
 - ii. *“Stop the Brain Drain” - Pilot Program (2)*
 - iii. *Inland Empire Small Business Empowerment Program (IESBEP) (2)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Just San Bernardino (Just SB)
 - ii. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP)
 - iii. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
 - iv. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO)
 - v. CA Workforce Development Board
 - vi. Opportunity to Advance Sustainability, Innovation and Social Inclusion (OASIS)
 - vii. San Bernardino Investment Playbook
 - viii. United Way Guaranteed Income Pilot (UWIV)
 - ix. Fair Chance Hiring (also known as Ban the Box) - Inland Empire Fair Chance Coalition
 - x. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO) - Inland Empire Community Foundation
 - xi. Inland Empire Designing Equitable Apprenticeships (IEDEA)
 - xii. Uplift San Bernardino
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. CA Workforce Development Board
 - ii. Inland Empire Small Business Development Center
 - iii. Workforce Development Board of San Bernardino County
 - iv. UC Riverside's Office of Technology Partnerships

- v. UC Riverside's Entrepreneurship Proof-of-Concept and Innovation Center (EPIC)
- vi. EPIC Small Business Development Center
- vii. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- viii. Riverside County Office of Economic Development
- ix. California Energy Commission's Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program
- x. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- xi. CIELO Fund
- xii. Inland Empire Black Equity Fund
- xiii. OASIS
- xiv. James Irvine Foundation
- xv. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- xvi. Ampac Entrepreneur Ecosystem
- xvii. Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Public-private partnerships (PPP) can be a powerful tool for promoting economic development and equity in the Inland Empire.
 - ii. **Community Benefits Agreements:** Community benefits agreements (CBAs) are contracts between developers and community organizations that outline specific benefits that will be provided to the community as a result of a development project.
 - iii. **Industry-Specific Partnerships:** Inland Empire businesses, government agencies, and community organizations can partner together to promote growth in specific industries.
 - iv. **Philanthropic Investments:** Philanthropic organizations can play a critical role in promoting equitable economic development in the Inland Empire.
 - v. **Collaboration between Government Agencies:** Collaboration between different government agencies can be an effective way to promote equitable economic development in the Inland Empire.
 - vi. **Partnership with Educational Institutions:** Educational institutions can partner with businesses and community organizations to provide job training and education programs that help residents of the Inland Empire access high-paying jobs in growing industries.
4. **Community-driven initiatives:** Solutions that prioritize and invest in community-driven initiatives, promoting equity and inclusion and creating a more just and prosperous future for all residents of the Inland Empire.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Local Equitable Economic Development Zones (EEDZs) (2)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Innovation Hub (2)*
 - iii. *The Inland Empire Regional Investment Playbook (3)*

iv. *Inland Empire Small Business Empowerment Program (IESBEP) (3)*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Just San Bernardino
- ii. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- iii. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO)
- iv. San Bernardino Investment Playbook
- v. K-16 Collaborative

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Opportunity Zones: The Inland Empire has several designated Opportunity Zones, which are low-income areas that have been targeted for investment by the federal government. Investors who invest in these areas can receive tax incentives, which can help to attract investment and promote economic development.
- ii. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs): CDFIs are financial institutions that provide financing and other services to underserved communities.
- iii. Small Business Administration (SBA) Programs: The SBA offers a range of programs and services to help small businesses succeed, including access to capital, business counseling, and training. The Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is an SBA-affiliated organization that provides free business consulting and training services to small businesses and entrepreneurs in the region.
- iv. Grants and Incentives: There are a number of grants and incentives available to businesses and organizations in the Inland Empire that are focused on community-driven economic development. For example, the California Competes Tax Credit program provides tax credits to businesses that create jobs and make capital investments in the state.
- v. Nonprofit Organizations: There are many nonprofit organizations in the Inland Empire that are focused on economic development and community revitalization. These organizations may provide grants or other funding opportunities to businesses and organizations that align with their missions.
- vi. Workforce Development Programs: Workforce development programs are focused on helping individuals develop the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. There are several workforce development programs operating in the Inland Empire, including the Inland Empire Job Corps Center, which provides vocational training and job placement services to young people.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Public-Private Partnerships: Public-private partnerships (PPPs) bring together public sector entities, private companies, and nonprofit organizations to work collaboratively on economic development initiatives.



- PPPs can be an effective way to leverage the resources and expertise of different organizations to achieve shared goals.
- ii. **Philanthropic Partnerships:** Philanthropic partnerships involve collaboration between nonprofit organizations and philanthropic foundations to support community-driven economic development initiatives.
 - iii. **Education and Workforce Partnerships:** Education and workforce partnerships bring together educational institutions, workforce development organizations, and employers to align workforce training and education with industry needs.
 - iv. **Business Development Partnerships:** Business development partnerships involve collaboration between government agencies, economic development organizations, and private companies to support the growth and development of businesses in the region.
 - v. **Neighborhood Revitalization Partnerships:** Neighborhood revitalization partnerships involve collaboration between government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members to improve the economic and social well-being of a particular neighborhood or community. These partnerships can involve a range of initiatives, including small business development, affordable housing, and community infrastructure improvements. For example, the City of San Bernardino has partnered with local community organizations to develop the Downtown San Bernardino Community Plan, which aims to revitalize the downtown area through a range of economic and community development initiatives.

Economic Development - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

This section of the roadmap outlines different pathways that have been co-developed through collaborative community sessions and extensive research. These strategies are designed to cultivate innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire through the arts and cultural activities. They serve as actionable steps to coordinate our collective efforts, support existing solutions, and enact new initiatives that align with our shared values. By embracing these strategies, we aim to bridge the gap between vision and action, ensuring that our region moves closer to realizing our desired future. These strategies provide a framework for stakeholders to work together, driving positive change and creating a vibrant, dynamic, and culturally enriched Inland Empire.

1. **Support and encourage investment in local small businesses, particularly those owned by people of color and women, through funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and business development support, while also creating pathways for youth entrepreneurship and innovation to prevent brain drain and foster local**

economic growth. Additionally, promote the establishment of mechanisms like incubators, accelerators, self-sustaining models, and community-driven economic development practices that prioritize inclusivity and equitable opportunities. Encourage infill development and sustainable urban planning that revitalizes neighborhoods, stimulates local economies, and enhances community well-being.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support funding opportunities for local small businesses: We can support and advocate for funding programs specifically designed to support local small businesses, with a particular emphasis on businesses owned by people of color and women. This includes advocating for the allocation of resources and grants to provide financial assistance, access to capital, and technical support for small business owners. By supporting funding opportunities, we can empower entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses, stimulating economic growth and fostering diversity within the local economy.
- ii. Implement mentorship programs and business development support: We can create and support mentorship programs that connect experienced business owners and industry professionals with aspiring entrepreneurs. These programs can provide guidance, advice, and support to small business owners, particularly those from underrepresented communities. Additionally, we can advocate for the development of business development resources, such as workshops, training programs, and networking events, that provide entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. By providing mentorship and business development support, we can foster the growth and sustainability of local small businesses.
- iii. Create pathways for youth entrepreneurship and innovation: We can create programs and initiatives that specifically target youth entrepreneurship and innovation, encouraging young people to start their own businesses and become drivers of economic growth in the Inland Empire. This can include promoting entrepreneurship education in schools, organizing business plan competitions, and providing resources and mentorship tailored to the needs of young entrepreneurs. By creating pathways for youth entrepreneurship, we can retain local talent, prevent brain drain, and cultivate a new generation of business leaders in the region.
- iv. Advocate for the establishment of incubators, accelerators, affordable live-work space, and community-driven economic development practices: We can advocate for the establishment of incubators, accelerators, and other support structures that provide a nurturing environment for small businesses to thrive. These initiatives can offer shared workspaces, access to resources and expertise, and networking opportunities. Additionally, we can advocate for community-driven economic



development practices that prioritize inclusivity and equitable opportunities, such as community land trusts and cooperative business models. By advocating for these initiatives, we can create a supportive ecosystem that fosters innovation, collaboration, and sustainable economic development.

- v. Promote infill development and sustainable urban planning: We can advocate for policies and practices that promote infill development, which focuses on revitalizing existing neighborhoods and utilizing existing infrastructure. This includes advocating for zoning changes that facilitate mixed-use development, encouraging the rehabilitation of underutilized spaces, and promoting sustainable urban planning principles. By promoting infill development, we can stimulate local economies, enhance the livability of neighborhoods, and reduce urban sprawl.

2. **Promote equitable economic growth and increase access to and construction of affordable housing by fostering community engagement and partnerships that prioritize mixed-use developments.** This involves working collaboratively with developers to identify the right incentives and strategies that encourage the consideration and implementation of both market rate and affordable housing options in the region. By incorporating affordable housing and commercial spaces into these developments, we can create vibrant and inclusive communities. Additionally, explore innovative and cross-sectoral solutions such as affordable artist live-work spaces, and social housing, leveraging community engagement and partnerships to ensure community-centered and inclusive development practices. Proactively identify and evaluate suitable sites for development, taking into account factors such as infrastructure, transportation accessibility, and community needs.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support mixed-use developments: We can support and advocate for the inclusion of both market rate and affordable housing options in mixed-use developments throughout the region. This involves engaging with developers, local governments, and community stakeholders to promote the consideration and implementation of affordable housing and commercial spaces in these developments. By advocating for mixed-use developments, we can create diverse and vibrant communities that offer a range of housing options for residents of different income levels.
- ii. Advocate for incentives and strategies for affordable housing: We can advocate for the implementation of incentives and strategies that encourage developers to include affordable housing in their projects. This can include advocating for density bonuses, expedited permitting processes, and tax incentives for developers who include affordable housing units in their developments. By advocating for these incentives, we can encourage the construction of more affordable housing units in



the Inland Empire, increasing access to housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

- iii. Explore innovative housing solutions: We can support and advocate for the exploration and implementation of innovative housing solutions that address specific needs in the community. This can include advocating for the creation of affordable artist live-work spaces, social housing models, and other creative housing initiatives that provide affordable and inclusive housing options. By promoting these innovative solutions, we can meet the diverse housing needs of the community and foster a sense of belonging and cultural vibrancy.
- iv. Foster community engagement and partnerships: We can create platforms and opportunities for community engagement in the decision-making processes related to affordable housing and mixed-use developments. This can involve organizing community forums, workshops, and collaborative planning sessions to gather input and incorporate community perspectives into development projects. By fostering community engagement, we can ensure that the needs and preferences of local residents are considered in the development of affordable housing and mixed-use projects.
- v. Proactively identify suitable development sites: We can work with local governments, planners, and community organizations to proactively identify suitable sites for affordable housing and mixed-use developments. This involves conducting site assessments that take into account factors such as infrastructure, transportation accessibility, and community needs. By proactively identifying suitable sites, we can streamline the development process and ensure that affordable housing and mixed-use projects are strategically located to maximize their impact and benefit the community.

3. **Promote and support the development of high road clean energy industries and green infrastructure**, such as renewable energy projects, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable transportation systems. These initiatives can not only reduce carbon emissions and address climate change but also create new family-supporting career pathways that provide stable employment opportunities for local residents. By investing in workforce development programs, vocational training, and apprenticeships in the clean energy sector, we can equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in these emerging industries. Furthermore, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth means ensuring that these opportunities are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of background or socioeconomic status. This can be achieved through targeted outreach and recruitment efforts, financial support for entrepreneurship and small businesses, and a commitment to inclusive hiring practices.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...



- i. Support clean energy industries: We can support and advocate for the development of clean energy industries in the Inland Empire, including renewable energy projects such as solar and wind farms. This involves advocating for policies that promote renewable energy adoption, providing financial incentives for clean energy businesses, and supporting research and development efforts in clean energy technologies. By supporting the growth of clean energy industries, we can reduce carbon emissions and create new job opportunities in the region.
- ii. Advocate for sustainable transportation systems: We can advocate for the development and expansion of sustainable transportation systems in the Inland Empire, such as improved public transit networks and the promotion of electric vehicles. This can involve advocating for funding for public transit infrastructure, supporting the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations, and promoting policies that encourage the use of public transportation and active transportation modes like walking and cycling. By advocating for sustainable transportation options, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality in the region.
- iii. Invest in workforce development programs: We can support and create workforce development programs that provide training and education in the clean energy sector. This can include partnering with local educational institutions to offer vocational training programs and apprenticeships in renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation. By investing in workforce development, we can ensure that local residents have the skills and knowledge needed to access and succeed in clean energy industries.
- iv. Foster inclusive economic growth: We can promote inclusive economic growth by ensuring that opportunities in the clean energy sector are accessible to all members of the community. This can involve supporting targeted outreach and recruitment efforts to reach underrepresented communities, providing financial support and resources for entrepreneurship and small businesses in the clean energy sector, and advocating for inclusive hiring practices that prioritize diversity and equal opportunity. By fostering inclusive economic growth, we can ensure that the benefits of clean energy industries are shared by all residents of the Inland Empire.
- v. Support green infrastructure development: We can support the development of green infrastructure projects that improve sustainability and resilience in the region. This can include advocating for the implementation of energy-efficient technologies in buildings, supporting the creation of green spaces and urban parks, and promoting sustainable water management practices. By supporting green infrastructure development, we can enhance the quality of life in the Inland Empire,

promote environmental sustainability, and create a more resilient and livable community.

4. **Support investment in robust and comprehensive workforce development programs and training opportunities that are aligned with the needs of growing industries and high-quality employment.** This includes partnering with educational institutions, industry leaders, and community organizations to offer targeted training programs, apprenticeships, and internships that equip residents with in-demand skills and qualifications. Additionally, provide support for career counseling, job placement assistance, and ongoing professional development to ensure continuous growth and advancement for individuals in the workforce.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support workforce development programs: We can support and advocate for the funding and expansion of robust workforce development programs in the Inland Empire. This can include providing financial support to educational institutions, industry partnerships, and community organizations that offer training programs aligned with the needs of growing industries in the region. By supporting these programs, we can ensure that residents have access to quality training opportunities that equip them with the skills and qualifications needed for high-quality employment.
- ii. Advocate for industry collaboration: We can advocate for increased collaboration between educational institutions and industry leaders in the Inland Empire. This can involve promoting partnerships that facilitate the development of industry-specific curriculum, the establishment of apprenticeship programs, and the creation of internship opportunities. By advocating for industry collaboration, we can ensure that training programs are aligned with the needs of employers and provide participants with hands-on experience and industry connections.
- iii. Create job placement assistance programs: We can create and support job placement assistance programs that connect trained individuals with employment opportunities in the Inland Empire. This can include collaborating with local businesses and industry associations to identify job openings, providing resources for resume writing and interview preparation, and offering career counseling services. By creating these programs, we can support individuals in finding and securing high-quality employment that matches their skills and qualifications.
- iv. Promote ongoing professional development: We can support the ongoing professional development of the workforce in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for the availability of continuous training and upskilling programs, supporting initiatives that provide access to online learning platforms and resources, and promoting a culture of lifelong learning. By promoting ongoing professional development, we can ensure that

individuals have the opportunity to enhance their skills, stay competitive in the job market, and pursue career advancement.

- v. Advocate for equitable access to training opportunities: We can advocate for equitable access to workforce development programs and training opportunities for all residents of the Inland Empire, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. This can include advocating for financial aid programs, scholarships, and other resources that support individuals who may face barriers to accessing training programs. By advocating for equitable access, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from workforce development initiatives and contribute to the region's economic growth.

5. **Encourage and support the establishment of cooperative and community-owned businesses** that prioritize community needs and operate under democratic ownership structures. This includes providing resources, training, and technical assistance to support the development and growth of these enterprises. Additionally, encourage the utilization of community-owned lands and infrastructure to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and meet the unique needs of the community.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support cooperative and community-owned businesses: We can support and advocate for the establishment of cooperative and community-owned businesses in the Inland Empire. This can include providing financial resources, grants, or low-interest loans to help entrepreneurs start and grow cooperative enterprises. Additionally, we can connect aspiring cooperative business owners with training programs, technical assistance, and mentorship opportunities to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to succeed.
- ii. Advocate for favorable policies and regulations: We can advocate for policies and regulations that support cooperative and community-owned businesses in the Inland Empire. This can involve working with local government officials and policymakers to create an enabling environment for these types of businesses to thrive. We can advocate for tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and zoning policies that prioritize community-owned enterprises and remove barriers to their establishment and growth.
- iii. Provide training and technical assistance: We can create or support training programs and technical assistance initiatives specifically tailored to cooperative and community-owned businesses. This can include workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs that provide guidance on cooperative governance, business planning, financial management, marketing, and other relevant topics. By providing these resources, we can ensure that entrepreneurs have the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully operate their businesses.



- iv. Encourage the utilization of community-owned assets: We can advocate for the utilization of community-owned lands, buildings, and infrastructure to support the establishment and growth of cooperative and community-owned businesses. This can involve collaborating with local governments, community organizations, and land trusts to identify available assets and explore opportunities for their use by cooperative enterprises. By leveraging community-owned resources, we can create a supportive environment for businesses that prioritize community needs and contribute to local economic development.
 - v. Foster collaboration and networking: We can create platforms and opportunities for cooperative and community-owned businesses to collaborate, share resources, and build networks within the Inland Empire. This can include organizing networking events, business fairs, and industry-specific forums where entrepreneurs can connect, exchange ideas, and learn from each other's experiences. By fostering collaboration, we can strengthen the cooperative business ecosystem, encourage knowledge sharing, and promote collective success.
6. **Advocate for increased investment in public transportation infrastructure,** including the expansion of bus routes, the development of light rail systems, and the implementation of micro-transit solutions such as on-demand shuttles or ridesharing services. These initiatives will improve access to jobs and economic opportunities, particularly in underserved communities, by providing reliable, affordable, and convenient transportation options. Additionally, support the development of last-mile connectivity solutions, such as bike-sharing programs or pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, to enhance accessibility to public transportation hubs.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Advocate for increased funding: We can advocate for increased investment in public transportation infrastructure at the local, state, and federal levels. This includes actively supporting and promoting initiatives that secure additional funding for the expansion and improvement of bus routes, light rail systems, and micro-transit solutions. By advocating for increased funding, we can ensure that the necessary resources are available to enhance public transportation options in the region.
 - ii. Engage in community outreach and education: We can engage in community outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of public transportation and the need for investment in infrastructure. This can involve organizing public forums, town hall meetings, or informational campaigns to inform residents about the advantages of reliable, affordable, and convenient transportation options. By fostering community support and understanding, we can strengthen advocacy efforts and build a broader coalition for improved public transportation.



- iii. Collaborate with transportation agencies and stakeholders: We can collaborate with transportation agencies, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to advocate for the expansion of public transportation infrastructure. This can involve participating in stakeholder meetings, joining coalitions, or forming partnerships to collectively advocate for increased investment in transportation projects. By working together, we can amplify our voices and increase the impact of our advocacy efforts.
 - iv. Support pilot programs and demonstration projects: We can support and promote pilot programs and demonstration projects that test innovative transportation solutions, such as on-demand shuttles or bike-sharing programs. By showcasing the benefits and feasibility of these initiatives, we can generate support and momentum for their wider implementation. Additionally, we can advocate for funding and resources to sustain and expand successful pilot programs.
 - v. Collaborate with local governments and agencies: We can collaborate with local governments and transportation agencies to create comprehensive transportation plans that prioritize the expansion of public transportation infrastructure. This can involve providing input during the planning process, advocating for equitable distribution of transportation resources, and supporting initiatives that enhance last-mile connectivity to public transportation hubs. By actively engaging with decision-makers, we can influence transportation policies and ensure that they align with the needs and priorities of the community.
7. **Support and advocate for the implementation of comprehensive policies and programs that prioritize worker protections and uphold labor standards, recognizing the importance of a fair and equitable work environment.** This includes advocating for regular increases in the minimum wage to ensure fair compensation for workers, paid family and sick leave policies that provide essential support during times of caregiving or illness, and fair scheduling practices that provide stability and predictability for workers. Additionally, support initiatives that combat wage theft, strengthen worker safety regulations, and promote workplace diversity and inclusion.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocate for labor-friendly policies: We can advocate for the implementation of comprehensive labor-friendly policies at the local, state, and federal levels. This includes actively supporting and promoting initiatives that prioritize worker protections, such as advocating for regular increases in the minimum wage, paid family and sick leave policies, and fair scheduling practices. By advocating for these policies, we can ensure that workers in the Inland Empire are afforded fair compensation, essential benefits, and a more stable work environment.

- ii. Engage in public awareness campaigns: We can engage in public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the importance of worker protections and labor standards. This can involve organizing informational sessions, community forums, or awareness campaigns to raise awareness about workers' rights and the benefits of fair and equitable work environments. By fostering public support and understanding, we can strengthen advocacy efforts and build a broader coalition for worker protections.
 - iii. Collaborate with labor unions and worker advocacy organizations: We can collaborate with labor unions and worker advocacy organizations to support their efforts in upholding labor standards and advancing workers' rights. This can involve participating in joint campaigns, attending rallies and events, or providing resources and assistance to support their advocacy work. By working together, we can amplify our voices and increase the impact of our advocacy efforts.
 - iv. Support legislative initiatives: We can support legislative initiatives that combat wage theft, strengthen worker safety regulations, and promote workplace diversity and inclusion. This can involve actively engaging with legislators, writing letters of support, or participating in public hearings to advocate for the passage of these initiatives. By supporting these legislative efforts, we can contribute to a more equitable and inclusive work environment for all workers in the Inland Empire.
 - v. Promote worker training and education programs: We can support and promote worker training and education programs that enhance workers' skills and knowledge, empower them to advocate for their rights, and improve their employability. This can involve collaborating with educational institutions, vocational training centers, and community organizations to provide access to training programs, workshops, and resources that help workers navigate the labor market and understand their rights. By investing in worker training and education, we can equip workers with the tools they need to succeed and thrive in the workforce.
8. **Support increased investment in affordable broadband access to promote access to digital job opportunities, remote work options, and educational resources.** Recognizing the importance of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity, prioritize the expansion of broadband networks to connect rural and unincorporated communities, ensuring that all residents have equal access to online resources and opportunities.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Advocate for increased funding and resources: We can advocate for increased funding and resources to support the expansion of affordable broadband access in the region. This can involve engaging with policymakers, community leaders, and telecommunications companies to emphasize the importance of affordable internet access as a critical



component of economic and educational opportunities. By advocating for increased investment, we can help bridge the digital divide and ensure equal access to online resources and opportunities for all residents.

- ii. Collaborate with internet service providers: We can collaborate with internet service providers to encourage the expansion of broadband networks in underserved areas, particularly rural and unincorporated communities. This can involve fostering partnerships, engaging in discussions with providers, and exploring potential funding opportunities to incentivize the extension of broadband infrastructure. By working together with service providers, we can help ensure that reliable and high-speed internet connectivity reaches all communities in the Inland Empire.
- iii. Support community-based initiatives: We can support community-based initiatives that promote digital inclusion and provide affordable broadband access. This can involve partnering with local organizations, non-profits, and educational institutions to create programs that increase digital literacy, provide discounted internet services to low-income households, and offer computer and internet access in community centers. By supporting these initiatives, we can empower individuals and communities with the necessary resources and skills to fully participate in the digital economy.
- iv. Advocate for policy changes: We can advocate for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels that prioritize affordable broadband access. This can include advocating for policies that incentivize internet service providers to expand their networks to underserved areas, advocating for legislation that promotes net neutrality and ensures fair and equitable access to the internet, and supporting initiatives that address regulatory barriers and promote competition in the broadband market. By advocating for these policy changes, we can create an environment that supports affordable and accessible broadband for all residents.
- v. Engage in public awareness campaigns: We can engage in public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of affordable broadband access and digital inclusion. This can involve organizing community forums, hosting workshops, and utilizing various communication channels to raise awareness about the benefits of reliable internet connectivity and the resources available to enhance digital literacy. By increasing public awareness, we can generate support for initiatives that promote affordable broadband access in the Inland Empire.

9. **Encourage and support the development of local innovation hubs and incubators to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the region.** Collaborate with other regional players, including educational institutions, industry leaders, and government agencies, when possible, to accelerate the adoption of innovative ideas, foster cross-sector collaboration, and increase the collective impact of these initiatives.



a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support the establishment of local innovation hubs and incubators: We can provide support for the development and growth of local innovation hubs and incubators that provide resources and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs and startups. This can involve offering funding opportunities, facilitating partnerships between startups and established businesses, and promoting the availability of physical spaces for collaboration and co-working. By supporting these hubs, we can create a conducive environment for entrepreneurship and innovation in the Inland Empire.
- ii. Advocate for resources and funding: We can advocate for increased resources and funding from government entities, private investors, and philanthropic organizations to support the establishment and operation of innovation hubs and incubators. This can include engaging with policymakers, organizing advocacy campaigns, and showcasing the economic and social benefits that come with supporting local entrepreneurship and innovation. By advocating for these resources, we can ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs in the Inland Empire have access to the necessary support and opportunities to thrive.
- iii. Foster collaboration among regional players: We can encourage collaboration among educational institutions, industry leaders, government agencies, and other stakeholders in the region. This can involve facilitating partnerships, organizing networking events, and creating platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration. By fostering cross-sector collaboration, we can leverage the expertise and resources of different entities to accelerate the adoption of innovative ideas, enhance access to mentorship and industry connections, and amplify the collective impact of these initiatives.
- iv. Provide mentorship and educational resources: We can support the development of mentorship programs and educational resources tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs and startups. This can include connecting experienced entrepreneurs and industry professionals with aspiring entrepreneurs to provide guidance and support, organizing workshops and training programs on various aspects of entrepreneurship, and partnering with educational institutions to offer relevant courses and programs. By providing mentorship and educational resources, we can equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the challenges of starting and scaling a business.
- v. Celebrate and showcase local success stories: We can highlight and celebrate the success stories of local entrepreneurs and startups in the Inland Empire. This can be done through events, media coverage, and recognition programs that showcase the achievements and contributions of entrepreneurs in the region. By sharing these success stories, we can

inspire and motivate aspiring entrepreneurs, attract investment and support, and build a positive narrative around entrepreneurship and innovation in the Inland Empire.

Multi-Solver Opportunities in Economic Development

1. **Sustainable Infrastructure Development:** Investing in sustainable infrastructure projects can serve as a multi-solver opportunity that addresses both economic development and environmental sustainability. Projects such as renewable energy installations, green building initiatives, and sustainable transportation systems can create job opportunities, promote clean technologies, and reduce carbon emissions, contributing to economic growth while advancing environmental goals.
2. **Workforce Development for Emerging Industries:** Prioritizing workforce development programs that align with emerging industries, such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and technology, can be a multi-solver opportunity. By equipping underserved and marginalized individuals with the skills and knowledge required by these industries, the region can foster economic growth, create high-quality jobs, and enhance its competitiveness in the global market.
3. **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support:** Promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses, particularly those owned by underrepresented groups, is another multi-solver opportunity. By providing access to capital, business development resources, and mentorship programs, the Inland Empire can stimulate economic growth, enhance diversity and inclusion, and create employment opportunities, all while fostering a vibrant and resilient entrepreneurial ecosystem.
4. **Equitable Economic Development:** Emphasizing equity and inclusivity in economic development efforts can address multiple challenges simultaneously. By focusing on reducing income inequality, promoting access to economic opportunities for marginalized communities, and ensuring fair wages and working conditions, the Inland Empire can create a more equitable and just economy that benefits all residents.
5. **Regional Collaboration and Partnerships:** Building strong regional collaborations and partnerships across sectors, including government, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations, presents a multi-solver opportunity. By working together, sharing resources and expertise, and aligning efforts, stakeholders can address common challenges more effectively, leverage funding opportunities, and maximize the impact of economic development initiatives.

Education

Education is a process of learning that involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that enable individuals to navigate the world around them and engage in meaningful and productive activities. Education can take many forms, including formal schooling, vocational training, apprenticeships, and informal learning through community engagement and experience.

Education is essential for personal and social development, and has a profound impact on individuals and communities. It plays a critical role in promoting economic growth and development, reducing poverty and inequality, promoting social mobility and opportunity, and fostering democracy and civic engagement.

Moreover, education is not just about the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also about personal growth and development. It helps individuals to develop a sense of identity, purpose, and meaning, and to cultivate the intellectual, social, and emotional capacities that are necessary for success in life.

Overall, education is a holistic and multidimensional process that involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and values, as well as personal growth and development. It plays a critical role in promoting individual and social well-being, and is essential for creating a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Education in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse education system, which includes both public and private schools, as well as colleges and universities. The education system in the Inland Empire has been facing some challenges in recent years, such as budget cuts and teacher shortages, as well as a large number of students who are English Language Learners or come from low-income families. However, the area's schools and colleges continue to work to improve academic performance and provide opportunities for students to succeed.

- **Public Schools:** The Inland Empire is served by several school districts, including the Riverside Unified School District and the San Bernardino City Unified School District, which together serve over 250,000 students. The area's public schools offer a range of programs, including traditional K-12 education, special education, and adult education. The area also has many charter schools which provide alternative education options.
- **Higher Education:** The Inland Empire is home to several colleges and universities, including the University of California, Riverside, Cal State San Bernardino, and Riverside Community College. These institutions offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, including business, engineering, education, and healthcare. The area also has a number of private colleges and universities, such as the La Sierra University, which offer specialized programs and degrees.

- **Vocational Education:** The Inland Empire also has a number of vocational schools and technical colleges which provide training in specific fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics. The students from these schools are prepared for jobs in high demand fields which help them to get better employment opportunities.

IE Education Snapshot: Key Facts and Highlights

1. The Inland Empire holds a significant portion of California's school-age children.
2. Educational attainment in the region is below the state average, with fewer individuals possessing Bachelor's degrees.
3. The K12 student population in the Inland Empire is diverse, predominantly composed of non-White students.
4. Educational disparities exist within the region, particularly affecting Latinx and American Indigenous students.
5. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) governs educational agency funding, ensuring support for low-income and English learner students.
6. Historical funding challenges trace back to Proposition 13 in 1979, impacting per pupil spending in California.
7. Frances Grice's landmark legal victory brought integration to San Bernardino schools.
8. COVID-induced remote learning disproportionately affected disadvantaged students due to internet access and learning environments.
9. The Inland Empire K16 Education Collaborative unites local education stakeholders to address regional education disparities.
10. Initiatives promoting college readiness and access, like the Inland Empire College Promise program, are active in the region.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the education sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Educational Disparities:** The Inland Empire experiences significant educational disparities, with disparities in resources, funding, and quality of education across different schools and districts. This can result in unequal opportunities for students to succeed and reach their full potential.



2. **Access to Quality Early Childhood Education:** Many families in the Inland Empire face challenges in accessing quality early childhood education programs, such as preschools and early intervention services. Limited availability and affordability of these programs can hinder children's readiness for school and impact their long-term academic success.
3. **Achievement Gap:** The region struggles with persistent achievement gaps, particularly among students from low-income backgrounds, English language learners, and students of color. These gaps in academic performance and outcomes contribute to disparities in educational attainment and future opportunities.
4. **College Readiness and Access:** Many students in the Inland Empire face barriers in accessing and successfully transitioning to higher education. Factors such as a lack of college counseling resources, limited financial aid options, and insufficient preparation for college-level coursework can hinder students' ability to pursue post-secondary education.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Educational Equity:** Achieving educational equity, where every student has an equal opportunity to succeed, is a long-term challenge. This involves addressing systemic barriers, reducing disparities in resources and opportunities, and ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or ZIP code.
2. **College Completion Rates:** Improving college completion rates is a long-term challenge for the region. Ensuring that students not only access higher education but also successfully complete their degree programs is crucial for their future career prospects and economic mobility.
3. **Workforce Skills Gap:** Aligning education with workforce needs is an ongoing challenge. Bridging the gap between the skills students acquire in their education and the demands of the job market is essential to prepare a highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of the Inland Empire's evolving industries.
4. **Digital Divide:** The digital divide, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, remains a long-term challenge. Access to reliable internet connectivity and technology devices is crucial for equitable access to online learning and educational resources.
5. **Teacher Shortages:** The Inland Empire, like many other regions, faces a shortage of qualified and diverse teachers. Attracting and retaining highly qualified educators, particularly in high-need subjects and schools, is essential for providing quality education to all students.

Education - Vision Statements

This section presents the vision statements that have been crafted through a collaborative community process, capturing our collective goals and aspirations for the future of the Inland Empire, both for 2030 and beyond. These vision statements are intended to guide our actions and initiatives towards a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable region. It is important to note that this document is a "living document," designed to evolve and adapt as economic,

political, and social changes unfold. As we navigate the dynamic landscape of our region, we remain committed to revisiting and refining these vision statements, ensuring their continued relevance and alignment with our shared vision for the Inland Empire's future.

1. We envision an Inland Empire where all students have access to high-quality and equitable education, regardless of their zip code, income level, or background.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where schools are safe, welcoming, and culturally responsive environments that celebrate and honor the diversity of our communities.
3. We envision an Inland Empire where all students have access to comprehensive wraparound services, such as mental health counseling and after-school programs, to support their holistic well-being.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where restorative justice practices are implemented in all schools, promoting positive school climates and reducing punitive discipline practices that disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities.
5. We envision an Inland Empire where all students have access to affordable and effective post-secondary education and job training programs, with an emphasis on serving historically underserved and underrepresented populations.
6. We envision an Inland Empire where bilingual and multicultural education staff are hired and retained, promoting inclusion and equity in education.
7. We envision an Inland Empire where sustainability education and practices are integrated into all levels of education, promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability principles.
8. We envision an Inland Empire where technology and digital literacy skills are taught and supported, particularly in low-income and underserved communities.
9. We envision an Inland Empire where schools, businesses, and community-based organizations collaborate to provide additional resources and support to students and families.
10. We envision an Inland Empire where regular assessments and monitoring of progress towards achieving these education policy solutions are conducted, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality and equitable education.

Education - Solutions

This section of the roadmap provides an overview of the diverse range of solutions proposed by the community to address the challenges within each topic area and to help our region achieve our vision statements. To ensure clarity and accessibility, these solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the proposed actions. It is important to note that these categories also include existing efforts in the region that align with our values and have already demonstrated a significant impact. While the list is not exhaustive, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team to include their programs or initiatives that may be relevant. Additionally, this section highlights promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities within each solution category, presenting a menu of options to address various issues within the topic. For a detailed exploration of the community solutions, please refer to our IE 2030 Community Solutions Appendix.

1. **Equity and Access:** Solutions that focus on providing all students with access to high-quality and equitable education, regardless of their zip code, income level, or background. This includes initiatives to close the achievement gap, improve access to educational resources, and increase opportunities for historically underserved and underrepresented populations.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Mentorship for Equity*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Music and Art Intensive High School Program*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Guided Pathways
 - ii. IE Children’s Cabinet
 - iii. IE Students - Growing Inland Achievement (GIA)
 - iv. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire - mentorship programs
 - v. K-16 Education Collaborative
 - vi. One Future Coachella Valley: CV Regional Plan for College and Career Success
 - vii. Latino Education & Advocacy Days (LEAD)
 - viii. BLU Foundation Youth Leadership College/Career Access
 - ix. CA College Promise Program
 - x. Riverside County Education Collaborative
 - xi. Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC)
 - xii. Inland Empire Black Education Agenda
 - xiii. Riverside County Superintendent’s Initiatives - Riverside County Office of Education
 - xiv. The Coachella Valley Regional Plan for College and Career Success - One Future Coachella Valley
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**

- i. The California Department of Education
- ii. The Inland Empire Community Foundation
- iii. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- iv. College Futures Foundation
- v. CIELO Fund
- vi. Inland Empire Black Equity Fund

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Local school districts: School districts in the Inland Empire region may be interested in partnering with community organizations or businesses to improve educational equity and access for their students.
- ii. Community organizations: There are many community organizations in the Inland Empire region working on issues related to education equity and access. Partnering with these organizations could help to leverage resources and expertise.
- iii. Businesses: Local businesses may be interested in partnering with schools or community organizations to provide funding, resources, or mentorship opportunities for students.

2. **Holistic Support:** Solutions that focus on providing students with comprehensive wraparound services to support their holistic well-being. This includes initiatives to improve access to mental health counseling, after-school programs, and other support services that address the non-academic needs of students.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire School-Based Mental Health and Wellness Initiative*
- ii. *Inland Empire Financial Literacy and Generational Wealth Education Initiative*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Riverside County Education Collaborative
- ii. San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- iii. The Inland Empire College Promise
- iv. Youth Action Project (YAP)
- v. Building Resiliency in African American Families (BRAAF)

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- ii. CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- iii. CA Department of Education
- iv. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- v. Growing Inland Achievement
- vi. College Futures Foundation

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Mental Health Support: Partnering with mental health organizations, therapists, and counselors can help provide students with access to the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally.

- ii. Nutrition and Wellness Programs: Partnering with local health organizations, fitness centers, and nutritionists can help schools provide students with the resources and knowledge they need to maintain healthy habits.
 - iii. After-school and Summer Programs: Partnering with local community organizations, clubs, and camps can help schools provide students with enriching and fun opportunities outside of the classroom.
 - iv. Career Education and Workforce Development: The Inland Empire has a strong economy with a variety of job opportunities available to students. Partnering with local businesses, trade schools, and vocational programs can help schools provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the workforce.
3. **Post-Secondary Education and Job Training:** Solutions that aim to improve access to affordable and effective post-secondary education and job training programs, with an emphasis on serving historically underserved and underrepresented populations. This includes initiatives to increase partnerships between educational institutions and employers to create career pathways and opportunities for students.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Universal Learning Accounts (ULAs)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Behavioral Sciences Pathway Program*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium
 - ii. Riverside County Education Collaborative
 - iii. Growing Inland Achievement
 - iv. Guided Pathways
 - v. TRIO programs
 - vi. Cal-SOAP
 - vii. San Bernardino County Pathways to Prosperity
 - viii. Riverside Community College District CTE programs
 - ix. Riverside County Economic Development Agency
 - x. San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency
 - xi. High Road Training Partnerships
 - xii. Inland Empire Labor Institute
 - xiii. Regional Occupational Program (ROP)
 - xiv. Riverside Community College District (RCCD)
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Inland Empire Community Foundation
 - ii. CA Department of Education
 - iii. Growing Inland Achievement
 - iv. Inland Empire Job Corps
 - v. Regional Pathways Project
 - vi. California Apprenticeship Initiative

- vii. California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Industry partnerships: One promising area for partnerships in the Inland Empire is between educational institutions and local employers in high-demand industries. These partnerships can help to create career pathways for students by aligning educational programs with the needs of local employers.
- ii. Workforce development partnerships: Another area for partnerships is with workforce development agencies and organizations. These partnerships can help to provide students with access to job training programs, job placement services, and other support services that can help them to transition into the workforce after completing their education.
- iii. K-12 partnerships: Partnerships between K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions can help to create seamless pathways for students to transition from high school to college and into the workforce.
- iv. Regional partnerships: Regional partnerships between educational institutions, employers, workforce development agencies, and other community partners can help to create a coordinated approach to education and workforce development in the Inland Empire

4. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Solutions that aim to improve collaboration and partnerships between schools, businesses, and community-based organizations to provide additional resources and support to students and families. This includes initiatives to increase engagement with families and community members in education decision-making and support programs.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

i.

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Desert Consortium (Riverside Community College District)
- ii. The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Family Engagement Center
- iii. The Riverside County Office of Education Family Engagement Network
- iv. The Inland Empire United Way's Education Collaborative
- v. The California State University, San Bernardino Parent & Family Engagement Center
- vi. BLU Educational Foundation Parent Leadership Program
- vii. Concerned African American Parents
- viii. DELAC
- ix. Local Control and Accountability Program
- x. California PTA

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- ii. CA Endowment Building Healthy Communities Initiative

iii. Inland Empire United Way Education Collaborative

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. **School-Family-Community Partnership Program:** This program is offered through the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office and aims to build partnerships between schools, families, and community members to support student success. The program provides resources and training to schools and families to help them work together to create a positive school environment and promote student achievement.
- ii. **Community Schools Initiative:** This initiative is a collaboration between the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office, community-based organizations, and local school districts to provide comprehensive services and support to students and families. The initiative aims to create a network of community schools that serve as hubs for education and support services in the region.
- iii. **Inland Empire United Way's Education Collaborative:** As mentioned earlier, the Education Collaborative brings together school districts, community organizations, and businesses to improve education outcomes in the Inland Empire.
- iv. **Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs):** PTAs are a longstanding partnership between families, educators, and school communities. In the Inland Empire, PTAs work to promote family engagement in education decision-making and support programs, advocate for policies that benefit students and families, and provide resources and support to schools.
- v. **Community-Based Organizations:** There are many community-based organizations in the Inland Empire that work to support education and increase engagement with families and community members. These organizations provide a range of services, such as tutoring, mentoring, and parent education programs.

5. **Innovation and Creativity:** Solutions that promote innovation and creativity in education, providing opportunities for students to explore and develop their talents and interests. This includes initiatives to promote STEAM education, expand access to arts education, and provide opportunities for student leadership and entrepreneurship.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

i. *Inland Empire Music and Art Intensive High School Program*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Innovation High School
- ii. iCREATE
- iii. San Bernardino County Arts Connection
- iv. MakerSpaces
- v. Riverside County Innovation Month

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

i. UCR ARTSblock K-12 Education Program

- ii. Arts for the IE Fund
- iii. CA Arts Council
- iv. Creative Corps
- v. CA Desert Arts Council
- vi. Accelerate CA Inclusive Innovation Hubs
- vii. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
- viii. Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
- ix. Young Entrepreneurs Academy
- x. Inland Empire Future Leaders Program
- xi. Riverside City College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies
MakerSpaces

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. STEAM Education Partnerships: Many organizations in the Inland Empire are working to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education in schools.
- ii. Arts Education Partnerships: Several organizations in the Inland Empire are working to expand access to arts education for students.
- iii. Student Leadership and Entrepreneurship Partnerships: Many organizations in the Inland Empire are working to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and explore entrepreneurship.

Education - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

This section of the roadmap outlines different pathways that have been co-developed through collaborative community sessions and extensive research. These strategies are designed to cultivate innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire through the arts and cultural activities. They serve as actionable steps to coordinate our collective efforts, support existing solutions, and enact new initiatives that align with our shared values. By embracing these strategies, we aim to bridge the gap between vision and action, ensuring that our region moves closer to realizing our desired future. These strategies provide a framework for stakeholders to work together, driving positive change and creating a vibrant, dynamic, and culturally enriched Inland Empire.

1. **Support and advocate for increased investment in high-quality early childhood education programs** that focus on building strong foundations for future academic and personal success, particularly for low-income families and families of color. This includes recognizing the critical need for appropriate staffing levels and qualifications within these programs to ensure effective delivery of services and support for children's development. Promote the importance of data-driven approaches to identify and target communities and regions that have the greatest need, ensuring that resources are allocated strategically to address disparities and inequities in access to early childhood education.

By leveraging data and evidence-based practices, we can effectively prioritize investments and interventions that will have the greatest impact, narrowing the opportunity gap and setting children on a path to lifelong success.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support increased funding for early childhood education programs: We can support and advocate for increased investment in high-quality early childhood education programs, particularly for low-income families and families of color. This can involve engaging with policymakers, community leaders, and advocacy organizations to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and the need for adequate funding to ensure accessibility and quality.
 - ii. Advocate for appropriate staffing levels and qualifications: We can advocate for policies and regulations that promote appropriate staffing levels and qualifications within early childhood education programs. This includes supporting initiatives that prioritize professional development opportunities for early childhood educators, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide effective and nurturing care for young children.
 - iii. Promote data-driven approaches to identify and target communities in need: We can advocate for the use of data and evidence-based practices to identify communities and regions with the greatest need for early childhood education resources. By leveraging data on demographics, socioeconomic indicators, and educational disparities, we can strategically allocate resources and interventions to address disparities and inequities in access to quality early childhood education.
 - iv. Foster partnerships and collaborations: We can support and create partnerships among stakeholders, including educational institutions, community organizations, and government agencies, to strengthen early childhood education programs. This can involve fostering collaboration in curriculum development, sharing resources and best practices, and creating networks that promote knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.
 - v. Raise public awareness: We can engage in public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of early childhood education and its long-term benefits for children and communities. By disseminating information, sharing success stories, and promoting the positive impact of early childhood education, we can build public support and mobilize resources to ensure access and quality for all children in the Inland Empire.
2. **Support and advocacy for expanding access to affordable and effective post-secondary education and job training programs**, with an emphasis on serving historically underserved and systemically excluded underrepresented populations. This includes developing meaningful internship programs and apprenticeship programs in

collaboration with community-based organizations and nonprofits to provide hands-on learning opportunities and practical skills development. By fostering these partnerships, we can ensure that individuals from diverse backgrounds have access to quality education and training that aligns with the needs of the local job market, creating pathways to economic opportunity and addressing systemic barriers to success.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support increased funding for post-secondary education and job training programs: We can support and advocate for increased investment in affordable and effective post-secondary education and job training programs. This can involve engaging with policymakers, educational institutions, and community organizations to secure funding for expanding access and improving the quality of these programs.
- ii. Advocate for policies that promote equity in post-secondary education: We can advocate for policies that prioritize serving historically underserved and systemically excluded underrepresented populations. This includes promoting inclusive admissions practices, financial aid programs that address affordability barriers, and comprehensive support services to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to pursue and succeed in post-secondary education.
- iii. Create meaningful internship and apprenticeship programs: We can create and support the development of internship and apprenticeship programs in collaboration with community-based organizations and nonprofits. These programs provide hands-on learning opportunities and practical skills development, bridging the gap between education and employment. By fostering partnerships with local businesses and industries, we can create pathways for individuals to gain valuable work experience and develop the skills necessary for success in the job market.
- iv. Promote collaboration between educational institutions and employers: We can advocate for stronger partnerships between educational institutions and employers to align curriculum and training programs with the needs of the local job market. This can involve facilitating dialogue and collaboration between educators and industry leaders to ensure that educational programs provide relevant and in-demand skills, improving employment outcomes for graduates.
- v. Provide comprehensive support services: We can advocate for the availability of comprehensive support services that address the holistic needs of students and job trainees. This includes access to academic advising, career counseling, financial literacy programs, and mental health support services. By ensuring that individuals have the necessary support systems in place, we can increase their chances of success in post-secondary education and job training programs.

3. **Support and advocate for increased funding for K-12 education and ensure that all schools have the necessary resources, technology, and support to provide high-quality instruction, including arts and music education.** One of the key lessons from desegregation is that breaking the direct ties between regional/localized home values and educational investments is essential for creating a modern-day funding system that promotes educational equity across communities. This includes sustainable funding models and transparency in the allocation of funds to promote equitable access to resources and opportunities. High-quality instruction can encompass a variety of factors such as appropriate classroom sizes, high graduation rates, strong test scores, and diverse class offerings that cater to the individual needs and interests of students. By prioritizing adequate funding, transparent resource allocation, and equitable funding mechanisms, we can create an educational environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and holistic development for all students in the Inland Empire.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Advocate for increased funding for K-12 education: We can actively support and advocate for increased funding for K-12 education at the local, state, and federal levels. This can involve engaging with policymakers, attending public hearings, and participating in grassroots efforts to highlight the importance of adequate resources for schools.
 - ii. Support sustainable funding models: We can support and advocate for sustainable funding models that ensure stable and sufficient resources for schools in the long term. This may include advocating for fair and equitable distribution of education funds, exploring alternative funding sources, and promoting policies that prioritize educational investments.
 - iii. Advocate for transparency in resource allocation: We can advocate for transparency in the allocation of education funds to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all schools and students. This can involve advocating for accountability measures that require schools to report how funds are being used and ensuring that the allocation process considers the specific needs of each school and its student population.
 - iv. Promote the inclusion of arts and music education: We can advocate for the inclusion of arts and music education in the curriculum of all schools. This may involve supporting policies that prioritize funding for arts programs, advocating for partnerships with local arts organizations, and raising awareness about the importance of arts education in fostering creativity and well-rounded development.
 - v. Collaborate with community stakeholders: We can collaborate with community stakeholders, including parents, teachers, school administrators, and local organizations, to collectively advocate for increased funding and resources for K-12 education. This can involve organizing community forums, conducting outreach campaigns, and mobilizing support to ensure a unified voice in advocating for high-quality education.

4. **Promote and support the hiring and retention of a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce that reflects the communities it serves**, including addressing the specific workforce needs for clinical counselors to deliver school-based mental health services. Recognizing the high demand for specialized mental health support in schools, we must invest in workforce development programs to train and empower clinical counselors to provide targeted interventions and services. Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that school administration is representative of the community they serve, fostering inclusivity and understanding of diverse perspectives. Furthermore, it is essential to address the mental model mismatch between the educational system and generational poverty, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and implementing strategies to provide equitable opportunities and support. By prioritizing workforce diversity, specialized mental health services, and addressing systemic barriers, we can create an educational environment that nurtures the well-being and success of all students in the Inland Empire.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
- i. Support workforce development programs: We can support and advocate for the development of workforce training programs that focus on diversifying the teaching workforce and preparing clinical counselors to deliver school-based mental health services. This can involve partnering with educational institutions, community organizations, and professional associations to create and fund programs that provide specialized training and support for educators and clinical counselors.
 - ii. Advocate for hiring practices that prioritize diversity: We can advocate for hiring practices in schools that prioritize diversity and inclusivity, ensuring that the teaching workforce reflects the communities it serves. This can include advocating for policies that encourage the recruitment and retention of teachers from underrepresented backgrounds, implementing bias-free hiring processes, and promoting cultural competency training for educators.
 - iii. Advocate for increased investment in mental health services: We can advocate for increased funding and resources for mental health services in schools, specifically targeting the hiring and retention of clinical counselors. This can involve collaborating with mental health organizations, policymakers, and school districts to secure funding for additional staff, training, and support services to meet the unique mental health needs of students.
 - iv. Support initiatives for inclusive school administration: We can support initiatives that promote inclusive school administration by advocating for policies that prioritize diversity in school leadership roles. This can involve advocating for mentorship programs, leadership development

opportunities, and transparent recruitment processes that encourage diverse candidates to pursue administrative positions.

- v. Address systemic barriers and promote equitable opportunities: We can advocate for policies and practices that address systemic barriers faced by students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This can include supporting programs that provide equitable access to resources, academic support, and opportunities for students to succeed, such as college and career counseling, tutoring programs, and financial aid assistance.

5. **Support increased investment in wraparound services such as mental health counseling, after-school programs, and peer and community counseling, to support the holistic needs of students and families, especially those impacted by Generational Poverty or possessing non-eurocentric mindsets and learning patterns.** Beyond traditional services, it's essential to also integrate pedagogical designs that cater specifically to these groups, recognizing their unique learning experiences and backgrounds. Recognizing the value of peer support, community mentorship, and culturally-relevant pedagogy, it's crucial to incorporate these approaches into the provision of services. Such strategies not only foster a sense of belonging but also promote empowerment and shared experiences among students and families. By expanding access to diverse support networks, adopting inclusive educational approaches, and fostering meaningful connections, we can enhance the well-being and academic success of all students, thus promoting a supportive and inclusive learning environment in the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support increased funding for wraparound services: We can support and advocate for increased funding for wraparound services, such as mental health counseling, after-school programs, and peer and community counseling. This can involve working with local education agencies, community organizations, and policymakers to secure additional resources and allocate funding towards these critical services.
- ii. Advocate for policy changes: We can advocate for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels that prioritize the integration of wraparound services in educational settings. This can include advocating for legislation or policies that mandate or incentivize schools to provide comprehensive support services and allocate resources specifically for wraparound programs.
- iii. Collaborate with community organizations and stakeholders: We can support and create partnerships between educational institutions, community organizations, and stakeholders to develop and implement effective wraparound service programs. This can involve collaborating with mental health organizations, nonprofit organizations, and youth-



serving agencies to leverage their expertise, resources, and support in delivering wraparound services.

- iv. Promote peer support and community mentorship: We can advocate for the inclusion of peer support and community mentorship programs within wraparound services. This can involve partnering with organizations that specialize in peer support and mentorship to create programs that connect students with supportive peers or mentors who can provide guidance, encouragement, and shared experiences.
- v. Provide training and professional development: We can support the provision of training and professional development opportunities for educators and service providers to effectively implement and deliver wraparound services. This can include advocating for funding for training programs, workshops, and conferences that enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals working in wraparound service settings.

6. **Encourage and support the creation and expansion of robust community partnerships between schools, businesses, and community-based organizations to provide comprehensive and tailored resources and support to students and families.** These partnerships can encompass a wide range of initiatives, such as mentorship programs, internship opportunities, career exploration activities, academic support services, and access to community resources. By leveraging the strengths and expertise of different stakeholders, we can enhance educational experiences, promote skill development, and foster meaningful connections between students, families, and the broader community. These collaborative efforts not only provide additional resources but also create a sense of collective responsibility for the success and well-being of students, contributing to a thriving educational ecosystem in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support the creation and expansion of community partnerships: We can support and advocate for the establishment and growth of robust community partnerships between schools, businesses, and community-based organizations. This can involve actively seeking out potential partners, facilitating introductions and collaborations, and providing resources and support to help sustain and scale these partnerships.
- ii. Advocate for policy changes: We can advocate for policies that promote and incentivize community partnerships in education. This can include advocating for legislation or policies that encourage schools, businesses, and community organizations to collaborate and allocate resources towards comprehensive support for students and families.
- iii. Foster mentorship programs and internship opportunities: We can create and support mentorship programs and internship opportunities that connect students with professionals in various fields. This can involve advocating for the inclusion of mentorship and internship programs within school curricula, facilitating connections between schools and local



businesses, and providing resources for mentor training and program development.

- iv. Promote career exploration activities: We can advocate for and support career exploration activities that expose students to different career paths and help them make informed decisions about their future. This can involve organizing career fairs, hosting industry-specific workshops and presentations, and partnering with local businesses and professional associations to provide job shadowing and internship experiences.
- v. Enhance academic support services: We can support the development and expansion of academic support services that provide tailored resources and assistance to students. This can include advocating for funding and resources for tutoring programs, study groups, and academic counseling services.
- vi. Facilitate access to community resources: We can create systems and platforms that facilitate access to community resources for students and families. This can involve developing online directories of local services, collaborating with community organizations to host resource fairs, and establishing partnerships with social service agencies to ensure families are aware of and have access to essential resources.

7. **Support the implementation of restorative justice practices and eliminate punitive discipline policies that disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities.** Utilize data-driven solutions to identify and address the specific student groups affected by these disparities. Develop targeted strategies and collaborative partnerships to meet the unique needs of these students, including culturally responsive interventions, additional resources, and inclusive classroom environments. By combining data-driven approaches with collaborative efforts, we can create equitable and supportive educational environments for all students in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support the implementation of restorative justice practices: We can support and advocate for the adoption and implementation of restorative justice practices in schools throughout the Inland Empire. This can involve attending school board meetings, voicing support for restorative justice policies, and providing resources and training to educators and administrators on restorative practices.
- ii. Advocate for the elimination of punitive discipline policies: We can advocate for the elimination of punitive discipline policies that disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities. This can involve engaging with school boards, community organizations, and policymakers to highlight the negative impact of punitive policies and advocate for more restorative and inclusive approaches to discipline.

- iii. Utilize data-driven solutions: We can support the use of data-driven solutions to identify and address the specific student groups affected by discipline disparities. This can involve advocating for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on disciplinary actions and disparities to inform targeted interventions and strategies.
- iv. Develop targeted strategies and collaborative partnerships: We can create and support targeted strategies and collaborative partnerships to meet the unique needs of students disproportionately affected by discipline disparities. This can involve forming partnerships between schools, community organizations, and mental health providers to provide culturally responsive interventions, additional resources, and training for teachers and staff on creating inclusive classroom environments.
- v. Promote culturally responsive practices: We can advocate for the integration of culturally responsive practices in schools to create inclusive and supportive environments for all students. This can involve providing resources and training for educators on cultural competency, promoting diverse and inclusive curriculum, and supporting initiatives that celebrate and value the diverse cultures and backgrounds of students.

8. Promote inclusion and equity in education by increasing access to and support for bilingual and multicultural education programs, including initiatives that specifically cater to the needs and cultural heritage of native communities. Recognizing the importance of preserving indigenous languages and traditions, the policy aims to foster an inclusive educational environment that embraces the diversity of California's native communities. By expanding bilingual and multicultural education, we can empower students from all backgrounds to thrive academically while fostering cultural appreciation and understanding among students, teachers, and communities.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support the expansion of bilingual and multicultural education programs: We can support and advocate for the expansion of bilingual and multicultural education programs in schools throughout the Inland Empire. This can involve attending school board meetings, voicing support for these programs, and advocating for increased funding and resources to ensure their implementation and success.
- ii. Advocate for policies that promote inclusion and equity in education: We can advocate for policies that prioritize inclusion and equity in education, including policies that support the development and implementation of bilingual and multicultural education programs. This can involve engaging with policymakers, community organizations, and advocacy groups to highlight the benefits of these programs and their importance in fostering cultural appreciation and understanding.
- iii. Create partnerships with native communities and organizations: We can create partnerships with native communities and organizations in the



- Inland Empire to specifically cater to the needs and cultural heritage of these communities. This can involve collaborating with tribal leaders, native community organizations, and language preservation initiatives to develop culturally responsive education programs that celebrate and preserve indigenous languages and traditions.
- iv. Provide support and resources for teachers and educators: We can support educators by providing resources, training, and professional development opportunities that help them effectively implement bilingual and multicultural education programs. This can involve partnering with educational institutions, cultural organizations, and language experts to offer workshops, mentoring programs, and instructional materials that support teachers in delivering high-quality and culturally responsive education.
 - v. Foster cultural appreciation and understanding: We can create initiatives and events that promote cultural appreciation and understanding among students, teachers, and communities. This can involve organizing multicultural festivals, guest speaker events, and community dialogues that celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the Inland Empire and provide opportunities for cultural exchange and learning.
9. **Support the implementation and expansion of programs and policies that provide equitable access to technology, digital literacy skills, and broadband connectivity, particularly in low-income, underserved, and rural communities.** Recognizing the digital divide and its impact on educational and economic opportunities, the policy aims to bridge the gap by investing in infrastructure and initiatives that expand broadband access to rural and unincorporated areas. By ensuring that all communities have reliable and affordable internet connectivity, we can empower individuals and businesses to thrive in the digital age and contribute to the economic growth and development of the entire region.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Support the expansion of broadband infrastructure: We can support and advocate for increased investment in broadband infrastructure in the Inland Empire, particularly in low-income, underserved, and rural communities. This can involve working with local and state government officials, internet service providers, and community organizations to secure funding and resources for infrastructure development and expansion.
 - ii. Advocate for policies that promote equitable access to technology: We can advocate for policies that prioritize equitable access to technology and digital literacy skills. This can involve engaging with policymakers to highlight the importance of bridging the digital divide and urging them to implement policies that support broadband expansion, technology access in schools and community centers, and digital literacy training programs.

- iii. Create partnerships to provide technology resources and training: We can create partnerships with community organizations, schools, and businesses to provide technology resources and training programs. This can involve collaborating with local libraries, community centers, and nonprofit organizations to offer computer labs, internet access points, and digital literacy workshops to individuals in low-income and underserved communities.
- iv. Support affordable internet options: We can support initiatives that provide affordable internet options to individuals and families in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for programs that offer discounted internet service for low-income households, promoting the availability of affordable broadband plans, and raising awareness about existing subsidies and assistance programs.
- v. Foster digital inclusion initiatives: We can support and create initiatives that promote digital inclusion in the Inland Empire. This can involve organizing community events, workshops, and training sessions that focus on digital skills development, online safety, and utilizing technology for educational and economic purposes.

Multi-Solver Opportunities in Education

1. **Community School Models:** Implementing community school models that provide comprehensive support services, including health and mental health services, nutrition programs, and family engagement initiatives. By addressing the social determinants of education, these models can improve student well-being, academic performance, and overall outcomes.
2. **Career Pathways and Workforce Development:** Developing career pathways and strengthening workforce development programs that align with the needs of local industries. By integrating career-focused education, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities, students can gain relevant skills and knowledge while meeting the workforce demands of the region.
3. **STEAM Education:** Promoting science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) education initiatives to enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. By integrating STEAM subjects into the curriculum and providing hands-on learning experiences, students can develop the skills necessary for future employment in growing industries.
4. **Early Childhood Education Expansion:** Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education programs, including preschool and early intervention services. By investing in early childhood education, the Inland Empire can improve school readiness, narrow achievement gaps, and set a strong foundation for lifelong learning.
5. **Community Partnerships:** Building strong partnerships between schools, community organizations, and businesses to leverage resources and expertise. Collaborative efforts

can provide mentoring programs, tutoring services, and extracurricular activities that enhance educational opportunities and support student success.

6. **Digital Inclusion:** Addressing the digital divide by ensuring equitable access to technology and internet connectivity for all students. Providing devices and internet access to underserved students can bridge the digital divide and enable equal access to online learning resources.
7. **Culturally Responsive Education:** Promote culturally responsive education practices that value and incorporate the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and cultural differences across socio-economic classes of students. By integrating a culturally relevant curriculum and supporting inclusive learning environments that recognize and celebrate the nuances of class and culture, schools can foster a deeper sense of belonging and improve educational outcomes for all students.
8. **Parent and Family Engagement:** Enhancing parent and family engagement through outreach programs, workshops, and resources. By involving families in the educational process, schools can strengthen partnerships, improve student support systems, and create a positive learning environment.

Energy & Environment

Energy and environment refer to the complex relationship between human activity and the natural world, particularly with regards to the production and consumption of energy, and the impact of these activities on the environment.

Energy refers to the various sources of power and fuel that are used to meet human needs, such as electricity, oil, gas, and renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydropower. The use of energy is central to economic and social development, but it also has significant environmental impacts, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The environment refers to the natural systems and resources that support life on Earth, including land, water, air, and biodiversity. The environment provides essential services such as clean air and water, fertile soil, and a stable climate, and is critical to human well-being and survival.

Energy and environment are inextricably linked, and the challenge is to balance human needs with the need to protect and conserve the environment. This requires the development and implementation of sustainable energy systems that minimize environmental impacts, and the adoption of policies and practices that promote conservation and protection of natural resources.

Overall, energy and environment are a holistic and multidimensional aspect of human activity and the natural world that are closely interconnected, and that require a sustainable and balanced approach in order to promote long-term economic, social, and environmental well-being.

Energy & Environment in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire faces some unique challenges related to energy and the environment, such as poor air quality, water resource issues, and waste management. The area has been working to increase its use of renewable energy sources and address environmental problems, but more needs to be done to protect the health of residents and the environment.

- **Energy Production:** The Inland Empire is home to several energy production facilities, including natural gas and oil power plants. However, the region has also been working to increase its use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. The area has a number of solar farms and wind power projects under construction or in operation.
- **Air Quality:** The Inland Empire has some of the worst air quality in the United States, due to a combination of factors such as heavy traffic, industrial emissions, and natural factors like high temperatures and low air circulation. The area is also affected by the air pollution from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The poor air quality can lead to respiratory problems and other health issues for residents.
- **Water Resources:** The Inland Empire relies on water resources from the Colorado River, the State Water Project, and local groundwater basins. The area is also affected by drought, which can lead to water shortages and increased competition for water resources. The area also has a number of contaminated groundwater basins, which can lead to health problems for residents.
- **Waste Management:** The Inland Empire generates a large amount of waste, which is managed by the area's local governments and private companies. The area has several landfills and recycling centers which process and dispose of the waste. However, the area also has a number of illegal dumping sites and litter which can lead to environmental problems such as flooding and the spread of disease.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change is a major issue affecting the environment and communities in the Inland Empire and throughout California. The region is facing a range of challenges related to climate change, including rising temperatures, increased frequency and severity of heatwaves and droughts, and changes in precipitation patterns.

IE Energy & Environment Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. Riverside and San Bernardino Counties fall within a range of environmental conditions compared to neighboring regions.

2. Ozone pollution is most pronounced in Riverside and San Bernardino due to their geographical proximity to Los Angeles.
3. The transportation and industrial sectors are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Local governments are actively crafting Climate Action Plans in response to AB 32 mandates.
5. Resilient Inland Empire Climate Adaptation Toolkit - From 2018-2020 and with funds from the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), the Western Riverside Council of Governments and San Bernardino created a series of tools to help local jurisdictions plan climate resilience and climate change mitigation efforts in the transportation sector.
6. Areas with higher proportions of non-White residents often experience higher pollution burden.
7. [The Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative \(ISC3\)](#) is a climate collaborative for Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties. The collaborative is composed of organizations and agencies in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. ISC3 works to address climate resiliency ideas and solutions.
8. The region houses significant renewable energy projects, fostering a shift towards sustainable power sources.
9. Environmental justice remains a concern, disproportionately impacting low-income and communities of color.
10. Climate change projections foresee rising temperatures, less rainfall, and intensified heat waves, impacting the region's disparities and environment.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the energy and environmental sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Air Quality:** The Inland Empire faces significant air quality challenges due to factors such as vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and geographical factors like basin topography. Poor air quality contributes to respiratory health issues and poses a risk to the overall well-being of residents.
2. **Water Supply and Quality:** The region experiences water scarcity and quality issues, with increased demand for water resources and potential contamination from various

sources. Ensuring a reliable and safe water supply for both urban and agricultural needs is a pressing challenge.

3. **Climate Change Impacts:** The Inland Empire is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including increased temperatures, heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires. These events pose risks to public health, infrastructure, and ecosystems, requiring adaptation and mitigation measures.
4. **Renewable Energy Transition:** Transitioning to a clean and renewable energy future is crucial for mitigating climate change and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. However, challenges exist in terms of infrastructure development, financing, policy support, and community engagement in adopting renewable energy sources.
5. **Waste Management:** Effective waste management, including recycling, composting, and waste reduction strategies, is essential for reducing the environmental impact of waste and promoting sustainability. Improving waste management practices and infrastructure is a challenge that requires collaboration among stakeholders.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Sustainable Transportation:** The Inland Empire faces long-term challenges in transitioning to sustainable transportation systems. Promoting electric vehicles, improving public transit, and enhancing infrastructure for active transportation modes like walking and cycling are necessary for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.
2. **Sustainable Land Use:** Balancing urban development with preserving natural areas and agricultural land is a long-term challenge. Ensuring sustainable land use practices, such as smart growth principles, protection of open spaces, and promotion of green infrastructure, can help create a more resilient and livable region.
3. **Water Conservation and Management:** Long-term water management challenges include sustainable water sourcing, implementing water conservation measures, and managing water demand as population growth continues. Protecting water resources, enhancing water efficiency, and promoting water conservation are crucial for long-term sustainability.
4. **Environmental Equity:** Addressing environmental justice and equity concerns is an ongoing challenge. Ensuring that communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and environmental hazards have equal access to environmental benefits, resources, and decision-making processes is vital for achieving a more equitable and sustainable region.
5. **Natural Resource Preservation:** Preserving and restoring natural resources, such as forests, wetlands, and biodiversity, is a long-term challenge in the face of urbanization and development pressures. Protecting these ecosystems and promoting sustainable resource management practices are essential for maintaining ecosystem services and ecological resilience.

Energy & Environment - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for energy and the environment in the Inland Empire is a future where renewable energy sources are the primary source of power, and where our natural resources are protected and preserved for future generations.
2. We envision a future where the Inland Empire is a leader in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, where climate change is effectively mitigated, and where our communities thrive in balance with nature.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where energy and environmental policies are driven by social and environmental justice principles, and where our most vulnerable communities are not disproportionately affected by pollution or environmental degradation.
4. We envision an Inland Empire that embraces a circular economy, where waste is minimized, natural resources are conserved, and environmental stewardship is prioritized.
5. Our vision is to create an Inland Empire where our region's natural beauty and resources are valued and protected, and where we have created an environment in which both people and nature can flourish.

Energy & Environment - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of energy and environment in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Renewable Energy and Sustainable Infrastructure:** Many of the solutions focused on promoting the use of renewable energy sources and increasing the implementation of sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce the region's carbon footprint and promote environmental sustainability.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Community Solar Gardens (CSGs) (1)*
 - ii. *Green Innovation Zones (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. *Inland Empire Utilities Agency*
 - ii. *Southern California Edison (SCE)*
 - iii. *Coachella Valley Association of Governments*
 - iv. *Coachella Valley Link*

- v. *Riverside County Energy Conservation and Management Department*
- vi. *Inland Empire Resource Conservation District*

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) provides rebates and incentives for residential and commercial customers who install renewable energy systems, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal systems. IEUA also offers rebates for energy-efficient appliances and fixtures.
- ii. The California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) provides funding for innovative clean energy technologies and approaches that benefit California ratepayers. The program supports research and development, demonstration and deployment, and market facilitation for advanced renewable energy technologies and distributed energy resources.
- iii. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a regional planning agency that provides technical assistance and funding for sustainable infrastructure projects, such as transit-oriented development, bike lanes, and pedestrian walkways. SCAG also promotes energy-efficient building codes and green building practices.
- iv. The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for sustainable economic development in the region. The organization supports renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects that create jobs and improve the environment.
- v. The California Green Business Network (CAGBN) provides resources and assistance to businesses that want to become more sustainable and reduce their environmental impact. The program offers free assessments, technical assistance, and certification to businesses that meet sustainability criteria.
- vi. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): The DOE provides funding and grants for renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects. The DOE has several programs, including the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which funds projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation.
- vii. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC): The CPUC provides funding and incentives for renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects. The CPUC has several programs, including the Self-Generation Incentive Program, which provides incentives for customers to install renewable energy systems, and the Energy Efficiency Portfolio, which provides incentives for energy efficiency projects.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. **Public-Private Partnerships:** There are opportunities for partnerships between public entities such as local governments and private entities



- such as energy companies to promote and invest in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects.
- ii. Educational Institutions: Universities and colleges can partner with local communities to provide education and training on renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, as well as collaborate on research and development projects.
 - iii. Non-profit Organizations: Non-profit organizations focused on sustainability and renewable energy can partner with local businesses and governments to implement renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects.
 - iv. Community-Based Organizations: Community-based organizations can partner with local governments to develop and implement renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects that benefit their communities, especially those that are historically disadvantaged.
2. **Environmental Justice:** There was a strong emphasis on promoting energy and environmental policies that prioritize social and environmental justice, ensuring that the region's most vulnerable communities are not disproportionately impacted by pollution or environmental degradation.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Green Innovation Zones (2)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire No-Commute Days Policy (2)*
 - iii. *IE Emissions Demand Management Strategy (2)*
 - iv. *Inland Empire Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Zero-Emission Multiple Unit (Hydrogen-Powered Trains) - SBCTA
 - ii. Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ): CCAIEJ is a nonprofit organization based in the Inland Empire that focuses on environmental justice issues such as air pollution, climate change, and toxic waste. The organization engages in community organizing, policy advocacy, and education to address these issues.
 - iii. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD): The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for the South Coast Air Basin, which includes the Inland Empire. The agency works to protect public health and improve air quality through regulations, monitoring, and community outreach.
 - iv. Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC): ICUC is a faith-based community organization that works on issues related to social and environmental justice. The organization has focused on environmental justice issues such as air pollution and access to healthy food in the Inland Empire.
 - v. Center for Biological Diversity: The Center for Biological Diversity is a national environmental nonprofit organization with a regional office in the

Inland Empire. The organization focuses on protecting endangered species, promoting renewable energy, and fighting climate change through litigation, advocacy, and public education.

- vi. Alianza: the center works to address environmental and health issues in low-income and minority communities, with a focus on the Inland Empire region.
- vii. People's Collective for Environmental Justice: PC4EJ's purpose is rooted in historical struggle, to advance collective resistance and power; to support and fight against pollution, exploitation and existential threats to life – ultimately build for the health, wellbeing and self-reliance of the Inland Empire in a way that uproots white supremacy and the reigning hegemonic extractive systems.
- viii. California Envirovoters programs

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. CalEnviroScreen Grants: The California Environmental Protection Agency offers grants through the CalEnviroScreen program to support community-led projects that address environmental justice issues in California. The program is designed to fund projects that improve community health and reduce pollution in areas that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.
- ii. Sustainable Communities Program: The Southern California Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Program offers funding opportunities for local governments and nonprofits to support projects that promote environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic prosperity. The program focuses on promoting sustainable transportation, land use, and resource conservation.
- iii. Community Air Protection Program: The California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program provides funding to support community-led efforts to reduce air pollution and improve air quality in areas that are disproportionately impacted by pollution. The program prioritizes projects that involve community engagement and participation.
- iv. Environmental Justice Small Grants Program: The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides funding to support community-led projects that address environmental justice issues. The program is designed to fund projects that empower communities to understand and address local environmental issues.
- v. Transformative Climate Communities Program: The California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program provides funding to support community-led projects that address environmental and economic challenges in disadvantaged communities. The program emphasizes community engagement and participation in project design and implementation.



- vi. Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers funding through its Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program to support the installation of renewable energy systems on farms and rural businesses. This program can help to reduce energy costs and promote sustainable agriculture practices in the Inland Empire.
- vii. Community Development Block Grant Program: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers funding through its Community Development Block Grant Program to support community development projects that benefit low- and moderate-income communities. In the Inland Empire, these funds have been used to support energy-efficient home improvements, the installation of solar panels on affordable housing, and other projects that promote environmental justice.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaborating with local community-based organizations: One of the most effective ways to ensure that environmental justice is prioritized in energy and infrastructure projects is to partner with local community-based organizations. These organizations have a deep understanding of the needs and priorities of their communities, and can provide valuable insights and perspectives to help guide the development of projects. Partnering with these organizations can also help to build trust and foster more meaningful community engagement.
- ii. Partnering with local governments: Local governments play a critical role in shaping energy and infrastructure projects, and partnering with them can help to ensure that environmental justice is prioritized. This could involve working with local planning departments to incorporate environmental justice principles into land use plans, or collaborating with local elected officials to advocate for policies that promote sustainability and equity.
- iii. Working with academic institutions: Universities and colleges can be valuable partners in efforts to promote environmental justice in the Inland Empire. For example, researchers can provide technical expertise and analysis to support the development of sustainable infrastructure projects, while students can be mobilized to conduct outreach and engagement efforts in local communities.
- iv. Partnering with private sector companies: Private sector companies that have a strong commitment to sustainability and equity can be valuable partners in efforts to promote environmental justice. This could involve collaborating on projects that promote renewable energy, sustainable transportation, or green infrastructure, and ensuring that these projects are designed and implemented in a way that benefits local communities.

3. **Circular Economy and Resource Conservation:** Several solutions focused on promoting a circular economy in the Inland Empire, minimizing waste, conserving natural resources, and prioritizing environmental stewardship.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Green Innovation Zones (3)*
 - ii. *IE Emissions Demand Management Strategy (3)*
 - iii. *Inland Empire Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting (2)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. **Inland Empire Resource Conservation District:** The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) works to conserve and protect natural resources in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Their programs include water conservation, waste reduction, and habitat restoration.
 - ii. **Riverside Public Utilities:** Riverside Public Utilities has implemented several programs and initiatives to promote resource conservation and sustainability, including a Green Riverside program that offers incentives for energy-efficient upgrades and a community composting program.
 - iii. **San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division:** The San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division provides waste management services to the county and promotes sustainable waste management practices. Their programs include recycling and composting education, household hazardous waste disposal, and waste reduction initiatives.
 - iv. **University of California, Riverside Sustainability:** The University of California, Riverside has a strong commitment to sustainability and has implemented several initiatives to reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote sustainable practices. Their programs include sustainable transportation options, energy-efficient building design, and waste reduction and composting initiatives.
 - v. **Chino Basin Water Conservation District:** The Chino Basin Water Conservation District works to promote water conservation and sustainability in the Chino Basin area. Their programs include landscape irrigation evaluations, rebates for water-efficient appliances, and water conservation education.
 - vi. **CalRecycle:** The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) provides grants and funding opportunities to support waste reduction, recycling, and resource conservation initiatives throughout the state. Organizations and businesses in the Inland Empire may be eligible for funding through CalRecycle's grant programs.
 - vii. **The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA)** is a regional composting facility located in San Bernardino County that processes organic waste into compost. The IERCA's operations promote the circular

economy by diverting organic waste from landfills and turning it into a valuable resource.

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. CalRecycle Grants: CalRecycle offers grants and loans to local governments, non-profits, and private businesses to support a wide range of recycling and waste reduction projects, including circular economy initiatives. The program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of recycled materials, and create green jobs.
- ii. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program: The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program provides funding to local governments to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These projects can include circular economy and resource conservation initiatives, such as recycling programs, waste reduction efforts, and sustainable transportation options.
- iii. Inland Empire Resource Conservation District: The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District works to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Inland Empire. The organization offers technical assistance, educational programs, and grants to support projects related to conservation, including circular economy initiatives.
- iv. Southern California Association of Governments: The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) offers funding opportunities for projects related to transportation, energy, and sustainability. SCAG also provides technical assistance and resources to support circular economy and resource conservation initiatives.
- v. Inland Empire Waterkeeper: The Inland Empire Waterkeeper is a nonprofit organization that works to protect and restore the water resources of the Inland Empire. The organization offers grants, educational programs, and technical assistance to support projects related to water conservation and resource management, including circular economy initiatives.
- vi. Inland Empire Economic Partnership: The Inland Empire Economic Partnership is a nonprofit organization that works to promote economic growth and sustainability in the Inland Empire. The organization offers funding opportunities and resources to support circular economy and resource conservation initiatives, as well as other sustainability-focused projects.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with local government agencies: Cities and counties in the Inland Empire are increasingly interested in promoting circular economy and resource conservation practices. Arts and cultural organizations can partner with local government agencies to develop programs and events



- that raise awareness about these issues and promote sustainable practices.
- ii. Partnership with local waste management companies: Waste management companies can play a key role in promoting circular economy and resource conservation by collecting and recycling materials. Arts and cultural organizations can partner with waste management companies to develop programs and events that promote recycling and other sustainable practices.
 - iii. Collaboration with businesses: Many businesses in the Inland Empire are interested in reducing waste and promoting sustainable practices. Arts and cultural organizations can partner with businesses to develop programs and events that highlight the importance of circular economy and resource conservation.
 - iv. Partnership with educational institutions: Educational institutions in the Inland Empire can play a key role in promoting circular economy and resource conservation by educating students about sustainable practices. Arts and cultural organizations can partner with schools, colleges, and universities to develop programs and events that promote sustainability and resource conservation.
 - v. Collaboration with environmental organizations: There are several environmental organizations in the Inland Empire that are focused on promoting sustainable practices and resource conservation. Arts and cultural organizations can partner with these organizations to develop programs and events that promote circular economy and resource conservation.
4. **Climate Change Mitigation:** A number of solutions were geared towards mitigating the impacts of climate change, through measures such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable transportation, and supporting the development of green technologies.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Community Solar Gardens (CSGs) (2)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire No-Commute Days Policy (1)*
 - iii. *IE Emissions Demand Management Strategy (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Eastern Coachella Valley Action Plan for Climate Resilience
 - ii. City of Ontario's Climate Action Plan
 - iii. The Clean Power Alliance
 - iv. Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District
 - v. Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3)
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Clean Energy Grants: The California Energy Commission offers various grants and funding opportunities for clean energy projects that can help mitigate climate change. These grants can support a wide range of

projects, from renewable energy systems to energy-efficient building upgrades.

- ii. **Energy Efficiency Programs:** Local utilities, such as Southern California Edison and Riverside Public Utilities, offer programs that incentivize energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits for businesses and homeowners. These programs can help reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- iii. **Transportation Electrification:** The state of California has set ambitious goals for electrifying the transportation sector, and there are various funding opportunities available to support this transition. For example, the Clean Transportation Program provides grants for projects that accelerate the adoption of zero-emission vehicles.
- iv. **Green Infrastructure:** Investing in green infrastructure, such as green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavement, can help mitigate climate change by reducing stormwater runoff and improving air quality. There are various grants and funding opportunities available to support these types of projects.
- v. **Carbon Offsetting:** The California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade Program allows businesses to purchase carbon offsets to help mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions. Investing in carbon offset projects, such as forestry or renewable energy projects, can be a promising area of investment for businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint.
- vi. **Climate Resilience:** Investing in climate resilience measures, such as natural infrastructure projects and improved water management, can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. There are various funding opportunities available to support these types of projects.
- vii. **Renewable Energy Development:** There are several grants and funding opportunities available for renewable energy development in the Inland Empire. For example, the California Energy Commission offers the Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program, which provides funding for on-farm renewable energy projects such as solar and wind power. Additionally, the California Public Utilities Commission offers the Self-Generation Incentive Program, which provides funding for distributed generation technologies such as solar, energy storage, and fuel cells.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. **Local governments:** Partnering with local governments can be a powerful way to implement climate change mitigation strategies. For example, cities can work with organizations to establish community solar programs, develop green building codes, and incentivize the use of electric vehicles.
- ii. **Energy companies:** Energy companies such as utilities and renewable energy providers can partner with organizations to promote clean energy initiatives and support the development of renewable energy infrastructure.

- iii. Community-based organizations: Many community-based organizations in the Inland Empire are already working on climate change mitigation efforts. Partnering with these organizations can help to expand outreach efforts and engage a broader audience in climate action.
- iv. Academic institutions: Colleges and universities in the Inland Empire can serve as valuable partners in climate change mitigation efforts, providing resources and research to support local initiatives.
- v. Industry leaders: Partnerships with industry leaders can help to identify opportunities for innovative solutions in climate change mitigation. For example, partnerships with tech companies could explore the use of smart grid technology to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy & Environment - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to energy and environment.

1. **Support and encourage investment in renewable energy technologies and promote their adoption** in both the public and private sectors to reduce the region's dependence on fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and work towards sustainability at a global scale. It is essential to consider not only the emissions levels but also the total carbon footprint of these renewable energy sources, ensuring that they align with sustainable practices and contribute to long-term environmental goals. Additionally, it is crucial to adopt inclusive practices that actively involve the region's communities, including desert and rural communities, in the planning process, ensuring their perspectives are represented and their unique needs are addressed. By engaging these communities and incorporating their input, we can develop renewable energy strategies that are tailored to their specific circumstances, promote equitable access to clean energy solutions, and foster a sense of ownership and participation in the region's sustainable development. This collaborative approach will strengthen the overall resilience and inclusivity of the Inland Empire's energy transition.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocate for renewable energy policies and incentives: We can advocate for policies that support the development and adoption of renewable energy technologies. This can involve engaging with local and state government officials to promote renewable energy standards, tax incentives, and grants that encourage investment in renewable energy projects.
 - ii. Support renewable energy research and development: We can support and advocate for increased funding for research and development in



renewable energy technologies. This can involve collaborating with educational institutions, research organizations, and industry leaders to promote innovation and advancements in renewable energy solutions specific to the needs and resources of the Inland Empire.

- iii. Promote renewable energy adoption in public and private sectors: We can advocate for and support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in public buildings, schools, and businesses in the Inland Empire. This can involve working with local government agencies and businesses to develop plans and incentives for the installation of solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy systems.
- iv. Engage and empower communities: We can create platforms and opportunities for community engagement, ensuring that the perspectives and needs of desert and rural communities are incorporated into renewable energy planning. This can involve hosting community forums, workshops, and educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of renewable energy, address concerns, and gather input from community members.
- v. Foster collaboration and partnerships: We can foster collaboration among stakeholders, including community organizations, energy companies, and government agencies, to develop inclusive renewable energy strategies. This can involve creating partnerships that promote workforce development and job training programs in the renewable energy sector, ensuring that local communities benefit from job opportunities and economic development.

2. **Support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs to promote energy efficiency and conservation in buildings and homes throughout the region**, aiming to significantly reduce energy consumption and lower energy costs. This includes incentivizing the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, such as LED lighting, smart thermostats, and high-efficiency appliances, through rebate programs and financial incentives. Additionally, support the implementation of building energy codes and standards that prioritize energy efficiency and provide resources for energy audits and retrofits to improve the energy performance of existing structures. By raising awareness about the benefits of energy conservation and providing resources and support to residents and businesses, we can create a culture of energy efficiency that not only reduces environmental impact but also generates long-term cost savings for individuals and contributes to the overall sustainability of the region.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocate for energy efficiency policies: We can advocate for the development and implementation of comprehensive energy efficiency policies at the local and state levels. This can involve engaging with policymakers and community leaders to promote the adoption of building

- energy codes and standards that prioritize energy efficiency in new construction and renovations.
- ii. Support energy efficiency programs and incentives: We can support and advocate for the expansion of energy efficiency programs that provide incentives for residents and businesses to adopt energy-efficient technologies and practices. This can include financial incentives, rebate programs, and grants that make energy-efficient products and services more accessible and affordable.
 - iii. Promote education and awareness: We can create educational campaigns and initiatives to raise awareness about the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation. This can involve collaborating with community organizations, schools, and local media to provide information and resources on energy-saving practices, such as proper insulation, efficient lighting, and behavioral changes that reduce energy consumption.
 - iv. Foster partnerships and collaborations: We can create partnerships between local government agencies, energy providers, and community organizations to implement energy efficiency programs. This can involve working together to offer energy audits, retrofit assistance, and training programs for residents and businesses, helping them improve their energy performance and reduce energy costs.
 - v. Lead by example: We can support and advocate for energy-efficient practices within our own organizations and communities. By demonstrating the benefits of energy efficiency through tangible actions, we can inspire others to follow suit and create a culture of sustainability and energy conservation.
3. **Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs and initiatives to support the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and other low-emission transportation options**, with the aim of significantly reducing transportation-related emissions and improving air quality throughout the region. This includes investing in the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles through rebate programs and tax incentives, and collaborating with local governments, higher education institutions, and private sector entities to encourage innovation in new technologies and promote research and development in sustainable transportation solutions. Furthermore, foster public-private and community partnerships to advance the deployment of clean transportation initiatives, such as shared mobility services and active transportation infrastructure, that promote accessibility, equity, and environmental sustainability. By embracing a multi-faceted approach and leveraging the expertise of higher education institutions and fostering collaboration with various stakeholders, we can accelerate the transition to a cleaner and more sustainable transportation system in the region.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocate for supportive policies: We can advocate for policies that support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs to encourage the widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and low-emission transportation options. This can involve engaging with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to promote policies that incentivize the purchase of EVs, expand charging infrastructure, and support research and development in sustainable transportation solutions.
 - ii. Support charging infrastructure expansion: We can support the development and expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the Inland Empire. This can include advocating for increased investment in charging stations in public spaces, commercial areas, and residential communities, as well as supporting the installation of fast-charging stations along major transportation corridors.
 - iii. Incentivize electric vehicle adoption: We can advocate for and support the implementation of rebate programs, tax incentives, and financial assistance initiatives that make electric vehicles more affordable and accessible to residents in the Inland Empire. This can include collaborating with local government agencies and private entities to create rebate programs or tax incentives for purchasing EVs or installing home charging stations.
 - iv. Foster research and development: We can advocate for partnerships between higher education institutions, private sector entities, and government agencies to promote research and development in sustainable transportation solutions. This can involve supporting initiatives that encourage innovation in electric vehicle technology, battery storage, and renewable energy integration.
 - v. Promote shared mobility and active transportation: We can advocate for and support the implementation of shared mobility services, such as car-sharing and bike-sharing programs, and the development of infrastructure that encourages active transportation, such as bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets. This can involve collaborating with local governments, community organizations, and private sector entities to ensure equitable access to these services and infrastructure.
4. **Support increased investment in and prioritize the implementation of green infrastructure projects that enhance the environmental quality and resilience of communities**, particularly those with immature landscaping and those located near freeways. These projects can include the development of parks, green roofs, urban forests, and other nature-based solutions that improve air and water quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and provide numerous social and ecological benefits. By strategically selecting project locations based on their potential to address specific environmental challenges, such as air pollution and heat exposure, we can maximize the

positive impact of green infrastructure investments. Additionally, prioritize engagement with local communities to ensure that green infrastructure projects align with their needs and aspirations, fostering community ownership and participation in the design, implementation, and maintenance of these initiatives. By prioritizing green infrastructure investments in underserved areas and areas most affected by environmental challenges, we can create healthier, more resilient communities for all residents.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocate for increased funding: We can advocate for increased investment in green infrastructure projects at the local, state, and federal levels. This can involve engaging with policymakers and decision-makers to prioritize and allocate funding for green infrastructure initiatives that enhance environmental quality and resilience in communities.
 - ii. Support project implementation: We can support the implementation of green infrastructure projects by collaborating with local governments, community organizations, and environmental agencies. This can include providing technical expertise, sharing best practices, and assisting in project planning, design, and implementation.
 - iii. Promote community engagement: We can prioritize community engagement throughout the process of developing and implementing green infrastructure projects. This can involve conducting outreach and consultation with local residents, community organizations, and stakeholders to ensure that projects align with community needs and aspirations. By involving the community, we can foster a sense of ownership, pride, and participation in the design, implementation, and maintenance of green infrastructure initiatives.
 - iv. Create partnerships: We can create partnerships with relevant stakeholders, such as environmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities, to leverage expertise, resources, and funding for green infrastructure projects. These partnerships can help maximize the impact of investments and ensure the long-term sustainability and success of initiatives.
 - v. Prioritize equity: We can prioritize equity in the implementation of green infrastructure projects by focusing on underserved communities and areas most affected by environmental challenges, such as immature landscaping and proximity to freeways. By directing resources and attention to these areas, we can address environmental disparities and promote environmental justice.
5. **Support and encourage the implementation of policies and programs that promote comprehensive water conservation and management practices**, encompassing a range of strategies to address the challenges of water scarcity and promote sustainable water use. This includes increasing the use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, such as irrigation and industrial processes, and exploring innovative approaches like

swale and groundwater recharge systems to capture and utilize stormwater effectively. By integrating these water conservation and management practices into our communities, we can optimize water resources, reduce reliance on freshwater sources, and enhance overall water sustainability. Additionally, prioritize public education and outreach to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and empower individuals and communities to take meaningful actions in their daily lives. By adopting a holistic approach to water management, we can ensure a resilient water supply and protect the long-term health of our ecosystems and communities.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support water conservation programs: We can support and advocate for the implementation of water conservation programs at the local, regional, and state levels. This can involve partnering with water agencies, community organizations, and government entities to promote water-saving practices, provide resources for water-efficient technologies, and incentivize water conservation efforts.
- ii. Advocate for policy changes: We can advocate for the adoption of policies that promote comprehensive water conservation and management practices. This can include supporting legislation and regulations that encourage the use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, such as irrigation and industrial processes, as well as policies that promote the capture and utilization of stormwater through swale and groundwater recharge systems.
- iii. Create partnerships for water management: We can create partnerships and collaborations between water agencies, local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive water management strategies. These partnerships can involve sharing best practices, conducting joint research and pilot projects, and coordinating efforts to optimize water resources and reduce water waste.
- iv. Promote public education and outreach: We can prioritize public education and outreach to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and empower individuals and communities to take action. This can include providing educational materials, hosting workshops and events, and promoting water-saving practices through digital platforms and community engagement initiatives.
- v. Support research and innovation: We can support research and innovation in water conservation and management by advocating for funding and resources for research institutions and technology development. By encouraging the development and adoption of innovative water-saving technologies and practices, we can advance sustainable water use in the Inland Empire.

6. **Support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs that protect and restore natural habitats and wildlife in the region**, with a specific focus on preserving the unique ecosystem of the Santa Ana Riverbed. By conserving and enhancing these natural areas, we can promote biodiversity, strengthen ecological resilience, and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our environment. This includes measures such as habitat restoration projects, conservation easements, and the establishment of protected areas to safeguard critical wildlife corridors. Additionally, foster partnerships and collaborations with local communities, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies to coordinate efforts and leverage resources effectively. By working together, we can ensure the preservation of our natural heritage, provide habitats for native species, and enhance the overall ecological balance in the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support habitat restoration projects: We can support and advocate for the funding and implementation of habitat restoration projects in the Santa Ana Riverbed and other natural areas. This can involve collaborating with environmental organizations, government agencies, and community groups to secure resources, engage volunteers, and ensure the successful restoration of degraded habitats.
 - ii. Advocate for conservation easements: We can advocate for the establishment of conservation easements to protect critical wildlife corridors and ecologically sensitive areas. This can include working with landowners, conservation organizations, and policymakers to promote the voluntary conservation of private lands and secure permanent protections for important natural habitats.
 - iii. Create protected areas: We can support the creation and expansion of protected areas, such as nature reserves or wildlife refuges, in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for the designation of these areas by government entities and collaborating with local communities and stakeholders to ensure their effective management and conservation.
 - iv. Foster partnerships and collaborations: We can foster partnerships and collaborations with local communities, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies to coordinate efforts and leverage resources effectively. This can involve participating in stakeholder meetings, supporting collaborative planning processes, and engaging in joint projects that promote the protection and restoration of natural habitats and wildlife.
 - v. Promote public education and engagement: We can promote public education and engagement to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and restoring natural habitats and wildlife. This can include organizing educational events, conducting guided nature walks, and utilizing digital platforms to share information and resources with the public.

7. **Promote and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation.** Support farmers and growers in implementing regenerative agriculture techniques, such as cover cropping, rotational grazing, and agroforestry, to enhance soil fertility, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities. Additionally, invest in the development and expansion of local food systems, including community-supported agriculture (CSA), farmers markets, and farm-to-school programs, to increase access to fresh, locally grown food, promote food security, and support local economies. Collaborate with community organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to farmers and communities interested in sustainable agriculture and local food production. By embracing sustainable agriculture and building robust local food systems, we can create resilient and healthy food systems that enhance public health, protect the environment, and ensure food security for present and future generations.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for farmers and growers: We can support and advocate for farmers and growers in implementing sustainable agricultural practices. This can involve providing financial incentives, technical assistance, and access to resources and expertise in regenerative agriculture techniques. By supporting farmers in adopting sustainable practices, we can promote soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation.
 - ii. Advocacy for sustainable agriculture policies: We can advocate for policies that prioritize sustainable agricultural practices and provide support for farmers to transition to more regenerative methods. This can include engaging with local and state policymakers, participating in public hearings, and collaborating with advocacy organizations to promote policies that incentivize sustainable agriculture and address barriers to its adoption.
 - iii. Creation of local food systems: We can create and support local food systems that connect consumers with fresh, locally grown food. This can involve advocating for the development and expansion of farmers markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and farm-to-school initiatives. By strengthening local food systems, we can increase access to nutritious food, support local farmers, and reduce the environmental impact of food transportation.
 - iv. Collaboration with community organizations and educational institutions: We can collaborate with community organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to farmers and communities interested in sustainable agriculture and local food production. This can include partnering with local universities or agricultural extension services to offer



workshops, developing mentorship programs, and facilitating knowledge-sharing platforms to support the adoption of sustainable practices.

- v. Promote consumer education and awareness: We can promote consumer education and awareness about the benefits of sustainable agriculture and local food systems. This can involve conducting public outreach campaigns, organizing educational events, and partnering with schools and community centers to provide resources and workshops on sustainable food choices. By empowering consumers to make informed decisions, we can create a demand for sustainably produced food and further incentivize farmers to adopt sustainable practices.

8. **Support and encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive waste management strategies that prioritize waste reduction, recycling, and composting.** Increase public awareness and education about the importance of waste reduction and recycling, promoting behavior change and responsible consumer practices. Implement recycling programs in public spaces, businesses, and residential areas, ensuring convenient access to recycling facilities and encouraging proper sorting and disposal of recyclable materials. Support the development of recycling infrastructure and facilities, including recycling centers and material recovery facilities, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of recycling efforts. Additionally, promote and facilitate composting programs, including home composting and community composting initiatives, to divert organic waste from landfills and produce nutrient-rich compost for use in gardening and agriculture. Collaborate with local businesses, non-profit organizations, and waste management agencies to identify innovative solutions and best practices for waste reduction and recycling. By taking a comprehensive approach to waste management, we can significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserve resources, and create a more sustainable and environmentally conscious region.

- a. WE COMMIT TO:

- i. Support for waste reduction and recycling programs: We can support and advocate for the development and implementation of comprehensive waste management strategies that prioritize waste reduction, recycling, and composting. This can involve supporting local waste management agencies in their efforts to promote and expand recycling programs, providing resources for public education and awareness campaigns, and collaborating with community organizations to facilitate behavior change and responsible consumer practices.
- ii. Advocate for convenient and accessible recycling infrastructure: We can advocate for the establishment of recycling infrastructure in public spaces, businesses, and residential areas. This can include supporting the placement of recycling bins in high-traffic areas, advocating for the inclusion of recycling facilities in new construction projects, and working

with local municipalities to ensure convenient access to recycling services for all residents.

- iii. Promote composting programs: We can support and promote composting programs, including home composting and community composting initiatives. This can involve providing educational resources on composting techniques, collaborating with local gardening and agricultural organizations to promote the use of compost, and advocating for policies that encourage the diversion of organic waste from landfills.
- iv. Collaboration and knowledge sharing: We can collaborate with local businesses, non-profit organizations, and waste management agencies to identify innovative solutions and best practices for waste reduction and recycling. This can involve creating platforms for knowledge sharing, organizing workshops and conferences on waste management, and supporting research and pilot projects that explore new approaches to waste reduction and recycling.
- v. Encourage responsible consumer practices: We can increase public awareness and education about the importance of waste reduction and recycling, promoting responsible consumer practices. This can involve conducting public outreach campaigns, organizing educational events, and partnering with schools and community centers to provide resources and workshops on waste reduction and recycling.

9. **Support increased investment in research and development to drive innovation in environmental technologies that address pressing environmental challenges and contribute to the growth of a thriving green economy in the region.** Foster collaboration between research institutions, industry partners, and government agencies to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative solutions. Support grants, funding, and incubator programs that promote the advancement of clean technologies, such as renewable energy systems, waste management technologies, sustainable agriculture practices, and pollution control measures. Encourage public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise, facilitating the commercialization and adoption of cutting-edge environmental technologies. Foster an ecosystem of innovation by providing resources, infrastructure, and support to startups and entrepreneurs focused on environmental sustainability. By investing in research and development of new environmental technologies, we can drive sustainable economic growth, create green jobs, and address environmental challenges to build a more resilient and sustainable region.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support for research and development: We can support increased investment in research and development to drive innovation in environmental technologies. This can involve advocating for government funding and grants to support research institutions and encourage



collaboration between academia, industry partners, and government agencies.

- ii. Collaboration and knowledge sharing: We can foster collaboration between research institutions, industry partners, and government agencies to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative solutions. This can include organizing conferences, workshops, and networking events to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.
- iii. Support for grants, funding, and incubator programs: We can support grants, funding, and incubator programs that promote the advancement of clean technologies. This can involve advocating for increased funding for environmental technology research and development, as well as supporting initiatives that provide financial and technical support to startups and entrepreneurs focused on environmental sustainability.
- iv. Public-private partnerships: We can encourage public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise in driving innovation and the adoption of environmental technologies. This can involve advocating for policies and programs that facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors, such as joint research projects, technology demonstration projects, and incentive programs for the adoption of clean technologies.
- v. Support for startups and entrepreneurs: We can foster an ecosystem of innovation by providing resources, infrastructure, and support to startups and entrepreneurs focused on environmental sustainability. This can include supporting the establishment of incubators and accelerators specifically targeting green technologies, providing mentorship and networking opportunities, and advocating for access to funding and investment opportunities.

10. **Support and amplify existing regional environmental and energy-related efforts in the Inland Empire**, including the implementation of the Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting and the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy. By actively advocating for the implementation of AB 1000 and/or AB 1748, we can ensure responsible and sustainable warehouse siting practices that prioritize the well-being of communities and the environment. Additionally, supporting the implementation of the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy as part of the SoCal Connect 2024 Regional transportation plan, led by SCAG, will help limit the expansion of transportation infrastructure dedicated to goods movement, reducing emissions and mitigating the impact on air quality and traffic congestion. By aligning with these initiatives, we can enhance regional environmental sustainability, promote healthier communities, and contribute to the overall well-being of the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...



- i. Support existing regional environmental and energy-related efforts: We can support and amplify existing regional initiatives, such as the implementation of the Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting and the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy. This can involve advocating for the adoption and enforcement of these policies by relevant authorities and organizations.
- ii. Advocacy for legislation: We can actively advocate for the implementation of AB 1000 and/or AB 1748, which are state-level legislative measures related to responsible and sustainable warehouse siting practices. This can involve engaging with policymakers, community leaders, and advocacy groups to raise awareness about the importance of these bills and urging their support and implementation.
- iii. Collaborate with stakeholders: We can collaborate with regional organizations, community groups, and government agencies involved in environmental and energy-related efforts. This can include participating in working groups, task forces, and public consultations to provide input, share expertise, and advocate for sustainable practices.
- iv. Education and awareness: We can support educational campaigns and initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of responsible warehouse siting and emissions demand management. This can involve organizing public forums, workshops, and information sessions to inform community members, businesses, and policymakers about the benefits of sustainable practices and the potential impacts of irresponsible development.
- v. Partnership with SCAG and other regional entities: We can support and collaborate with regional entities like the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to implement the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy as part of the SoCal Connect 2024 Regional transportation plan. This can involve providing input, participating in planning processes, and advocating for sustainable transportation solutions that prioritize emissions reduction and improved air quality.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. Renewable Energy Infrastructure: Investing in the development of renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar and wind farms, not only helps mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also creates job opportunities, promotes economic growth, and enhances energy resilience.
2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs: Implementing energy efficiency and conservation programs in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors can reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and lead to cost savings. These programs can also improve indoor air quality, enhance comfort, and stimulate innovation in energy-efficient technologies.



3. **Sustainable Transportation Systems:** Promoting sustainable transportation options, including electric vehicles, public transit, and active transportation, can reduce air pollution, improve public health, alleviate traffic congestion, and enhance mobility options. Integrating renewable energy sources into transportation infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging stations powered by solar energy, further contributes to environmental sustainability.
4. **Green Building Practices:** Encouraging green building practices, such as energy-efficient designs, use of sustainable materials, and incorporation of renewable energy systems, can lead to reduced energy consumption, improved indoor air quality, and lower operating costs. Green buildings also contribute to a healthier and more comfortable living and working environment.
5. **Water Conservation and Watershed Management:** Implementing comprehensive water conservation programs, including water-efficient technologies, public awareness campaigns, and sustainable landscaping practices, helps conserve water resources, protect ecosystems, and reduce energy requirements for water treatment and distribution. Integrated watershed management approaches can enhance water quality, support habitat restoration, and mitigate the impacts of drought and floods.
6. **Circular Economy and Waste Management:** Promoting a circular economy by emphasizing recycling, waste reduction, and resource recovery can minimize waste generation, conserve resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Implementing effective waste management practices, such as organic waste composting and recycling programs, helps divert waste from landfills, conserve energy, and reduce pollution.

Food Systems

Food systems refer to the complex web of activities, processes, and relationships involved in the production, distribution, and consumption of food. This includes activities such as farming, processing, packaging, transportation, storage, retail, and consumption.

Food systems are a critical component of human well-being and social and economic development. They are essential for ensuring food security and access to nutritious and safe food, promoting rural development, and creating employment and economic growth.

However, food systems can also have significant environmental impacts, including soil degradation, water depletion, and greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, they can perpetuate inequality and injustice, particularly with regards to access to food and economic opportunities.

A sustainable food system is one that balances the need for economic growth and food security with the need to protect the environment and promote social justice. This requires a shift

towards more sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices, reducing food waste, promoting local and regional food systems, and ensuring equitable access to food and economic opportunities. A sustainable food system is essential for promoting a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Food Systems in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse food system that includes a mix of traditional and emerging trends, such as agriculture, food processing, and a vibrant restaurant scene. However, food access remains a challenge for some residents, particularly those who live in low-income communities or in rural areas, and the area continues to work to provide food assistance to those in need.

- **Agriculture:** The Inland Empire is a major agricultural region, producing a wide variety of crops such as citrus, avocados, dates, and berries. The area is also a major producer of dairy products, poultry, and other livestock. The area's agriculture is driven by factors such as a favorable climate, fertile soil, and access to irrigation water.
- **Food Processing:** The Inland Empire is home to a number of food processing facilities, which process and package the area's agricultural products for distribution to markets across the United States. The area's food processing industry is a major source of employment for residents and has a significant economic impact on the region.
- **Restaurants and Food Retail:** The Inland Empire has a diverse and vibrant restaurant scene, which includes a mix of fast food chains, casual dining restaurants, and fine dining establishments. The area also has a number of supermarkets, convenience stores, and other food retailers which provide residents with a wide variety of food options.
- **Food Access:** Despite the presence of a diverse and vibrant food system, food access remains a challenge for some residents of the Inland Empire, particularly those who live in low-income communities or in rural areas. The area has a number of food banks, soup kitchens, and other organizations that work to provide food assistance to those in need.

IE Food Systems Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. Food insecurity is a concern, particularly among minority communities in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.
2. IE has a distinct "price per meal" lower than the state average but higher than the national average.
3. Both Riverside and San Bernardino counties are significant players in California's agricultural landscape.
4. The Inland Empire boasts a diverse agricultural output, including citrus, avocados, dairy, and wine grapes.
5. Agriculture and related industries contribute significantly to the region's economy.

6. Despite agricultural abundance, food insecurity affects a notable portion of the population.
7. The local food movement is thriving, with farmers markets, community gardens, and urban farms gaining momentum.
8. Innovative food businesses like craft breweries and artisanal food producers are contributing to the region's culinary landscape.
9. Water availability and quality remain challenges, impacting agricultural production.
10. The Inland Empire is interconnected with larger food systems, fostering collaboration for a resilient and sustainable food network.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the food systems sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Food Insecurity:** Many individuals and families in the Inland Empire face food insecurity, lacking consistent access to affordable and nutritious food. Immediate challenges include inadequate access to grocery stores or farmers markets, limited transportation options, and financial constraints.
2. **Food Deserts:** Certain areas in the Inland Empire are designated as food deserts, where residents have limited access to fresh and healthy food options. This is often due to a lack of grocery stores or other sources of fresh produce in these areas.
3. **Limited Local Food Production:** The region faces challenges related to limited local food production and dependence on food imports from distant regions. This not only increases the carbon footprint associated with food transportation but also reduces the region's food resilience and self-sufficiency.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Climate Change and Environmental Impacts:** The Inland Empire is susceptible to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, droughts, and rising temperatures. These changes can negatively affect agricultural productivity, water availability, and food production systems in the long run.
2. **Loss of Agricultural Land:** Urbanization and land development pose a threat to agricultural land in the Inland Empire. The conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural uses reduces the region's capacity for local food production and hampers efforts to build a sustainable and resilient food system.

3. **Food Waste:** Food waste is a significant challenge in the food system, contributing to environmental degradation and economic inefficiency. Minimizing food waste requires improved infrastructure, better distribution systems, and consumer education to reduce food loss at various stages of the supply chain.

Food Systems - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for food systems in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to healthy and affordable food, where local food systems are strengthened, and where sustainable farming practices are the norm.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where food is grown and distributed in a way that promotes social and environmental responsibility, and where our communities are empowered to shape their food systems in accordance with their unique needs and values.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where our region's diverse agricultural landscape is preserved and enhanced, where local food systems support local economies, and where food justice is a guiding principle in all food-related policies and programs.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where food systems are grounded in sustainability and regenerative practices, and where food waste is minimized through innovative solutions and collaborations.
5. Our vision for food systems is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in healthy and sustainable food systems, where food-related policies and programs are guided by community-driven solutions, and where access to healthy and nutritious food is a basic human right for all residents.

Food Systems - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of food systems in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Access to healthy and affordable food:** Many solutions focused on increasing access to healthy and affordable food in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting local food banks and food assistance programs, investing in urban agriculture and community gardens, and promoting healthy food options in schools and other public places.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Farm-to-Community Education Program (IEFCEP)*

ii. Healthy Food Access Program

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Riverside Food Systems Alliance
- ii. Riverside University Health System - Improvement Plan
- iii. Redlands Community Hospital - Regional Community Health Needs Assessment
- iv. R Garden - UCR
- v. Riverside Community Garden
- vi. Inland Empire Organic Produce Buying Club
- vii. Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
- viii. Riverside Food Hub
- ix. Riverside Unified School District Farm to School Program
- x. Food Forward

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Healthy Food Financing Initiatives (HFFI)
- ii. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- iii. Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program
- iv. Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Programs
- v. Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign (Kaiser Permanente)

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Local farmers and producers: Partnering with local farmers and food producers to increase the availability of fresh, healthy, and locally grown produce in underserved communities. This could involve working with farmers to establish community-supported agriculture programs or creating pop-up markets to sell fresh produce in areas with limited access to grocery stores.
- ii. Community-based organizations: Partnering with community-based organizations that work to address food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits, such as food banks, community gardens, and nutrition education programs. Collaborating with these organizations can help to provide a more comprehensive approach to addressing food access issues in the community.
- iii. Healthcare providers: Partnering with healthcare providers to promote healthy eating habits and increase access to healthy food options for patients. This could involve working with healthcare providers to develop nutrition education materials or creating programs that offer healthy food options at hospitals and clinics.
- iv. Local government agencies: Partnering with local government agencies, such as the County Health Department or the Department of Public Health, to develop and implement policies that promote access to healthy food options in underserved communities. This could include zoning ordinances that encourage the development of grocery stores and



farmers markets in food deserts, or programs that provide incentives for businesses to offer healthy food options.

- v. Food industry partners: Partnering with food industry stakeholders, such as supermarkets, distributors, and food manufacturers, to increase access to healthy and affordable food options. This could involve working with these partners to develop and market healthy food options, or creating supply chain programs that prioritize the distribution of fresh produce and other healthy foods to underserved areas.

2. **Strengthening local food systems:** Several solutions aim to strengthen local food systems in the Inland Empire by supporting small-scale farmers, creating local food hubs and marketplaces, and improving distribution networks for locally grown food.

- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**

- i. *Equitable Food Hubs*
 - ii. *IE Urban Agriculture Program*

- b. **Existing Efforts**

- i. Urban agriculture initiatives: several organizations in the Inland Empire are promoting urban agriculture as a means of increasing access to healthy, locally-grown food in underserved communities.
 - ii. Farmers' markets: there are several farmers' markets throughout the Inland Empire, which provide residents with access to fresh, locally-grown produce and other food products.
 - iii. Farm-to-school programs: some schools in the Inland Empire are participating in farm-to-school programs, which aim to increase students' access to fresh, locally-grown produce and promote healthy eating habits.
 - iv. Local food policy councils: some cities in the Inland Empire have established local food policy councils, which work to promote healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems through policy advocacy and community engagement.

- c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**

- i. Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program: This program provides grants to support the development of community-based food systems that promote food security and self-reliance in low-income communities.
 - ii. California FreshWorks: This initiative provides financing and technical assistance to support the development of healthy food retail outlets in underserved communities throughout California.
 - iii. Riverside Food System Alliance: This organization works to promote a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system in the Inland Empire by engaging in policy advocacy, community organizing, and stakeholder engagement.
 - iv. California Farm to School Network: This network works to connect schools with local farmers and food producers to increase the availability of fresh, healthy food in school meals.



- v. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Rural Promise: This program provides funding and technical assistance to support the development of rural food systems, including community gardens, farmers markets, and food hubs.
- vi. Inland Empire Resource Conservation District: This organization works to promote sustainable agriculture practices and supports local farmers and producers through education and technical assistance.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with local farmers: Food-related organizations can partner with local farmers and growers to promote sustainable agriculture and increase access to locally grown produce. This partnership can involve joint marketing initiatives, education programs, and distribution partnerships.
 - ii. Partnership with food banks and food pantries: Food banks and pantries play a critical role in addressing food insecurity in the Inland Empire. Organizations focused on strengthening local food systems can partner with these institutions to improve the quality and variety of food available to those in need.
 - iii. Collaboration with local government: Local governments can play a significant role in promoting and supporting local food systems through policies and programs. Organizations focused on this area can partner with local governments to advocate for policies that support local food systems, such as zoning laws that allow for urban agriculture.
 - iv. Partnership with community organizations: Local community organizations such as neighborhood associations, community centers, and faith-based groups can be valuable partners in promoting local food systems. These organizations can provide space for community gardens, host cooking classes and other educational programs, and support food-related events and initiatives.
3. **Sustainable and regenerative farming practices:** A key focus of many solutions is to promote sustainable and regenerative farming practices in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting farmers who use organic and regenerative practices, promoting water conservation and soil health, and reducing the use of pesticides and other harmful chemicals.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i.
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
 - ii. Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA)
 - iii. Eastside HEAL Zone
 - iv. The Inland Empire Small Farm Initiative
 - v. Riverside Agricultural Innovation Center (*in production, phase 1*)
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**



- i. Conservation programs: The USDA offers several conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, that provide financial and technical assistance to farmers who implement sustainable and regenerative farming practices.
- ii. Local grants: Organizations such as the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District and the Inland Empire Community Foundation offer grants and funding opportunities for farmers and organizations working towards sustainable and regenerative agriculture.
- iii. Market development programs: Programs such as the California Market Match and the Farm to School program promote sustainable agriculture by creating opportunities for small farmers to sell their products at farmers markets, schools, and other local outlets.
- iv. Collaborative partnerships: Local universities and research institutions, such as the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, offer research and technical support for farmers looking to implement sustainable and regenerative farming practices.
- v. Policy initiatives: California has several policy initiatives in place to promote sustainable agriculture, such as the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program and the Healthy Soils Program, which provide funding for farmers to implement sustainable and regenerative practices.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Partnering with local farmers and producers: Food-focused organizations and agricultural groups can partner with local farmers and producers to promote sustainable and regenerative farming practices. This partnership could involve joint marketing efforts, educational programs, or community events.
- ii. Collaborating with conservation organizations: Food-focused organizations can partner with conservation organizations, such as the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, to promote sustainable and regenerative farming practices that support both environmental conservation and local agriculture.
- iii. Partnering with schools and educational institutions: Food-focused organizations can partner with schools and educational institutions to create educational programs that teach students about sustainable and regenerative farming practices. This could involve creating hands-on learning opportunities, such as school gardens or farm-to-school programs.
- iv. Collaborating with local governments: Food-focused organizations can partner with local governments to promote sustainable and regenerative farming practices. This could involve advocating for policy changes that



- support sustainable agriculture or working with local officials to develop programs that provide financial or technical support to farmers who adopt sustainable practices.
- v. Partnering with food businesses: Food-focused organizations can partner with food businesses, such as restaurants or grocery stores, to promote sustainable and regenerative farming practices. This could involve sourcing local, sustainably produced ingredients or developing marketing campaigns that promote the benefits of sustainable agriculture.
4. **Food justice and equity:** Many solutions aim to address food justice and equity issues in the Inland Empire, including supporting food-related policies and programs that are guided by community-driven solutions, addressing food deserts and inequitable access to healthy food options, and prioritizing the needs of low-income and historically marginalized communities.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Food Oasis Network*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Huerta Del Valle
 - ii. Inland Empire Food System Alliance
 - iii. Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)
 - iv. Riverside Food Systems Alliance
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Food Policy Councils: Investing in food policy councils can support efforts to address issues related to food justice and equity, such as creating policies that promote access to healthy food and food security for marginalized communities.
 - ii. Community-Based Agriculture Programs: Investing in community-based agriculture programs can support initiatives that aim to increase access to fresh, healthy food for underserved communities. These programs can include community gardens, urban farms, and other initiatives that promote local agriculture.
 - iii. Farmers Market Incentive Programs: Providing funding and incentives for farmers markets can support initiatives that aim to increase access to fresh, healthy food for underserved communities. These programs can include incentives for SNAP/EBT recipients, as well as programs that provide financial support for small farmers to participate in local farmers markets.
 - iv. Healthy Corner Store Programs: Investing in healthy corner store programs can support efforts to increase access to healthy food in food deserts and underserved areas. These programs can include financial support and incentives for corner stores to stock fresh, healthy food, as well as education and outreach programs that promote healthy eating habits.



- v. Food Access and Equity Grants: Funding food access and equity grants can support initiatives that address issues related to food justice and equity, such as community-led projects that promote access to healthy food and nutrition education for marginalized communities.
- vi. Food Recovery and Redistribution Programs: Investing in food recovery and redistribution programs can support initiatives that reduce food waste and increase access to healthy food for underserved communities. These programs can include efforts to recover excess food from grocery stores and restaurants, as well as redistribution efforts that bring that food to communities in need.
- vii. Urban Agriculture Incubator Programs: Investing in urban agriculture incubator programs can support the development of new small-scale farming initiatives in urban areas, which can increase access to fresh, healthy food for underserved communities while also providing economic opportunities for local farmers.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with community organizations: Food justice and equity can be achieved through community-based solutions. Local food justice organizations, such as the Inland Empire Food Justice Collective, can partner with other community organizations and businesses to create events and programs that promote food justice and equity, such as community gardens and farmers markets.
- ii. Partnership with local governments: Local governments can play a crucial role in promoting food justice and equity by enacting policies and programs that support local farmers and address food insecurity. Food justice organizations can work with local governments to develop policies and programs that address food access and affordability issues.
- iii. Collaboration with universities and research institutions: Universities and research institutions can provide valuable research and data analysis that can inform food justice policies and programs. Food justice organizations can partner with universities and research institutions to conduct research and develop solutions that promote food justice and equity.
- iv. Partnership with farmers and food producers: Local farmers and food producers are essential to promoting sustainable and equitable food systems. Food justice organizations can work with local farmers and food producers to develop innovative solutions that support sustainable agriculture and food systems, such as farm-to-school programs and community-supported agriculture programs

Food Systems - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to food systems.

1. **Support the development and expansion of local food systems**, including community gardens, farmers markets, and food cooperatives, to increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities. Additionally, explore opportunities for economic development in the agricultural technology (Ag Tech) sector, which presents a multi-solver approach to addressing food and nutritional needs, climate challenges, manufacturing, quality job creation, and healthcare costs. Programs like Cal Aim can be leveraged to invest in preventative and restorative medicine through food, recognizing the concept that "food is medicine." By integrating innovative approaches to food production and distribution, we can not only improve access to nutritious food but also contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of our communities while fostering economic growth in the Inland Empire.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Support for local food systems:** We can support the development and expansion of community gardens, farmers markets, and food cooperatives in the region. This can involve providing resources, technical assistance, and funding to community organizations and individuals interested in starting or growing these initiatives. By supporting local food systems, we can increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities.
 - ii. **Advocacy for policy changes:** We can advocate for policies that promote and incentivize the development of local food systems. This can involve engaging with local and regional policymakers to raise awareness about the benefits of community gardens, farmers markets, and food cooperatives, and advocating for supportive regulations and funding opportunities.
 - iii. **Collaboration with community organizations:** We can collaborate with community organizations, nonprofits, and local businesses to create and sustain local food systems. This can involve partnering with existing initiatives, sharing resources and expertise, and leveraging networks to enhance the impact of these efforts. By working together, we can create a strong and interconnected local food ecosystem.
 - iv. **Exploration of Ag Tech opportunities:** We can explore opportunities for economic development in the agricultural technology (Ag Tech) sector. This can involve supporting research and development, fostering partnerships between technology companies and local agricultural businesses, and advocating for funding and incentives to attract Ag Tech investments in the region. By embracing innovation in food production

and distribution, we can promote sustainable practices, increase productivity, and create quality jobs in the Inland Empire.

- v. Leveraging programs like Cal Aim: We can leverage programs like Cal Aim (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) to invest in preventative and restorative medicine through food. This can involve advocating for funding and resources to support initiatives that integrate nutrition and healthcare, recognizing the role of food as medicine in improving overall health outcomes.

- 2. **Encourage and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices,** including regenerative agriculture techniques such as cover cropping, composting, and rotational grazing, soil conservation measures like erosion control and water management, and crop diversification strategies to promote soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience. These practices not only contribute to the long-term sustainability of our agricultural systems but also enhance ecosystem health, improve water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting and implementing these innovative approaches, we can ensure the continued productivity of our agricultural lands while mitigating the environmental impact and building a more resilient and sustainable food system in the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support for sustainable agricultural practices: We can support farmers and agricultural organizations in adopting sustainable agricultural practices. This can involve providing educational resources, technical assistance, and financial incentives to promote the implementation of regenerative agriculture techniques such as cover cropping, composting, and rotational grazing. By supporting farmers in adopting these practices, we can enhance soil health, conserve water, promote biodiversity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ii. Advocacy for policy changes: We can advocate for policies that incentivize and promote sustainable agricultural practices. This can involve engaging with local and regional policymakers to raise awareness about the benefits of these practices and advocating for supportive regulations and funding opportunities. By advocating for policy changes, we can create an enabling environment for farmers to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to the long-term sustainability of our agricultural systems.
- iii. Creation of demonstration sites and research initiatives: We can create demonstration sites and research initiatives to showcase the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices. This can involve partnering with farmers, research institutions, and agricultural organizations to establish model farms and conduct research on the impacts and effectiveness of these practices. By providing tangible examples and evidence of the benefits, we can inspire more farmers to adopt sustainable practices.



- iv. Collaboration with agricultural organizations and stakeholders: We can collaborate with agricultural organizations, local farmers, and other stakeholders to promote and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. This can involve organizing workshops, training programs, and knowledge-sharing events to disseminate information and best practices. By fostering collaboration, we can create a supportive network where farmers can learn from each other and access resources and expertise.
 - v. Support for market access and consumer education: We can support initiatives that enhance market access for sustainably produced agricultural products. This can involve working with local markets, restaurants, and retailers to promote and prioritize the sourcing of sustainably produced food. Additionally, we can invest in consumer education campaigns to raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of supporting sustainable agriculture and empower consumers to make informed choices.
3. **Promote food waste reduction and recycling** by implementing comprehensive composting and food recovery programs that address all stages of the food supply chain. This includes raising awareness about the importance of reducing food waste, facilitating partnerships with local businesses, farms, and food service providers to implement effective food waste prevention strategies, and establishing infrastructure for composting and organic waste recycling. By diverting food waste from landfills and turning it into compost or recovering it for redistribution to those in need, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve valuable resources, and address food insecurity in our communities. These efforts not only contribute to a more sustainable and circular food system but also foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards our environment and community.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for food waste prevention and reduction: We can support and promote initiatives that help businesses, farms, and food service providers prevent and reduce food waste. This can involve providing education and resources on best practices for inventory management, portion control, and food storage. By supporting these efforts, we can help businesses minimize food waste and save money while reducing the environmental impact of food waste.
 - ii. Advocacy for policy changes: We can advocate for policies that incentivize and support food waste reduction and recycling. This can involve engaging with local and regional policymakers to raise awareness about the benefits of food waste reduction and advocating for regulations that encourage businesses and organizations to implement effective food waste prevention strategies. By advocating for policy changes, we can create an enabling environment for food waste reduction efforts.



- iii. Creation of food recovery programs: We can support the creation and expansion of food recovery programs that rescue surplus food from businesses, farms, and events and distribute it to those in need. This can involve partnering with food banks, nonprofits, and community organizations to establish efficient and safe food recovery networks. By facilitating these programs, we can reduce food waste and address food insecurity in our communities.
 - iv. Development of composting infrastructure: We can support the development of composting infrastructure, including both large-scale and community-level composting facilities. This can involve collaborating with waste management agencies, local governments, and composting experts to establish composting programs and facilities that can effectively process organic waste. By investing in composting infrastructure, we can divert food waste from landfills and create nutrient-rich compost that can be used to enrich soils and support local agriculture.
 - v. Public education and awareness campaigns: We can invest in public education and awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of reducing food waste and the benefits of composting and food recovery. This can involve outreach programs in schools, community events, and media campaigns that provide practical tips and resources for individuals and businesses to minimize food waste and participate in food recovery and composting efforts.
4. **Promote and support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs to promote equitable access to nutritious food**, with a focus on promoting health and wellness in our communities. This includes supporting initiatives that incentivize the establishment of healthy food retail outlets, such as grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens, particularly in underserved areas. Additionally, explore opportunities for healthy food financing programs to attract investments and support social enterprises that contribute to organic food systems, creating employment opportunities, enhancing food security, and fostering income generation. By addressing the barriers to accessing healthy food options and supporting local enterprises, we can improve the overall health and well-being of our communities, reduce health disparities, and create a more sustainable and inclusive food system.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for healthy food retail outlets: We can support and advocate for policies and programs that incentivize the establishment and expansion of healthy food retail outlets in underserved areas. This can involve working with local governments and community organizations to provide financial incentives, zoning support, and technical assistance to grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens that prioritize offering nutritious food options.



- ii. Advocacy for healthy food financing programs: We can advocate for the creation and implementation of healthy food financing programs that attract investments and support social enterprises in the organic food sector. This can involve engaging with policymakers, financial institutions, and community development organizations to promote funding opportunities and resources for entrepreneurs and organizations committed to providing equitable access to nutritious food.
 - iii. Creation of partnerships and collaborations: We can create partnerships and collaborations between local governments, community organizations, and health providers to address food insecurity and promote access to nutritious food. This can involve coordinating efforts to establish food distribution programs, community-led gardens, and food recovery initiatives that support underserved communities and improve access to healthy food options.
 - iv. Support for education and outreach: We can support educational programs and outreach campaigns that promote nutrition education, healthy eating habits, and the benefits of locally grown and organic food. This can involve working with schools, community centers, and healthcare providers to provide resources, workshops, and events that empower individuals and families to make informed choices about their diets and access healthy food options.
 - v. Creation of food policy councils: We can advocate for the creation of food policy councils or similar entities that bring together stakeholders from various sectors to develop and implement policies that promote equitable access to nutritious food. These councils can provide a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and policy development that address the specific needs and challenges of the Inland Empire.
5. **Support the development and expansion of regional food hubs and processing facilities as critical infrastructure to enhance the local food system.** These hubs and facilities can serve as centralized points for aggregating, processing, and distributing locally sourced food, connecting farmers, producers, and consumers. By investing in the infrastructure necessary for efficient and sustainable food distribution, we can increase access to local food, support local farmers and producers, reduce transportation emissions, and strengthen the regional economy. Additionally, these food hubs can provide opportunities for value-added processing, such as canning, freezing, and packaging, which can extend the shelf life of perishable foods, reduce waste, and expand market opportunities for local producers. By strategically locating and supporting these facilities, we can enhance the capacity and resilience of our local food system, promote regional food security, and contribute to a more sustainable and vibrant community.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...



- i. Support for funding and grants: We can support and advocate for funding and grants that specifically target the development and expansion of regional food hubs and processing facilities. This can involve working with local governments, agricultural agencies, and economic development organizations to secure financial resources for infrastructure development, equipment acquisition, and operational costs.
 - ii. Collaboration and partnerships: We can foster collaboration and partnerships between farmers, producers, distributors, and community organizations to identify suitable locations for food hubs and processing facilities. This can involve bringing stakeholders together to assess needs, plan logistics, and share resources to create efficient and interconnected food systems.
 - iii. Advocacy for policy changes: We can advocate for supportive policies at the local, regional, and state levels that encourage the development of food hubs and processing facilities. This can involve engaging with policymakers, attending public hearings, and providing input on zoning, land use, and regulatory issues to ensure a favorable environment for the establishment and operation of these critical infrastructure components.
 - iv. Technical assistance and capacity building: We can provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to farmers, producers, and entrepreneurs interested in participating in the regional food system. This can involve offering training, mentorship programs, and business development resources to help individuals navigate the complexities of food production, processing, and distribution.
 - v. Consumer education and market development: We can support consumer education and market development initiatives that promote the benefits of locally sourced food and increase demand for products from regional food hubs and processing facilities. This can involve organizing events, conducting outreach campaigns, and collaborating with restaurants, schools, and institutions to incorporate locally sourced food into their menus.
6. **Increase public education and awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of local and sustainable food systems**, including nutrition, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Expand partnerships with universities, research institutions, and government agencies to collaborate on public education and awareness. By leveraging the expertise and resources of these institutions, we can develop comprehensive and evidence-based messaging that highlights the importance of nutrition, environmental sustainability, and economic development associated with supporting local food systems. These campaigns can involve educational workshops, community events, digital media campaigns, and outreach initiatives to reach a diverse range of audiences. By fostering collaboration between academia, government, and community stakeholders, we can amplify the impact of our messaging, foster behavior

change, and create a culture that values and supports local and sustainable food choices.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support for educational initiatives: We can support educational initiatives by providing funding, resources, and logistical support to universities, research institutions, and government agencies engaged in public education and awareness campaigns. This can involve advocating for increased funding for these programs, collaborating on curriculum development, and providing access to facilities and community networks for educational events.
- ii. Collaboration and partnerships: We can foster collaboration and partnerships between universities, research institutions, and government agencies to develop comprehensive and evidence-based messaging for public education campaigns. This can involve organizing joint workshops, conferences, and symposiums to exchange knowledge and best practices, as well as leveraging existing research and data to inform educational materials.
- iii. Multi-channel communication: We can advocate for the creation of diverse communication channels to reach a wide range of audiences with educational messaging. This can include the use of traditional media, social media platforms, community newsletters, and public events to disseminate information about the benefits of local and sustainable food systems.
- iv. Community engagement: We can create opportunities for community engagement by organizing educational workshops, farm visits, and community events that showcase the benefits of local and sustainable food systems. This can involve partnering with local organizations, community centers, and schools to reach diverse populations and provide hands-on experiences that foster understanding and appreciation for these systems.
- v. Evaluation and feedback: We can support the evaluation of public education campaigns to measure their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on feedback and outcomes. This can involve collaborating with universities and research institutions to design evaluation frameworks, collect data on knowledge and behavior change, and assess the impact of these campaigns on nutrition, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

7. **Encourage and support research and development of new, innovative food technologies and practices** through strategic partnerships with research universities, community-led organizations, local farmers and producers, and other industry stakeholders. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, we can drive advancements in sustainable and equitable food systems. This includes exploring

cutting-edge solutions in areas such as precision agriculture, vertical farming, regenerative practices, and alternative protein sources. By investing in research and development, we can cultivate a resilient and inclusive food system that addresses environmental challenges, enhances productivity, and promotes social equity in the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for research partnerships: We can support and provide funding for research partnerships between research universities, community-led organizations, local farmers and producers, and other industry stakeholders. This can involve advocating for grants and funding opportunities that specifically target innovative food technologies and practices, as well as facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange among these entities.
 - ii. Advocacy for funding and resources: We can advocate for increased funding and resources for research and development in the food industry, including sustainable agriculture and alternative protein sources. This can involve engaging with policymakers, industry associations, and philanthropic organizations to prioritize and allocate resources for research projects, infrastructure development, and technology transfer.
 - iii. Creation of innovation networks: We can create innovation networks and platforms that bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry stakeholders to share knowledge, ideas, and resources. This can involve hosting innovation challenges, conferences, and workshops to facilitate collaboration and foster a culture of innovation in the local food system.
 - iv. Incubation and acceleration programs: We can support the creation of incubation and acceleration programs specifically tailored to the food industry. These programs can provide entrepreneurs and researchers with the necessary support, mentorship, and resources to develop and scale their innovative food technologies and practices. By partnering with existing incubators or establishing new ones, we can create a supportive ecosystem for food innovation in the Inland Empire.
 - v. Pilot projects and demonstrations: We can support the implementation of pilot projects and demonstrations that showcase the viability and impact of new food technologies and practices. This can involve collaborating with local farmers, producers, and community organizations to create on-the-ground testbeds for innovative solutions. By highlighting successful case studies, we can inspire broader adoption of sustainable and equitable food systems in the region
8. **Promote social justice and equity in the food system by supporting the growth of food justice initiatives**, including community-led food access programs and programs that increase access to land for farmers from diverse backgrounds. These initiatives should focus on addressing the systemic barriers that contribute to food insecurity and

limited land access, particularly in underserved communities. This can be achieved through various means, such as providing financial resources, technical assistance, and training to community organizations and grassroots initiatives that are working to increase food access and build local food systems. Additionally, efforts should be made to engage and empower marginalized farmers, including those from historically underrepresented backgrounds, by providing them with resources, training, and opportunities to access affordable land and agricultural infrastructure. By supporting and amplifying these initiatives, we can foster inclusive and sustainable food systems that ensure equitable access to fresh, nutritious food for all communities, while promoting economic development, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support for food justice initiatives: We can provide financial resources, technical assistance, and training to community organizations and grassroots initiatives that are working to increase food access and address food insecurity in underserved communities. This can involve supporting food banks, community gardens, urban farming projects, and other initiatives that prioritize social justice and equity in the local food system.
- ii. Advocacy for policy change: We can advocate for policies that promote social justice and equity in the food system. This can involve engaging with local and state policymakers to support legislation that addresses systemic barriers to food access and land ownership, and advocating for funding and resources to support food justice programs and initiatives.
- iii. Creation of land access programs: We can create or support programs that increase access to land for farmers from diverse backgrounds, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. This can involve partnering with land trusts, government agencies, and community organizations to develop land access programs, secure affordable land for farming, and provide training and support to aspiring farmers.
- iv. Collaboration with community organizations: We can collaborate with community organizations and grassroots initiatives that are already working on food justice issues. This can involve partnering with local nonprofits, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups to amplify their work, provide resources and support, and engage in collective action to address systemic barriers in the food system.
- v. Education and outreach: We can provide education and outreach programs to raise awareness about food justice and equity issues in the Inland Empire. This can involve organizing workshops, community forums, and educational campaigns to inform the public about the importance of equitable food access, the impacts of systemic barriers, and the potential solutions.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. **Local Food Production and Urban Agriculture:** Promoting and supporting local food production, including urban agriculture initiatives, can have multisolver benefits. It not only enhances food security and improves access to fresh and nutritious food but also reduces the carbon footprint associated with food transportation and contributes to the resilience of the local food system.
2. **Sustainable Farming Practices:** Encouraging and incentivizing sustainable farming practices, such as organic farming, regenerative agriculture, and agroecology, can have multisolver impacts. These practices promote soil health, reduce water usage, minimize chemical inputs, and protect biodiversity. They contribute to environmental sustainability, support public health by reducing exposure to pesticides, and foster a resilient agricultural sector.
3. **Food Waste Reduction and Recovery:** Implementing strategies to reduce food waste and promote food recovery can be a powerful multisolver opportunity. By preventing food waste at various stages of the supply chain, redistributing surplus food to those in need, and utilizing food scraps for compost or energy generation, we can address issues of food insecurity, environmental sustainability, and economic efficiency.
4. **Local Food Systems and Community Resilience:** Strengthening local food systems and supporting community-based initiatives can have multisolver impacts. This includes initiatives such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, food cooperatives, and farm-to-school programs. These efforts improve access to fresh and healthy food, support local farmers and businesses, enhance community engagement, and contribute to economic development.
5. **Education and Food Literacy:** Promoting food education and literacy programs can have multisolver benefits by fostering healthy eating habits, empowering individuals to make informed food choices, and addressing health disparities. Food literacy initiatives can also raise awareness about sustainable and equitable food systems, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Health & Well-being

Health and well-being refer to the physical, mental, and social state of an individual or population. It encompasses a broad range of factors that influence health, including genetics, lifestyle, environment, social and economic factors, and access to healthcare services.

Health and well-being are essential components of human development and quality of life. They are critical to achieving personal and social goals, and are necessary for economic growth and development. Moreover, health and well-being are not just about the absence of disease or

illness, but also about the presence of positive physical, mental, and social attributes that enable individuals and communities to thrive.

A sustainable approach to health and well-being is one that recognizes the interconnections between individual health, social and economic development, and environmental sustainability. This requires a holistic and integrated approach that addresses the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to health and well-being, and that promotes access to healthcare services and preventative measures.

Health & Well-being in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire faces various challenges related to community health and well-being, including health disparities, access to healthcare, mental health, and environmental health. Higher rates of chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, coupled with elevated poverty rates, contribute to health disparities in the region. Access to healthcare can be a barrier for many residents, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured. Mental health is another area of concern, with higher rates of serious mental illness among adults and children, as well as higher suicide rates compared to state averages. Furthermore, environmental health is affected by poor air quality and exposure to pollutants that can lead to respiratory illnesses and other health problems.

To address these challenges, the Inland Empire has implemented community health programs aimed at improving health and well-being for its residents. These programs encompass initiatives that focus on increasing access to healthcare, promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and addressing environmental health concerns.

Health and well-being are crucial components of thriving communities and achieving meaningful improvements in health outcomes and overall well-being requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach that takes into account the social determinants of health, systemic inequities, and the broader factors influencing community health.

In this endeavor, investments like the CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) initiative play a pivotal role in advancing health and well-being in the Inland Empire. CalAIM represents a holistic and multisolver investment, recognizing that improving health outcomes requires addressing interconnected issues such as housing, employment, and social justice. This initiative acknowledges and aims to rectify the historical and structural inequities faced by Black and Latino Californians through targeted interventions and community supports.

CalAIM is a significant investment with broader implications beyond healthcare alone. It recognizes that the Inland Empire has long experienced health disparities rooted in structural racism, inadequate access to healthcare services, and social determinants of health. Through investments in Community Supports and home and community-based services, CalAIM addresses the social drivers of health and strives to advance health equity. By prioritizing

culturally competent services delivered by peer support specialists and community health workers, the initiative aims to bridge the gaps in healthcare access and outcomes experienced by marginalized communities.

Mental Health

Mental health is an important issue in the Inland Empire, like in many other communities. It is estimated that 1 in 5 people in the United States experience a mental health condition, and access to mental health services is a critical need for many individuals and communities.

In the Inland Empire, there are a number of organizations and resources available to support individuals experiencing mental health challenges. Some of these resources include:

- **Community mental health clinics:** There are a number of community mental health clinics in the Inland Empire that provide access to mental health services, including therapy, medication management, and other forms of support.
- **Hospitals and emergency services:** Hospitals and emergency services in the Inland Empire provide emergency mental health services, including crisis intervention, stabilization and referral to appropriate mental health services.
- **Support groups:** There are a number of support groups in the Inland Empire that provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals to connect with others and discuss their mental health experiences.

Despite the existence of these resources, there are still significant challenges in addressing mental health needs in the Inland Empire. Some of these challenges include:

- **Stigma:** Stigma surrounding mental health remains a barrier to individuals seeking help, and can prevent people from accessing the care they need.
- **Access to care:** Access to mental health care can be limited for some individuals, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured. This can make it difficult for people to receive the support they need.
- **Funding:** Funding for mental health services can be limited, which can make it challenging for organizations to provide high-quality services and support to individuals in need.
- **Cultural Competence:** The Inland region is a diverse community where the provision of mental health services requires a deep understanding of language and cultural appropriateness. However, the field often struggles to meet these needs due to various challenges. Financial barriers can hinder the recruitment of diverse individuals from underrepresented communities into graduate programs, limiting the pool of professionals who can bring cultural competence to the field. Additionally, mental health stigma may impede family understanding and support, making it harder for individuals to pursue higher education. To address these challenges, it is crucial to invest in professional development and mentoring programs, particularly for first-generation students, to ensure the successful preparation and retention of mental health professionals who can meet the diverse needs of the community beyond their undergraduate experiences.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a serious issue that affects many communities, including the Inland Empire. Domestic violence refers to any form of physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional abuse that occurs between individuals in a domestic relationship, such as partners, spouses, or family members. Domestic violence can have devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities, and can include physical injuries, trauma, and in severe cases, death.

In the Inland Empire, like in many communities, domestic violence is a significant concern. There are many organizations and programs in the region that offer support and services to victims of domestic violence, including crisis hotlines, shelter and housing services, counseling and therapy, and legal assistance. Additionally, law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system work to prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence and to protect victims and their families.

It's important to continue to raise awareness about domestic violence, to support victims and their families, and to work towards preventing domestic violence in the Inland Empire and beyond.

IE Health & Well-being Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. The Inland Empire faces a lower than average number of mental health professionals per 100,000 population, along with the San Joaquin Valley, for almost all professions measured in 2020 (CHCF, 2022).
2. The Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), the region's largest medical health plan, recently launched the [IEHP Foundation](#) which will work in alignment with the goals of IEHP to provide grants to support community based groups.
3. High rates of chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, are prevalent in the region, with efforts needed to address these health challenges.
4. Access to healthcare remains a concern, particularly in underserved communities, where a shortage of primary care physicians persists.
5. Mental health is a significant issue, with elevated rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. The region grapples with increasing suicide and opioid-related deaths.
6. Racial and ethnic health disparities exist, impacting communities of color with higher rates of chronic diseases and poorer health outcomes.
7. Initiatives like the Inland Empire Health Plan and the Healthy San Bernardino County Initiative work towards improved healthcare access and reduced disparities.
8. The Inland Empire boasts a network of community health clinics and centers providing essential services to underserved populations.
9. Universities and research institutions, including Loma Linda University Health and UC Riverside School of Medicine, contribute to health improvement through education and research.
10. Community-based organizations, nonprofits, and advocacy groups play a pivotal role in addressing health disparities and promoting well-being in the Inland Empire.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the health and well-being sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Access to Healthcare:** Many residents in the Inland Empire face challenges in accessing affordable and quality healthcare services. Limited healthcare facilities, long wait times, transportation barriers, and a shortage of healthcare professionals contribute to this challenge.
2. **Health Disparities:** The region experiences significant health disparities, with certain communities facing higher rates of chronic diseases, mental health issues, and poor health outcomes. Factors such as poverty, limited access to healthcare, unhealthy environments, and social determinants of health contribute to these disparities.
3. **Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse:** The Inland Empire faces immediate challenges related to behavioral health and substance abuse. Limited availability of mental health services, lack of substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and stigma surrounding mental health contribute to these challenges.

Long-Term Challenges:

1. **Health Equity:** Achieving health equity is a long-term challenge in the Inland Empire. Addressing the underlying social determinants of health, including poverty, education, housing, and employment, is crucial to reducing health disparities and promoting equitable health outcomes.
2. **Chronic Disease Prevention and Management:** The region faces long-term challenges in preventing and managing chronic diseases, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. Promoting healthy lifestyles, improving access to preventive care, and implementing community-based interventions are essential for long-term health improvement.
3. **Ageing Population and Healthcare Services:** The Inland Empire is experiencing an aging population, which presents long-term challenges in providing appropriate healthcare services and support for older adults. Ensuring access to geriatric care, long-term care services, and addressing the needs of an aging population are important considerations for the future.

Health and Well-being - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for health and well-being in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to affordable and quality healthcare, where healthy living is the norm, and where the social determinants of health are effectively addressed.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where healthcare is provided in a way that is patient-centered, equitable, and inclusive, and where wellness is promoted through healthy environments, healthy food, and opportunities for physical activity.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where the social determinants of health are recognized and addressed, and where health equity is a guiding principle in all health-related policies and programs.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where mental health is prioritized and integrated with physical health, and where our communities are empowered to take charge of their own health and well-being.
5. Our vision for health and well-being is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in holistic and integrated healthcare, where access to healthcare is a basic human right, and where our communities are healthy, vibrant, and thriving.
6. Our vision is to create a community that is focused on and known for "well care" rather than "sick care." We are committed to making proactive investments in efforts that prioritize keeping people healthy and preventing illness. We recognize the critical role of nutrition and overall well-being, starting from childhood and continuing throughout adulthood. By promoting and supporting a culture of wellness, we strive to create an environment where individuals and families can thrive, lead healthier lives, and proactively engage in practices that support their overall well-being.

Health and Well-being - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of health and well-being in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Access to quality and affordable healthcare:** Solutions that address the need for equitable and inclusive healthcare services for all residents, regardless of income level, background, or zip code. This includes initiatives to increase access to primary care, mental health services, and preventative care, as well as programs that connect residents to health insurance and financial assistance.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**

- i. Preventive Healthcare Access Fund*
- ii. Inland Empire Health and Wellness Optimization Fund*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health Initiative
- ii. African American Family Wellness Advisory Group
- iii. Riverside County Healthcare Systems (RCHS)
- iv. Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo
- v. Mountain Health
- vi. The Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR)
- vii. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
- viii. TRU Evolution
- ix. ReThink Health
- x. Autism Employment Collaborative
- xi. Doula Access Program - Riverside Community Health Foundation, Inland Empire Health Plan
- xii. eConsult - (IEHP)
- xiii. Riverside County Vaccine Equity Partnership - Riverside County Public Health
- xiv. Community Health Workers (El Sol Neighborhood Education Center; Loma Linda University Health).

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. The California Health Care Foundation: The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) is a nonprofit organization that works to improve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for Californians, including those in the Inland Empire. CHCF funds initiatives that focus on improving healthcare delivery, expanding access to coverage, and addressing health disparities.
- ii. The Inland Empire Health Information Exchange: The Inland Empire Health Information Exchange (IEHIE) is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the exchange of health information between healthcare providers in the Inland Empire region. IEHIE has received funding from several sources, including the California Health Care Foundation and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to support its efforts to improve care coordination and patient outcomes.
- iii. The Inland Empire Health Plan Foundation: The Inland Empire Health Plan Foundation (IEHPF) is a nonprofit organization that supports programs and initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents in the Inland Empire region. The foundation funds programs related to healthcare access, mental health, and community health.
- iv. The Blue Shield of California Foundation: The Blue Shield of California Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the health and well-being of Californians, including those in the Inland Empire. The

foundation funds initiatives focused on expanding access to care, improving healthcare quality, and addressing health disparities.

- v. The California Health Resources and Services Administration: The California Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides funding for programs and initiatives that aim to improve access to healthcare for underserved populations, including those in the Inland Empire. HRSA funds programs related to primary care, mental health, and substance abuse treatment.
- vi. Parkview Legacy Foundation: a Healthcare Conversion organization dedicated to advancing the equitable probability of wellness through a focus on the social determinants of health. Committed to improving the overall health and well-being of our region, they understand that addressing the root causes of health disparities requires collaboration and multi-solving efforts. By partnering with various stakeholders, including community organizations, healthcare providers, and government agencies, they aim to tackle the key factors that have the greatest impact on health outcomes.
- vii. Riverside County Blue Zones Work
- viii. Riverside County Whole Person Health Score

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Healthcare Providers and Community Organizations: There are numerous healthcare providers in the Inland Empire that work with community organizations to improve access to care for underserved populations. For example, healthcare providers may partner with community organizations to provide outreach and education on healthcare topics, offer free or reduced-cost health screenings, or provide transportation to medical appointments.
- ii. Healthcare Providers and Health Plans: Many healthcare providers in the Inland Empire work with health plans to improve care coordination and patient outcomes. For example, healthcare providers may partner with health plans to develop care management programs for patients with chronic conditions or to provide telehealth services to patients in rural areas.
- iii. Healthcare Providers and Public Health Agencies: Healthcare providers in the Inland Empire may partner with public health agencies to address public health issues, such as communicable diseases or environmental health hazards. For example, healthcare providers may work with public health agencies to provide vaccinations or to conduct health assessments in schools or workplaces.
- iv. Healthcare Providers and Academic Institutions (LLUH, UCR): Many healthcare providers in the Inland Empire partner with academic institutions, such as medical schools or nursing programs, to provide clinical training opportunities for students. These partnerships can help to

develop the next generation of healthcare providers and can also provide benefits to patients, such as access to new treatments or technologies.

2. **Healthy living environments:** Solutions that promote healthy living and prevent chronic diseases through policies and programs that improve access to healthy food, opportunities for physical activity, and safe and healthy housing. This includes initiatives to promote walkable and bikeable communities, community gardens and farmers markets, and healthy food incentives.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire Community Health and Wellness Hubs Initiative*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Healthy Rancho Cucamonga Program
- ii. Safe Routes to School
- iii. Inland Empire Biking Alliance
- iv. Community Action Project
- v. HC2 Strategies
- vi. SHAPE Riverside County - Riverside County Public Health
- vii. The Environmental RailYard Research Impacting Community Health (ENRRICH) Project

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** The ATP is a California state program that provides funding for infrastructure projects that improve bicycling and walking conditions. In the Inland Empire region, various cities and agencies have received funding from the ATP to improve bike lanes, sidewalks, and other infrastructure to create safer and more accessible active transportation options.
- ii. **Transformative Climate Communities (TCC):** The TCC program is a California state initiative that provides funding to disadvantaged communities to support projects that address both climate change and community health. In the Inland Empire region, the city of Ontario has received TCC funding to support a project aimed at improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing access to healthy food and physical activity.
- iii. **Healthy Communities Program:** The Healthy Communities Program is a statewide initiative that provides funding and technical assistance to communities to support policy and systems changes that promote health and well-being. In the Inland Empire region, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has received funding from the program to support efforts to improve access to healthy food and physical activity options.
- iv. **Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council:** The SCAG Regional Council is a joint-powers authority that represents the interests of cities and counties in the Southern California region. The council provides funding and support for a range of initiatives

related to health and well-being, including active transportation projects, affordable housing developments, and climate change mitigation efforts.

- v. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: The CDBG program is a federal program that provides funding to local governments to support community development projects that benefit low- to moderate-income residents. In the Inland Empire region, various cities have received CDBG funding to support projects related to health and well-being, including affordable housing developments that incorporate healthy living features.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Public-Private Partnerships: Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are collaborations between government entities and private organizations to address common goals. In the Inland Empire region, there are opportunities for PPPs to support healthy living environments through initiatives such as developing affordable housing projects that incorporate healthy living features and creating public spaces that promote physical activity.
- ii. Community-Based Partnerships: Community-based partnerships involve collaboration between local organizations and residents to address community needs. In the Inland Empire region, community-based partnerships can support healthy living environments through initiatives such as developing community gardens and promoting safe and accessible active transportation options.
- iii. Health System Partnerships: Health system partnerships involve collaborations between healthcare providers and community organizations to address social determinants of health. In the Inland Empire region, health system partnerships can support healthy living environments through initiatives such as providing education and resources on healthy eating and physical activity, and partnering with community organizations to create safe and accessible active transportation options.

- 3. **Addressing social determinants of health:** Solutions that address the social and economic factors that impact health outcomes, such as poverty, education, and access to transportation. This includes initiatives to address housing insecurity and homelessness, increase access to education and job training programs, and improve transportation options in underserved communities.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire Healthcare Worker Wellness Initiative*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Riverside County Whole Person Health Score - Riverside University Health System (RUHS)
- ii. Parkview Legacy Foundation
- iii. African American Family Wellness Advisory Group

- iv. University of Redlands - The Alliance for Community Transformation and Wellness (ACTW)
- v. Inland Empire Health Plan
- vi. Prevention Institute with the Riverside County and San Bernardino County Department of Public Healths
- vii. Loma Linda University Health
- viii. UC Riverside Center for Health Disparities
- ix. HARC Data
- x. Inland Empire Health Information Organization
- xi. High Desert Intersections Collaborative
- xii. HC2 Strategies
- xiii. TRU Evolution
- xiv. ReThink Health
- xv. Connect IE - Inland SoCal United Way
- xvi. Behavioral Health Integration Complex Care Initiative
- xvii. Loma Linda University Health-Community Health workers
- xviii. El Sol NEC Community Health Workers
- xix. A variety of career pathways-addressing the SDOH of education and employment.

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Inland Empire Health Plan: The Inland Empire Health Plan is a non-profit health plan that serves over 1.2 million residents in the Inland Empire. They have several programs and initiatives that focus on addressing social determinants of health, including a housing program, a transportation program, and a healthy living program.
- ii. Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County: The Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County is a non-profit organization that provides services and resources to low-income individuals and families. They have several programs that address social determinants of health, such as a food bank, energy assistance, and emergency rental assistance.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Healthcare and Community-Based Organizations: Healthcare organizations and community-based organizations can partner to address social determinants of health by leveraging their respective strengths. For example, healthcare organizations can provide medical care and screening, while community-based organizations can provide services such as food assistance, housing assistance, and transportation services.
- ii. Education and Healthcare: Partnerships between education and healthcare can help address social determinants of health by promoting health literacy and providing resources to students and families. For example, schools can provide health education and screening programs,



while healthcare organizations can provide access to medical care and resources.

- iii. Create or consolidate a Future of Health Professions Scholarship fund and approach education entities for some matching scholarships. Create an “IE Promise” for future health professionals who can give back to the fund (monetarily and/or through mentorship) when they are employed.
4. **Integrated healthcare:** Solutions that integrate mental health and physical health services, and prioritize a patient-centered approach to care. This includes initiatives to increase access to mental health services, support for community-based mental health programs, and collaborations between healthcare providers and community-based organizations.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Community Health Worker Program (IECHW)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Dignity Health
 - ii. Integrated Care Communities
 - iii. IE HASC Collaborative
 - iv. Integrated Medical Center of Corona
 - v. Loma Linda University Health CHW program
 - vi. The Alliance for Community Transformation and Wellness (ACTW) - Counseling and Support Services at Riverside Free Clinic
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC): The IECC is a coalition of community-based organizations, government agencies, and healthcare providers that work together to promote health and well-being in the Inland Empire. The IECC's focus is on addressing the social determinants of health, such as access to healthy food, affordable housing, and education, to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities.
 - ii. Inland Empire Health Professionals Consortium: The Inland Health Professions Coalition is a division of Reach Out working with industry partners, educators, and community stakeholders to address the need for a highly skilled and culturally competent health workforce in the Inland Southern California region.
 - iii. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP): IEHP is a not-for-profit health plan that serves over 1.2 million members in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. IEHP provides access to integrated healthcare services, including medical, dental, and mental health services, through its network of healthcare providers.
 - iv. Inland Empire Health Information Exchange (IEHIE): IEHIE is a nonprofit organization that connects healthcare providers in the Inland Empire region with electronic health records and other health information technologies. This allows for the seamless sharing of patient health information and helps to improve care coordination and patient outcomes.

- v. **California Bridge Program:** The California Bridge Program is a statewide initiative that aims to improve access to integrated healthcare services for patients with substance use disorders (SUDs). The program provides funding to healthcare providers to establish or expand medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs, which combine medication with behavioral therapies to treat SUDs.
- vi. **Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Initiative:** The BHI Initiative is a program funded by the California Department of Health Care Services that aims to promote the integration of behavioral health and primary care services. The program provides funding to healthcare providers to implement evidence-based practices that improve care coordination and patient outcomes.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. **Healthcare Providers, Mental Health Service Providers, and Community-Based Organizations:** These organizations can partner to improve access to integrated healthcare services for underserved populations. For example, healthcare providers can work with community-based organizations to provide health education and outreach programs to increase awareness of the importance of integrated healthcare services.
- ii. **Healthcare Providers, Mental Health Service Providers, and Health Information Exchanges (HIEs):** Healthcare providers can partner with Mental Health Service Providers, and HIEs to improve care coordination and patient outcomes. HIEs allow healthcare providers to access and share patient health information in real-time, which can lead to more coordinated and effective care.
- iii. **Government Agencies and Healthcare Providers:** Government agencies can partner with healthcare providers to improve access to integrated healthcare services for vulnerable populations. For example, government agencies can provide funding to healthcare and mental healthcare providers to establish or expand integrated service delivery, and healthcare programs for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders.

Health and Well-being - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to health and well-being.

1. **Increase access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including primary care, mental health services, and preventive care:** To enhance the overall well-being of the community, we must prioritize increasing access to affordable, high-quality healthcare



that encompasses primary care, mental health services, and preventive care. A key component of this strategy is the integration of mental health services into primary care spaces, which will facilitate greater access to care and preventive measures. In terms of children and young adults, by implementing pediatric screenings for depression and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), we can proactively identify early signs of mental health issues and ensure timely interventions. This approach recognizes the crucial intersection of mental health and physical health, enabling us to promote early intervention, prevent the worsening of health problems, and foster improved overall well-being for individuals and the community.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support increased funding for healthcare services: We can advocate for increased funding for healthcare programs and services in the Inland Empire, including support for community health centers, clinics, and hospitals. This can involve supporting initiatives that seek to secure funding from federal, state, and local sources to expand healthcare facilities, improve infrastructure, and enhance the availability of healthcare services in underserved areas.
- ii. Advocate for healthcare policy reforms: We can advocate for policy reforms at the local, state, and federal levels that promote access to affordable healthcare. This can include advocating for expanded Medicaid coverage, increased funding for mental health services, and policies that improve healthcare affordability and reduce healthcare disparities. By engaging with policymakers, community leaders, and advocacy groups, we can support efforts to enact meaningful healthcare reforms.
- iii. Promote integrated care models: We can advocate for the integration of mental health services into primary care settings to ensure comprehensive and accessible healthcare. This involves supporting initiatives that promote collaboration between primary care providers and mental health professionals, such as co-locating mental health professionals within primary care clinics and establishing referral networks between primary care providers and mental health specialists.
- iv. Support preventive care initiatives: We can support initiatives that focus on preventive care and early intervention. This includes advocating for increased access to screenings, vaccinations, and preventive healthcare services that can detect and address health issues at an early stage. By promoting preventive care, we can improve health outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance overall community well-being.
- v. Foster partnerships for healthcare delivery: We can support and create partnerships between healthcare providers, community organizations, and educational institutions to enhance healthcare delivery and address healthcare workforce shortages. This can involve collaborating with universities and colleges to develop healthcare training programs and support the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals in the

Inland Empire. Additionally, partnerships with community organizations can help promote health education, outreach programs, and access to healthcare resources.

2. **Promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles, including physical activity, healthy eating, community engagement and connection, substance abuse prevention, and addiction prevention and treatment.** To achieve this, a range of strategies that work in synergy need to be implemented. This integrated approach empowers individuals and communities to make healthier choices and cultivates a culture of well-being throughout the Inland Empire. For example, consider the following innovative strategies:
 - a. Foster collaboration with local worksites and large employers, leveraging their influence to provide healthy food options through on-site vending offerings, cafeterias, and wellness programs.
 - b. Emphasize the importance of community engagement and connection as a key component of overall well-being, encouraging participation in community events, social networks, and support groups.
 - c. Adopt a collaborative and comprehensive approach by framing nutritional education, food systems, and stress reduction strategies within a cohesive framework.
 - i. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 1. Support workplace wellness initiatives: We can advocate for and support collaboration with local worksites and large employers to promote healthy behaviors in the workplace. This can involve partnering with employers to provide healthy food options in on-site vending machines and cafeterias, implementing wellness programs that encourage physical activity and healthy eating, and creating a supportive work environment that prioritizes employee well-being.
 2. Promote community engagement and connection: We can advocate for and create opportunities for community engagement and connection as a means to enhance overall well-being. This can include supporting and promoting community events, social networks, and support groups that foster connections, social support, and a sense of belonging. By collaborating with community organizations and local leaders, we can encourage participation and create a culture of community engagement.
 3. Advocate for comprehensive health education: We can advocate for comprehensive health education that encompasses nutritional education, stress reduction strategies, and other components of healthy living. This involves working with educational institutions, community organizations, and healthcare providers to develop and implement programs that provide individuals with the



- knowledge and skills to make informed choices about their health and well-being.
4. Support substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment, and harm reduction: We can support initiatives that aim to prevent substance abuse and provide accessible addiction treatment services. This can involve advocating for policies that address the root causes of substance abuse, supporting prevention programs in schools and communities, and advocating for increased funding and resources for addiction treatment services. By addressing substance abuse, we can improve overall community health and well-being.
 5. Create a cohesive framework for healthy living: We can support the development of a cohesive framework that integrates nutritional education, food systems, and stress reduction strategies. This involves fostering collaboration between stakeholders, including healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, and community organizations, to develop and implement strategies that work in synergy to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles.
3. **Develop and implement comprehensive policies and programs that address health disparities and social determinants of health in the Inland Empire**, taking into account the vital conditions framework and the urgent need to address systemic racism in healthcare and medicine. This involves targeting key factors such as poverty, access to healthy food, and transportation that disproportionately impact marginalized communities. By adopting a multifaceted approach, including targeted interventions, community partnerships, and equitable resource allocation, we can work towards reducing health disparities and promoting health equity. It is essential to dismantle systemic barriers and biases within the healthcare system, ensure culturally competent care, and engage in ongoing community dialogue to address the root causes of health inequities and foster inclusive and accessible healthcare for all residents of the Inland Empire.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Support policy development: We can support the development of comprehensive policies that address health disparities and social determinants of health in the Inland Empire. This involves advocating for policies that target key factors such as poverty, access to healthy food, and transportation, which disproportionately impact marginalized communities. By advocating for equitable policies, we can work towards reducing health disparities and promoting health equity.
 - ii. Advocate for resource allocation: We can advocate for equitable resource allocation in healthcare and related services. This includes advocating for increased funding for healthcare facilities and services in underserved



areas, ensuring access to quality healthcare providers and facilities for marginalized communities. By advocating for equitable resource allocation, we can work towards reducing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes.

- iii. Promote culturally competent care: We can support the development and implementation of culturally competent care in healthcare settings. This involves advocating for training and education for healthcare professionals to enhance their cultural competency, ensuring that they have the knowledge and skills to provide care that is sensitive to the diverse backgrounds and needs of patients. By promoting culturally competent care, we can improve healthcare experiences and outcomes for marginalized communities.
- iv. Foster community partnerships: We can support and create partnerships between healthcare organizations, community organizations, and local residents to address health disparities and social determinants of health. This includes fostering collaborations that aim to improve access to healthy food, transportation, and other resources in marginalized communities. By working together, we can leverage resources and expertise to address the root causes of health inequities and create sustainable solutions.
- v. Engage in community dialogue: We can advocate for ongoing community dialogue and engagement to address the root causes of health inequities. This involves creating platforms for community members to share their experiences and perspectives, ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes related to healthcare and social determinants of health. By engaging in community dialogue, we can foster understanding, build trust, and develop solutions that are responsive to the needs of the community.
- vi. Promote a “health in all policies” approach, noting the health impact of housing, education, food insecurity, unemployment, etc.

4. **Support the development and expansion of community-based healthcare and wellness programs and infrastructure that are tailored to meet the unique needs of underserved and marginalized populations in the Inland Empire.** This includes investing in accessible healthcare facilities, clinics, and community health centers in areas with limited healthcare resources. Additionally, prioritize the provision of culturally competent care, language access services, and targeted outreach initiatives to ensure that healthcare services are inclusive and responsive to the diverse populations they serve. By strengthening community-based healthcare and wellness programs and infrastructure, we can improve healthcare access, reduce health disparities, and promote the overall well-being of underserved communities in the Inland Empire. One example of achieving this goal is the integration of Community Health Workers into

health care to address the Triple Aim (lower cost of healthcare, improve population health, improve patient experience).

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support funding and resources: We can support increased funding and resources for the development and expansion of community-based healthcare and wellness programs in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for government funding and private investments to support the establishment of accessible healthcare facilities, clinics, and community health centers in underserved areas. By supporting funding and resources, we can ensure that underserved and marginalized populations have access to quality healthcare services.
- ii. Advocate for policy changes: We can advocate for policy changes that prioritize the development and expansion of community-based healthcare and wellness programs. This includes advocating for policies that incentivize the establishment of healthcare facilities in underserved areas, promote the hiring and training of culturally competent healthcare providers, and ensure language access services for diverse populations. By advocating for policy changes, we can create an enabling environment for the development of tailored healthcare programs.
- iii. Create partnerships and collaborations: We can support the creation of partnerships and collaborations between healthcare organizations, community-based organizations, and local stakeholders. This includes advocating for collaborations that integrate Community Health Workers (CHWs) into the healthcare system to address the Triple Aim (lower cost of healthcare, improve population health, improve patient experience). By fostering partnerships and collaborations, we can leverage resources, expertise, and community knowledge to develop and implement effective community-based healthcare and wellness programs.
- iv. Promote culturally competent care: We can advocate for the provision of culturally competent care in community-based healthcare programs. This includes advocating for training and education programs that enhance the cultural competency of healthcare providers, ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver care that is sensitive to the diverse needs and backgrounds of patients. By promoting culturally competent care, we can improve healthcare experiences and outcomes for underserved and marginalized populations.
- v. Raise awareness and engage the community: We can support public awareness campaigns and targeted outreach initiatives to inform underserved communities about the available community-based healthcare and wellness programs. This includes advocating for community health fairs, educational workshops, and grassroots initiatives that empower individuals to take control of their health and well-being. By raising awareness and engaging the community, we can increase

utilization of healthcare services and promote preventive care among underserved populations.

5. **Build upon the State of California's historic investments by fostering robust collaboration and partnership among healthcare providers, community organizations, higher education institutions, and other key actors in the Inland Empire.** This collaborative approach will address complex health challenges, including chronic disease prevention and management, mental health support, and addiction services. By leveraging and reinforcing existing initiatives, programs, and funding opportunities, we can maximize the impact of our efforts, enhance coordination, and ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to improving community health and well-being in the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support collaboration and partnership: We can support and actively participate in collaborative efforts among healthcare providers, community organizations, higher education institutions, and other key actors in the Inland Empire. This includes attending and promoting collaborative meetings, forums, and conferences that facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and resources. By supporting collaboration and partnership, we can enhance coordination and foster a collective approach to addressing complex health challenges.
 - ii. Advocate for continued investment: We can advocate for continued investments in healthcare initiatives and programs in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for sustained funding from the State of California and other sources to support chronic disease prevention and management, mental health support, and addiction services. By advocating for continued investment, we can ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of healthcare initiatives in the region.
 - iii. Create platforms for knowledge sharing: We can create platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration among healthcare providers, community organizations, and higher education institutions. This can involve creating networks, online forums, and resource centers that facilitate the sharing of best practices, research findings, and innovative approaches to address health challenges. By creating platforms for knowledge sharing, we can promote learning, innovation, and continuous improvement in community health and well-being.
 - iv. Promote cross-sector partnerships: We can advocate for and support cross-sector partnerships between healthcare providers, community organizations, and other sectors such as education, housing, and transportation. This includes promoting initiatives that address the social determinants of health and encourage collaboration between different sectors to improve community health outcomes. By promoting cross-



sector partnerships, we can address the root causes of health challenges and create sustainable solutions that have a broader impact.

- v. Facilitate resource navigation and coordination: We can support efforts to enhance resource navigation and coordination for individuals and communities in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for the development of centralized platforms or systems that provide information about healthcare resources, programs, and services. By facilitating resource navigation and coordination, we can ensure that individuals have access to the necessary healthcare and support services they need.

- 6. **Advocate for increased investment in research and innovation in healthcare and public health, with a specific focus on addressing health disparities and mitigating environmental health hazards in the Inland Empire.** As a historically underfunded region across various sectors, we urge funders at all levels, both public and private, to prioritize investing in our local talented researchers and scientists. By providing them with the necessary resources, we can empower them to explore new and innovative approaches to tackle health disparities in the region and effectively address environmental health hazards.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocating for increased investment: We can advocate for increased investment in research and innovation in healthcare and public health in the Inland Empire. This involves engaging with policymakers, funders, and stakeholders to emphasize the importance of addressing health disparities and mitigating environmental health hazards in the region. By advocating for increased investment, we can secure the necessary resources to support local researchers and scientists and enable them to conduct impactful research and develop innovative solutions.
- ii. Supporting local researchers and scientists: We can support local researchers and scientists in the Inland Empire by advocating for funding opportunities, grants, and scholarships specifically targeted towards addressing health disparities and environmental health hazards. This includes collaborating with research institutions, universities, and community organizations to provide mentorship, training, and networking opportunities for researchers in the region. By supporting local researchers and scientists, we can harness their expertise and knowledge to develop context-specific solutions that address the unique health challenges of the Inland Empire.
- iii. Creating research and innovation networks: We can create networks and platforms that facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers, scientists, and healthcare professionals in the Inland Empire. This involves establishing research consortia, organizing conferences, and creating online communities where researchers can connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects. By creating



research and innovation networks, we can foster a collaborative environment that accelerates the translation of research findings into practical solutions for addressing health disparities and environmental health hazards.

- iv. Engaging with funders and policymakers: We can actively engage with funders and policymakers at local, state, and national levels to advocate for policies and funding mechanisms that prioritize addressing health disparities and environmental health hazards in the Inland Empire. This includes participating in public hearings, submitting policy recommendations, and building relationships with key decision-makers. By engaging with funders and policymakers, we can influence resource allocation and policy decisions to ensure that the Inland Empire receives the necessary support for research and innovation in healthcare and public health.
- v. Promoting community involvement and participation: We can promote community involvement and participation in research and innovation efforts related to healthcare and public health. This includes engaging with community-based organizations, community leaders, and residents to ensure that their voices and perspectives are included in research design, implementation, and dissemination. By promoting community involvement, we can ensure that research and innovation efforts are grounded in the needs and priorities of the local community, leading to more effective solutions for addressing health disparities and environmental health hazards.

7. **Increase investment in workforce development programs to ensure a robust, skilled, and healthy healthcare and behavioral healthcare workforce** that can effectively meet the region's current and future healthcare needs. Recognizing that the health and well-being of the workforce play a critical role in their retention and the overall success of the Inland Empire, it is essential to address workplace wellness and prioritize initiatives that promote the health and resilience of healthcare professionals. This includes aligning with initiatives such as the Surgeon General's effort to increase the health workforce, which emphasizes the importance of supporting the physical and mental well-being of healthcare workers. By investing in the development of a skilled and healthy workforce, we can enhance the quality of care provided, improve workforce retention, and ultimately strengthen the healthcare ecosystem in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Supporting workforce development programs: We can support existing workforce development programs and advocate for increased investment in healthcare and behavioral healthcare workforce training and education in the Inland Empire. This involves collaborating with educational institutions, healthcare providers, and community organizations to provide resources, scholarships, and training opportunities for individuals



- pursuing careers in healthcare and behavioral healthcare. By supporting workforce development programs, we can ensure a pipeline of skilled professionals who are equipped to meet the region's healthcare needs.
- ii. **Advocating for funding and resources:** We can advocate for increased funding and resources for workforce development programs in the Inland Empire. This includes engaging with policymakers, funders, and stakeholders to highlight the importance of investing in the healthcare and behavioral healthcare workforce. By advocating for funding and resources, we can secure the necessary support to expand existing programs, develop new training initiatives, and provide ongoing professional development opportunities for healthcare professionals in the region.
 - iii. **Creating partnerships and collaborations:** We can create partnerships and collaborations among healthcare providers, educational institutions, and workforce development organizations to strengthen the healthcare workforce in the Inland Empire. This involves fostering relationships between employers and educational institutions to ensure that training programs align with the needs of the healthcare sector. By creating partnerships, we can enhance the effectiveness of workforce development efforts and improve the transition from education to employment for healthcare professionals.
 - iv. **Promoting workplace wellness initiatives:** We can advocate for and create workplace wellness initiatives that prioritize the health and well-being of healthcare professionals in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting initiatives that address burnout prevention, mental health support, and work-life balance for healthcare professionals. By promoting workplace wellness, we can enhance job satisfaction, improve retention rates, and create a supportive environment that contributes to the overall health and resilience of the healthcare workforce.
 - v. **Supporting research and innovation in healthcare workforce development:** We can support research and innovation in healthcare workforce development by advocating for funding and resources for studies and pilot programs that explore innovative approaches to training, education, and professional development in the healthcare sector. By supporting research and innovation, we can identify best practices, implement evidence-based strategies, and continuously improve the effectiveness of workforce development programs in the Inland Empire.
 - vi. **We recognize the invaluable role that community health workers play in our healthcare system.** Their dedication and expertise are essential for promoting wellness, providing critical support, and bridging gaps in healthcare access. To ensure a healthier and more equitable future for our community, we commit to amplifying our investments in community health workers. By doing so, we aim to bolster their training, expand their

reach, and enhance their impact on the well-being of our residents. Together, we can build a healthier and more resilient Inland Empire.

8. **Promote comprehensive health literacy and education**, including a focus on mental health, to empower individuals, particularly vulnerable populations, with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage their health. This strategy should foster community engagement and active participation in the development and implementation of healthcare and public health policies and programs, with a particular emphasis on underserved and underrepresented communities. By prioritizing holistic health education and amplifying the voices of marginalized populations, we can build a foundation of health knowledge, improve health outcomes, and foster a culture of shared decision-making and community-driven health initiatives throughout the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Supporting health/mental health literacy programs: We can support existing health/mental health literacy programs and advocate for increased investment in health education initiatives in the Inland Empire. This includes collaborating with healthcare providers, community organizations, and educational institutions to develop and implement comprehensive health literacy programs that address the specific needs of the community. By supporting health literacy programs, we can empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their health.
 - ii. Advocating for inclusive health/mental health education: We can advocate for inclusive health education that addresses the unique challenges and needs of underserved and underrepresented communities in the Inland Empire. This involves engaging with policymakers, healthcare organizations, and community leaders to prioritize health education programs that are culturally sensitive, linguistically appropriate, and accessible to all residents. By advocating for inclusive health education, we can ensure that vulnerable populations have equitable access to health information and resources.
 - iii. Creating partnerships for community engagement: We can create partnerships and collaborations to foster community engagement in healthcare and public health policies and programs. This involves actively involving community members, including marginalized populations, in the planning, development, and implementation of health initiatives. By creating platforms for community input and participation, we can ensure that healthcare policies and programs reflect the needs and priorities of the community.
 - iv. Prioritizing Mental Health Integration and Reducing Stigma: We are committed to prioritizing the seamless integration of mental health within our healthcare components, modeling the foundational importance of mental health in overall well-being. We pledge to support mental health



education, advocate for increased resources dedicated to mental health services, and actively work towards reducing the stigma associated with mental health challenges. Our goal is to promote mental health literacy, expand access to mental health resources, and strengthen support networks. We firmly believe that there is no health without mental health, and by championing these efforts, we aim to foster greater awareness, break down barriers to care, and fortify the mental well-being of individuals and communities in the Inland Empire.

- v. Promoting health equity through education: We can promote health equity by integrating education on social determinants of health into health/mental health literacy programs. This involves addressing factors such as socioeconomic status, race, and access to resources that contribute to health disparities. By promoting health equity through education, we can raise awareness of the systemic factors that impact health outcomes and empower individuals and communities to advocate for equitable healthcare and public health policies.

9. **Develop a comprehensive health and well-being strategy that addresses the social determinants of health and adopts a proactive approach to prevention.** This includes integrating social workers and community health workers within our communities to provide support and resources for individuals facing social determinants of health issues that contribute to serious health problems. Implement trauma screenings and social determinants of health screenings for everyone, with a particular focus on children by placing social workers in schools to identify and address their needs before they escalate. Recognize that children with trauma often come from families with trauma, emphasizing the importance of taking a family-centered approach to wellness. By shifting the focus from solely individual-based interventions to a holistic approach that encompasses the entire family, we can address the root causes of health disparities, promote prevention, and improve the overall well-being of underserved communities.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Supporting the development of a comprehensive health and well-being strategy: We can support the development and implementation of a comprehensive health and well-being strategy that addresses the social determinants of health. This includes advocating for the allocation of resources and funding to support the strategy's implementation and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to ensure its effectiveness.
- ii. Advocating for the integration of social workers and community health workers: We can advocate for the integration of social workers and community health workers within our communities. This involves promoting the importance of their roles in providing support and resources to individuals facing social determinants of health issues. By advocating for their inclusion in healthcare systems, schools, and

- community organizations, we can ensure that individuals have access to the necessary support to address their social determinants of health.
- iii. Promoting trauma screenings and social determinants of health screenings: We can advocate for the implementation of trauma screenings and social determinants of health screenings for everyone, with a particular focus on children. This includes advocating for the placement of social workers in schools to identify and address the needs of children before they escalate. By promoting screenings, we can identify individuals who may be experiencing trauma or facing social determinants of health challenges and provide them with appropriate support and interventions.
 - iv. Supporting a family-centered approach to wellness: We can support and advocate for a family-centered approach to wellness that recognizes the interconnectedness of individual and family health. This involves promoting programs and initiatives that address the trauma and social determinants of health within families, providing resources and support to improve overall family well-being. By focusing on the family as a unit, we can create a supportive environment that contributes to the health and well-being of individuals and their communities.
 - v. Collaborating with community stakeholders: We can create partnerships and collaborations with community stakeholders, including healthcare providers, schools, community organizations, and government agencies, to implement the comprehensive health and well-being strategy. By working together, we can leverage resources, expertise, and local knowledge to address health disparities, promote prevention, and improve the overall well-being of underserved communities in the Inland Empire.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. Community Health Centers: Investing in the expansion and enhancement of community health centers can provide comprehensive healthcare services to underserved populations. These centers can address immediate challenges related to access to healthcare while also promoting preventive care, chronic disease management, mental health support, and community outreach.
2. Health Education and Promotion: Implementing health education programs that focus on promoting healthy behaviors, preventive care, and disease management can have a multisolver effect. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills, these programs can contribute to reducing health disparities, preventing chronic diseases, and improving overall well-being.
3. Social Determinants of Health Interventions: Taking a multisectoral approach to address social determinants of health is crucial. Collaborating with organizations in areas such as housing, education, employment, and transportation can help address underlying factors

that contribute to health disparities. Initiatives that focus on affordable housing, improving educational opportunities, creating job opportunities, and enhancing transportation options can positively impact health outcomes.

4. **Mental Health Integration:** Integrating mental health services into primary care settings and community-based programs can address both immediate and long-term challenges in the health and well-being sector. By providing integrated care that addresses both physical and mental health needs, individuals can receive comprehensive support and early intervention, leading to better health outcomes.
5. **Health Equity and Racial Justice:** Prioritizing health equity and racial justice is a multisolver opportunity in the Inland Empire. By addressing systemic inequities, promoting cultural competence in healthcare, and reducing health disparities among marginalized communities, it is possible to create a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system.
6. **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Investing in prevention and early intervention programs can have a multisolver impact on improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare costs. Initiatives that focus on promoting healthy behaviors, early disease detection, and timely intervention can prevent the progression of illnesses, improve population health, and reduce the burden on the healthcare system.

Housing

Housing refers to the provision of safe, affordable, and adequate shelter for individuals and families. It encompasses a range of housing options, including rental and ownership housing, social housing, supportive housing, and emergency shelter.

Housing is a fundamental human need and a basic human right. It is essential for providing shelter and security, and for enabling individuals and families to lead healthy and productive lives. Housing is also critical to economic and social development, providing employment opportunities and supporting the growth of vibrant and inclusive communities.

However, housing is also a complex and multifaceted issue, with significant social, economic, and environmental implications. Access to safe and affordable housing is often limited by factors such as income, race, and social status, and can perpetuate inequality and injustice. Moreover, housing can have significant environmental impacts, particularly with regards to energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

A sustainable approach to housing is one that balances the need for affordable and adequate housing with the need to protect the environment and promote social justice. This requires the development of affordable and energy-efficient housing options, the promotion of mixed-income

and mixed-use communities, and the adoption of policies and practices that support the development of inclusive and sustainable communities.

Housing in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse housing market but also faces a number of challenges related to housing such as affordability, homelessness, and quality of housing. To address these challenges, the area has a number of community development programs that aim to improve housing conditions and increase the availability of affordable housing.

- **Affordability:** One of the biggest challenges facing the Inland Empire is a lack of affordable housing. The area has a high cost of living, and many residents struggle to afford housing. This is particularly true for low-income residents, who may have difficulty affording the high rents and home prices in the area.
- **Homelessness:** The Inland Empire also has a significant homeless population, which is driven in part by a lack of affordable housing. The area's homeless population includes individuals and families who may be struggling to find housing due to high rents, a lack of affordable housing, or other factors.
- **Quality of Housing:** Another challenge facing the Inland Empire is the quality of housing. Some older homes and apartment buildings in the area may have poor conditions or may be in need of repairs, which can lead to health and safety hazards for residents.
- **Community Development:** To address these challenges, the Inland Empire has a number of community development programs that aim to improve housing conditions and increase the availability of affordable housing. These programs may include initiatives that focus on rehabilitating and preserving existing housing, building new affordable housing, and providing housing assistance to low-income residents.

IE Housing Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. **Housing cost burden (rent):** The housing cost burden (rent) is too high for more than half of Inland Empire households. As of 2019, the Inland Empire is comparable to the rest of California (54.8%, 2019) in that 58.6% of Riverside and 57.5% of San Bernardino households paid more than 30% of their income for rent.⁵ Broken down by race, those that are cost burdened are 57.3% and 54.5% for Latino households and 61.4% and 60.7% for Black households in 2019, compared to 50.2% and 48.2% for White households.⁶

⁵ Based on 2019 5-year ACS data, Table DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics; see: https://data.census.gov/table?q=housing+cost+burden&q=040XX00US06_050XX00US06065,06071&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP04

⁶ Based on 2015-2019 HUD CHAS data; see: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html#query_2006-2019

2. Average Rent: The average rent in the Inland Empire is double what a family in poverty can pay. Assuming a household earns minimum wage working full-time (in 2023, CA minimum wage is \$15.50), in order to not spend more than 30% of income on rent, that household can pay less than \$800 in rent. However, HUD's fair market rental rates for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA in 2023 are \$1398 for one bedroom, \$1,751 for two-bedrooms, and \$2,376 for three-bedrooms.⁷
3. Overcrowding: Overcrowding in the Inland Empire is similar to the state average. To accommodate unaffordable rent, many families squeeze into homes that are too small for them. The Census defines overcrowding as having more than one person per room. In California, Riverside, and San Bernardino, 8.2%, 7.1%, and 8.8% of households, respectively, have more than one person/room.
 - a. Black: Riverside: 5%, SB: 7% (2021 5-year acs)
 - b. Latinx: Riverside: 14%, SB: 15% (2021 5-year acs)
4. Housing Quality: There are few very low-quality housing options in the Inland Empire. Another way to accommodate the lack of affordable housing is to live in a low-quality home. Compared to the state rate of 4.3% of households that lack heating, plumbing, or a kitchen, only 2.7% and 2.5% of Riverside and San Bernardino households lack these amenities. These rates are higher for Latino households (3.9% and 3.8% in Riverside and San Bernardino, respectively) and Native American households (3.0% and 3.4%) compared to White families (1.6% and 1.8%).
5. Homeownership: Homeownership is higher in the Inland Empire and for White families. The Inland Empire has higher homeownership than the rest of California, with 54.9%, 66.3%, and 59.8% of California, Riverside, and San Bernardino residents owning their property. Only 48.8% and 37.7% of Black Riverside and San Bernardino residents own their property, compared with 59.3% and 55.4% of Latino residents and 73.8% and 68.7% of White residents.
6. Population Growth & Housing Production: More homes need to be built to house California's growing population.
 - a. Riv-SB-Ont MSA: construction of ~12.6K occupied structures/year⁸
7. Urban vs. Rural: San Bernardino and Riverside continue to rank worst on an urban sprawl index. According to a 2014 Smart Growth America report (based on work done by the Metropolitan Research Center at the University of Utah)⁹, the Riverside and San Bernardino area was listed as one of the most sprawling areas in America. Factors evaluated are: development density, land use mix, activity centering, and street accessibility..

⁷ https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2023_code/2023summary.odn

⁸ https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data/interactive/ahstablecreator.html?s_areas=40140&s_year=2021&s_tablename=TABLE1&s_bygroup1=4&s_bygroup2=1&s_filtergroup1=1&s_filtergroup2=1

⁹ <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/measuring-sprawl-2014.pdf>

8. [The Inland SoCal Housing Collective](#) is a member network of public and private industry players that collectively advocate for affordable and sustainable housing for the Inland region.
9. In recent years, homelessness has become a growing concern in the Inland Empire, with an estimated sheltered and unsheltered homeless population of 7,920 individuals according to point in time counts from both counties in 2023.¹⁰
10. The Inland Empire has seen an increase in efforts to address the housing crisis, including the establishment of a housing task force, the allocation of public funding towards affordable housing development, and the implementation of tenant protections.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the housing sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Housing Affordability:** Many residents in the Inland Empire face challenges related to housing affordability. Rapidly rising housing costs and limited income growth make it difficult for individuals and families to find affordable housing options, leading to housing insecurity and homelessness.
2. **Limited Availability of Affordable Housing:** There is a shortage of affordable housing units in the Inland Empire. The demand exceeds the supply, resulting in long waiting lists and limited options for low-income individuals and families. This scarcity contributes to housing instability and overcrowding.
3. **Homelessness:** The region grapples with a significant homelessness issue. The lack of affordable housing, coupled with economic challenges and limited support services, has led to a rise in homelessness. Addressing homelessness requires a comprehensive approach that includes not only housing solutions but also supportive services to help individuals transition out of homelessness.
4. **Predatory Investment and Remote Ownership:** The high demand for housing in the Inland Empire has made it an attractive destination for housing investors, including hedge funds and international entities, who often lack local ties or a genuine interest in

¹⁰ Riverside County PIT: <https://rivco.org/news/riverside-county-homeless-population-increased-12-percent-while-growth-rate-decreased-3#:~:text=This%20year%27s%20count%20reflected%20an,to%20this%20year%27s%2012%20percent.> ; San Bernardino County PIT: <https://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/sbchp/content/SBC-2023-Homeless-Count-Report.pdf>

the community. Their common practice is to acquire properties at prices exceeding market values and subsequently escalate rental rates swiftly. This pattern has not only resulted in the Inland Empire experiencing the fastest rent increases nationwide but has also displaced prospective local homeowners, compelling them to enter the competitive rental market.

Long-Term Challenges:

1. **Displacement and Gentrification:** As the Inland Empire experiences growth and development, there is a risk of displacement and gentrification. Rising property values and redevelopment projects can lead to the displacement of long-time residents, particularly in low-income communities. Preserving neighborhood character and ensuring housing stability for existing residents are important long-term challenges.
2. **Housing Supply and Infrastructure:** The Inland Empire faces the challenge of balancing housing supply with population growth. Adequate investment in infrastructure, including transportation and utilities, is necessary to support the development of new housing and ensure livable communities.
3. **Quality and Safety:** Ensuring that housing in the Inland Empire meets quality and safety standards is an ongoing challenge. Some residents face substandard living conditions, including issues related to maintenance, code violations, and health hazards. Ensuring that all housing units are safe and habitable is crucial for the well-being and health of residents.
4. **Diminishing Local Homeownership:** The decline in local homeownership poses a dual threat to the stability and vitality of neighborhoods, while also impeding the potential for intergenerational wealth accumulation. This effect is particularly pronounced among middle and low-income households, with a disproportionate impact on BIPOC communities, especially Black households still grappling with the enduring consequences of historical anti-Black policies, such as redlining.

Housing - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for housing in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing, where diverse and inclusive communities thrive, and where housing is seen as a fundamental human right. We aim to strike a balance between the critical needs for housing, environmental protections, and labor safeguards.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where housing policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where communities are empowered to shape their own housing future while reconciling competing interests.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where the region's housing needs are effectively met through innovative and collaborative solutions, and where our communities are protected from displacement and gentrification, recognizing the intricate interplay of housing, the environment, and labor rights.

4. We envision an Inland Empire where the built environment is designed to promote healthy and livable communities, and where housing is integrated with broader social and environmental objectives, fostering harmony among seemingly conflicting priorities.
5. Our vision for housing is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in affordable and sustainable housing, where our communities are resilient, vibrant, and diverse, and where housing is a cornerstone of social and economic development, achieved through a practical and balanced approach to policy-making.

Housing - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of housing in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Affordable and Equitable Housing:** We advocate for solutions that not only prioritize enhancing access to safe and affordable housing for all residents but also champion equitable policies aimed at addressing the needs of marginalized and underrepresented communities. To re-energize and accelerate the construction of 'missing middle,' starter homes, small residences, and single-room occupancy housing models, we emphasize the importance of streamlining and standardizing processes, thereby expanding the availability of naturally affordable housing options across income levels. Our commitment extends to promoting wealth creation among lower-income households while also advancing innovative and inventive approaches to housing production.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Equitable Housing Voucher Program*
 - ii. *Inclusive Zoning Policy*
 - iii. *Large Employers Required to Provide Housing in the Region*
 - iv. *Regional Housing Assistance & Homeownership Programs*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Southern California Housing Collective
 - ii. Fair Housing Council of Riverside County
 - iii. California Housing Partnership
 - iv. Housing California
 - v. Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing (SCANPH)
 - vi. Habitat for Humanity Riverside
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**



- i. Inland Empire Community Land Trusts: Efforts like the IE Community Land Trust, and the Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services Community Land Trust. The NPHS Community Land Trust helps sustain the Inland Empire as a healthy, economically diverse community by providing permanently affordable homes for low-income households whose housing needs are not met by the traditional market.
- ii. Inland Empire Fair Housing Council: The Inland Empire Fair Housing Council is a nonprofit organization that works to promote fair housing and prevent housing discrimination in the region. The organization provides education and outreach to tenants and landlords to promote fair housing practices, and also provides legal assistance to individuals who have experienced housing discrimination.
- iii. Housing Choice Voucher Program: The Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8, is a federal program that provides rental assistance to low-income households. In the Inland Empire, the program is administered by the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino and the Housing Authority of the City of Riverside. The program helps families and individuals access affordable and safe housing by subsidizing their rent.
- iv. Inland Empire United Way: The Inland Empire United Way is a nonprofit organization that works to address the root causes of poverty in the region. One of their focus areas is housing stability, and they provide funding and support to community organizations and initiatives that increase access to affordable and equitable housing.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Housing and Community Development Partnerships: Housing and community development organizations can partner to increase access to affordable and equitable housing for low-income and disadvantaged communities. These partnerships can involve the development of affordable housing projects, as well as the provision of support services such as job training, education, and healthcare.
- ii. Community-Based Partnerships: Community-based organizations can partner with local governments, housing developers, and other stakeholders to advocate for policies and programs that increase access to affordable and equitable housing. These partnerships can involve community engagement and education efforts, as well as advocacy and policy development.
- iii. Financial Institution Partnerships: Financial institutions can partner with affordable housing developers and organizations to provide financing and other resources to support the development of affordable housing projects. These partnerships can also involve the provision of financial education and counseling services to help low-income individuals and families access affordable housing and build financial stability.



- iv. **Public-Private Partnerships for Homeownership:** Public and private entities can also partner to increase homeownership opportunities for low-income families and individuals. For example, local governments can partner with private developers and financial institutions to provide financing and incentives for affordable homeownership projects, while private entities can provide funding and support to help families and individuals overcome barriers to homeownership, such as down payment assistance and credit counseling.
2. **Sustainable Housing:** Solutions that prioritize sustainable and energy-efficient housing practices, with a focus on reducing the carbon footprint and promoting environmentally responsible practices.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *IE Vacant Property Revitalization Initiative*
 - ii. *Promotion of Intergenerational Housing Types & Subsidies*
 - b. **Existing Organizations**
 - i. Habitat for Humanity San Bernardino Area
 - ii. Inland Empire Economic Partnership
 - iii. Inland Equity Partnership
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. **Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB):** HACSB is a public agency that provides affordable housing options and services to low-income families and individuals throughout San Bernardino County. The agency has a focus on sustainability and energy efficiency in their housing developments, with many properties incorporating solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and other green features.
 - ii. **Inland Regional Energy Network:** Initiated in 2019, the proposed Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a consortium of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and San Bernardino Council of Governments that serve the counties of San Bernardino and Riverside. These partners have joined together to submit this Business Plan in order to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency (EE) programs.
 - iii. **Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC):** The CVHC is a nonprofit organization that develops affordable housing options for low-income families and seniors in the Coachella Valley. Their developments often incorporate sustainable features such as solar panels, water conservation systems, and drought-tolerant landscaping.
 - iv. **California Climate Investments:** The California Climate Investments program is a state initiative that invests in projects and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable communities. The program offers funding for affordable housing developments that incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy features, as well as

transportation and infrastructure projects that support sustainable housing.

- v. Green bonds: Green bonds are a type of financial instrument that fund projects with environmental benefits, including sustainable housing. Several organizations in the Inland Empire, such as the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, have issued green bonds to fund the development of sustainable housing projects.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Public-private partnerships: The Inland Empire has a significant need for affordable housing, and public-private partnerships could be a promising avenue for developing sustainable housing options. For example, local governments could partner with private developers to create affordable housing that incorporates sustainable features such as solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and water conservation systems.
- ii. Green jobs training partnerships: Sustainable housing requires specialized knowledge and skills in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building practices. Partnerships between workforce development organizations, community colleges, and housing organizations could help train individuals in these areas, creating a skilled workforce for the sustainable housing industry.
- iii. Community land trusts: Community land trusts are nonprofit organizations that acquire land and hold it in perpetuity for the benefit of the community. They can be used to develop affordable and sustainable housing that is permanently affordable, and partnerships between community land trusts, local governments, and private developers could help create more affordable and sustainable housing options in the Inland Empire.
- iv. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program: The AHSC program is a state initiative that provides funding for affordable housing developments that are located near transit and promote sustainable transportation options. The program also offers funding for sustainable infrastructure and public facilities that support affordable housing.
- v. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): LIHEAP is a federal program that provides assistance to low-income households to help cover the cost of home energy bills. In the Inland Empire, LIHEAP funds have been used to support energy efficiency upgrades in low-income households, including the installation of insulation, weatherization, and other green features.

- 3. **Homelessness Prevention and Support:** Solutions that prioritize preventing homelessness and providing support for those experiencing homelessness, including housing-first approaches and wraparound support services.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Preventative Healthcare Access Fund*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Housing First - City of Riverside
- ii. Community Solutions Built for Zero Initiative
- iii. County of Riverside Executive Office - Homelessness Solutions
- iv. Haven Services
- v. Knowledge and Education for Your Success (KEYS) Nonprofit
- vi. Inland Empire United Way
- vii. Path of Life Ministries
- viii. Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino
- ix. Community Action Project of Riverside County
- x. Step Up

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Project Homekey: In 2020, California launched Project Homekey, a \$600 million program to acquire hotels, motels, and other properties to convert them into permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. The program has provided funding to several projects in the Inland Empire, including a 101-unit project in San Bernardino County.
- ii. Housing Choice Voucher Program: The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides rental assistance to eligible low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The program helps prevent homelessness by helping individuals and families afford safe and stable housing.
- iii. California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Program: The CESH program provides funding to cities and counties to support the development of permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and other homelessness prevention and support programs. The City of San Bernardino received funding through the program to develop a 76-unit permanent supportive housing project.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration between public entities, such as local governments and housing authorities, and private entities, such as developers and non-profit organizations, can be a powerful force in addressing housing and homelessness issues. Public-private partnerships can leverage private sector resources and expertise to create and maintain affordable housing, provide supportive services to homeless individuals and families, and improve the overall quality of life in communities.
- ii. Community-Based Organizations: Community-based organizations, such as faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, and grassroots organizations, can play a critical role in addressing housing and homelessness issues. They often have deep roots in their communities

and can mobilize resources and support to address the specific needs of their communities.

4. **Collaborative Regional Approaches:** Solutions that prioritize fostering collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and jurisdictions to address housing issues on a regional level.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Regional Housing Trust*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Southern California Housing Collective
 - ii. Lift to Rise-Housing Collaborative Action Network
 - iii. Housing Authority of the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino
 - iv. Riverside Housing Development Corporation
 - v. HOPE Through Housing Inland Empire
 - vi. Housing California Residents United Network
 - vii. Inland Equity Partnership
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. **Regional Housing Trust Funds:** Regional housing trust funds (RHTF) can be established by local governments to provide a sustainable funding source for affordable housing development. RHTFs often require collaboration between multiple jurisdictions, which can promote regional approaches to addressing housing issues.
 - ii. **Community Land Trusts:** Community land trusts (CLT) are nonprofit organizations that acquire and hold land for the purpose of creating permanently affordable housing. CLTs often require collaboration between local governments, developers, and community organizations, which can promote regional approaches to addressing housing issues.
 - iii. **Affordable Housing Overlay Zones:** Affordable housing overlay zones (AHOZ) are zoning designations that prioritize affordable housing development in certain areas. AHZO often require collaboration between local governments, developers, and community organizations, which can promote regional approaches to addressing housing issues.
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. **Developer Partnerships:** Developers play a critical role in affordable housing development. Collaboration between developers can help to leverage resources and expertise, facilitate the development process, and identify opportunities for affordable housing development.
 - ii. **Community Organization Partnerships:** Community organizations can be effective partners in addressing housing issues in the Inland Empire. These organizations can provide input and feedback on affordable housing development plans, advocate for policies that promote affordable housing, and help to identify housing needs in underserved communities.
 - iii. **Financial Institution Partnerships:** Financial institutions can play a key role in affordable housing development by providing financing for development

projects. Collaboration between financial institutions and other partners can help to leverage resources, provide expertise on financing strategies, and identify opportunities for affordable housing development.

- iv. Education Institution Partnerships: Educational institutions can be valuable partners in addressing housing issues in the Inland Empire. These institutions can provide research and data analysis on housing needs, facilitate community engagement efforts, and provide expertise on policy and planning strategies.

Housing - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to housing.

1. **Support increased funding for affordable housing development and preservation**, with a particular focus on meeting the housing needs of low-income households. Enhance public-private partnerships and collaboration to leverage available financing tools and resources to maximize the impact of affordable housing investments. Explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as tax credits, grants, and loan programs, to attract private investment and stimulate the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing units. Prioritize the inclusion of affordable housing in mixed-income developments and promote the integration of affordable units in new construction projects. Support community land trusts and other models that ensure long-term affordability and provide stable housing options for low-income individuals and families. Invest in supportive housing programs that combine affordable housing with wraparound services to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations, such as individuals experiencing homelessness or those with mental health challenges. By increasing funding for affordable housing development and preservation through strategic partnerships and financing tools, we can create more affordable housing options, alleviate housing insecurity, and promote inclusive and sustainable communities.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocating for increased funding for affordable housing: We can advocate for increased funding at the local, state, and federal levels to support affordable housing development and preservation. This includes supporting legislation and initiatives that prioritize affordable housing funding and working with policymakers and community organizations to raise awareness about the importance of affordable housing in addressing housing needs.
 - ii. Supporting public-private partnerships and collaboration: We can support and actively participate in public-private partnerships that aim to leverage available financing tools and resources to maximize the impact of

affordable housing investments. This involves advocating for streamlined processes and incentives that encourage private investment in affordable housing and collaborating with developers, financial institutions, and nonprofit organizations to identify and secure funding opportunities.

- iii. Exploring innovative financing mechanisms: We can support the exploration and implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, such as tax credits, grants, and loan programs, to attract private investment and stimulate the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing units. This includes advocating for the expansion of existing financing programs and actively seeking out new funding sources to support affordable housing projects.
- iv. Promoting the inclusion of affordable housing in mixed-income developments: We can advocate for the inclusion of affordable housing units in mixed-income developments, ensuring that affordable housing is integrated into new construction projects. This requires collaborating with developers, local government agencies, and community stakeholders to incorporate affordable housing requirements and incentives in zoning and land use policies.
- v. Supporting community land trusts and long-term affordability models: We can support the establishment and expansion of community land trusts and other models that ensure long-term affordability and provide stable housing options for low-income individuals and families. This involves advocating for policies and resources that enable the creation and sustainability of community land trusts and promoting education and awareness about the benefits of this housing model.
- vi. Investing in supportive housing programs: We can support and invest in supportive housing programs that combine affordable housing with wraparound services to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations, such as individuals experiencing homelessness or those with mental health challenges. This includes advocating for dedicated funding for supportive housing programs and collaborating with service providers, healthcare organizations, and local government agencies to ensure the availability of comprehensive support services.

2. **Support the development and implementation of inclusionary zoning policies,** based on best practices, that require developers to include a percentage of affordable housing units in new developments. These policies should be designed to maximize the number of affordable units across all price levels, taking into account the specific needs and characteristics of the local housing market. Set clear guidelines and standards for developers, ensuring that the affordable units are integrated seamlessly into the overall development and meet quality standards. Explore flexible options, such as allowing developers to provide affordable units on-site or contribute to an affordable housing fund, to accommodate varying project sizes and constraints. Regularly review and

update the inclusionary zoning policies to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with changing housing needs and market conditions. By implementing inclusive zoning policies that prioritize the production of a diverse range of affordable housing units, we can create more equitable communities and provide housing opportunities for individuals and families across different income levels.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Supporting the development and implementation of inclusionary zoning policies: We can support the adoption and implementation of inclusionary zoning policies at the local level. This involves advocating for the inclusion of affordable housing requirements in zoning ordinances and working with local policymakers to develop and pass inclusive zoning policies based on best practices.
 - ii. Advocating for maximizing the number of affordable units across all price levels: We can advocate for inclusionary zoning policies that aim to maximize the number of affordable housing units across different income levels. This includes working with housing advocacy organizations, community groups, and policymakers to set specific targets for affordable unit percentages in new developments that address the needs of both low-income and middle-income households.
 - iii. Setting clear guidelines and standards for developers: We can advocate for the establishment of clear guidelines and standards for developers to ensure that affordable units are integrated seamlessly into new developments and meet quality standards. This involves working with local government agencies to develop comprehensive guidelines that outline design standards, affordability criteria, and other requirements for developers to adhere to.
 - iv. Exploring flexible options for compliance: We can advocate for flexible options within inclusionary zoning policies to accommodate varying project sizes and constraints faced by developers. This may include allowing developers to provide affordable units on-site, contribute to an affordable housing fund, or explore alternative compliance mechanisms that meet the goals of the policy while considering the specific circumstances of each development.
 - v. Advocating for regular review and updates of inclusionary zoning policies: We can support regular reviews and updates of inclusionary zoning policies to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with changing housing needs and market conditions. This involves engaging with local policymakers, housing experts, and community stakeholders to assess the impact of the policies and make necessary adjustments to maximize their benefits.
3. **Promote and support the adoption of comprehensive policies and regulations that protect renters from unjust evictions and ensure housing stability.** This includes



considering measures such as rent control and just cause eviction protections, which provide tenants with increased security and prevent arbitrary or unfair eviction practices. Implement strong rent control measures that strike a balance between protecting tenants' rights and providing landlords with fair returns on their investments. Establish clear criteria and guidelines for just cause evictions, ensuring that landlords have legitimate reasons to evict tenants, such as non-payment of rent or violation of lease terms. Additionally, explore the establishment of tenant relocation assistance programs to support displaced renters and minimize the negative impact of eviction. Regularly monitor and enforce these policies to ensure compliance and address any instances of tenant harassment or unfair eviction practices. By adopting robust renter protection measures, we can safeguard the rights of tenants, promote housing stability, and create more equitable and inclusive communities.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Supporting the adoption of comprehensive renter protection policies: We can support the adoption of comprehensive policies and regulations that protect renters from unjust evictions and ensure housing stability. This includes advocating for measures such as rent control and just cause eviction protections that provide tenants with increased security and prevent arbitrary or unfair eviction practices.
- ii. Advocating for a balanced approach to rent control: We can advocate for the implementation of strong rent control measures that strike a balance between protecting tenants' rights and providing landlords with fair returns on their investments. This involves working with local policymakers, housing advocacy organizations, and community groups to develop and support rent control policies that address the unique needs and characteristics of the Inland Empire housing market.
- iii. Advocating for clear criteria and guidelines for just cause evictions: We can advocate for the establishment of clear criteria and guidelines for just cause evictions, ensuring that landlords have legitimate reasons to evict tenants, such as non-payment of rent or violation of lease terms. This involves working with local government agencies and community stakeholders to develop and promote just cause eviction policies that provide clarity and fairness for both tenants and landlords.
- iv. Exploring the establishment of tenant relocation assistance programs: We can advocate for the exploration and establishment of tenant relocation assistance programs to support displaced renters and minimize the negative impact of eviction. This includes working with local policymakers to develop programs that provide financial and logistical support to tenants who are forced to relocate due to eviction.
- v. Monitoring and enforcing policies to address tenant harassment and unfair eviction practices: We can support the regular monitoring and enforcement of renter protection policies to ensure compliance and address any instances of tenant harassment or unfair eviction practices.



This involves working with local housing authorities and community organizations to create reporting mechanisms, provide resources for tenants facing eviction, and collaborate with legal aid organizations to address violations of renter protection policies.

4. **Support increased investment in public housing to address the growing demand and improve the quality of living conditions for residents.** Allocate funds for maintenance and renovation efforts, prioritizing the repair and modernization of existing public housing units. Enhance the sustainability and energy efficiency of public housing through upgrades to building systems, insulation, and renewable energy installations. Implement robust inspection and maintenance programs to promptly address any health or safety concerns, ensuring that residents have safe and healthy living environments. Collaborate with community organizations and nonprofits to provide additional support services, such as job training, educational programs, and social services, to enhance the overall well-being of public housing residents. By prioritizing investment in public housing and improving maintenance and renovation efforts, we can create dignified, affordable, and sustainable housing options for individuals and families in need, fostering vibrant and inclusive communities.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocating for increased investment in public housing: We can advocate for increased funding and resources for public housing to address the growing demand and improve the quality of living conditions for residents. This includes engaging with local policymakers, housing authorities, and community organizations to prioritize public housing as a key component of affordable housing strategies.
 - ii. Supporting funds for maintenance and renovation: We can support the allocation of funds for maintenance and renovation efforts in public housing developments. By prioritizing repair and modernization of existing units, we can ensure that residents have safe, functional, and well-maintained housing options.
 - iii. Promoting sustainability and energy efficiency: We can advocate for enhancing the sustainability and energy efficiency of public housing by supporting upgrades to building systems, insulation, and the installation of renewable energy sources. This includes collaborating with housing authorities and environmental organizations to promote green building practices and reduce energy costs for residents.
 - iv. Implementing robust inspection and maintenance programs: We can advocate for the implementation of robust inspection and maintenance programs to promptly address any health or safety concerns in public housing. This involves working with housing authorities and tenant organizations to ensure regular inspections, timely repairs, and necessary upgrades to maintain safe and healthy living environments for residents.



- v. Collaborating with community organizations and nonprofits: We can support collaboration between public housing agencies and community organizations or nonprofits to provide additional support services to residents. This includes advocating for the availability of job training, educational programs, social services, and community engagement opportunities that enhance the overall well-being of public housing residents and foster a sense of community.
5. **Support the development and implement programs to assist homeowners with home repairs, weatherization, and replacements** to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and enhance overall housing quality. These programs can provide financial assistance, resources, and guidance for essential repairs and replacements such as roof replacement, HVAC replacement, insulation upgrades, and other energy-saving measures. By focusing on both repairs and replacements, particularly in low-income households, we can ensure that homeowners have safe, efficient, and sustainable homes that alleviate financial burdens and contribute to a more resilient and equitable housing stock.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Supporting and advocating for funding: We can support and advocate for increased funding for programs that assist homeowners with home repairs, weatherization, and replacements. This includes engaging with local and state policymakers, housing authorities, and community organizations to prioritize funding for these programs.
 - ii. Promoting awareness and access: We can raise awareness about the availability of home repair and weatherization programs and advocate for streamlined application processes and increased accessibility. This includes working with community organizations, local government agencies, and homeowner associations to disseminate information and ensure that homeowners are aware of and have access to these programs.
 - iii. Collaborating with local organizations: We can collaborate with local organizations, such as nonprofit housing agencies, community development corporations, and energy efficiency organizations, to create and implement programs that provide financial assistance, resources, and guidance for home repairs and energy efficiency upgrades. This collaboration can include sharing expertise, leveraging resources, and coordinating efforts to maximize the impact of these programs.
 - iv. Facilitating partnerships: We can facilitate partnerships between homeowners, contractors, and energy efficiency service providers to ensure quality workmanship and cost-effective solutions. This includes connecting homeowners with trusted contractors and providing guidance on available incentives and rebates for energy-efficient upgrades.



- v. Providing education and guidance: We can provide homeowners with education and guidance on home repairs, weatherization techniques, and energy-efficient practices. This can be done through workshops, informational materials, and online resources that empower homeowners to make informed decisions about their homes and maximize energy savings.
6. **Support the development and implementation of strategies that promote the creation of mixed-income neighborhoods**, fostering inclusive and vibrant communities in the Inland Empire. These strategies can include incentivizing affordable housing in new developments, implementing inclusionary zoning, and encouraging diverse housing options. By reducing segregation and promoting economic diversity, mixed-income neighborhoods provide opportunities for social cohesion, access to essential amenities, and a sense of community for residents from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Engaging stakeholders and considering transportation infrastructure and public spaces will contribute to the success of these strategies, creating inclusive, equitable, and cohesive neighborhoods throughout the region.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Supporting affordable housing incentives: We can support and advocate for policies that incentivize the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments. This can be done by engaging with local government officials, housing authorities, and developers to encourage the adoption and implementation of such incentives.
 - ii. Advocating for inclusionary zoning: We can advocate for the adoption and enforcement of inclusionary zoning policies that require developers to include a percentage of affordable housing units in new developments. This includes engaging with policymakers, community organizations, and residents to build consensus and support for these policies.
 - iii. Promoting diverse housing options: We can advocate for diverse housing options, including a mix of rental and homeownership opportunities, to cater to different income levels and housing needs. This can involve working with developers, housing organizations, and community groups to ensure a variety of housing types and sizes are available in different neighborhoods.
 - iv. Engaging stakeholders: We can actively engage stakeholders, including residents, community organizations, developers, and local businesses, in discussions and decision-making processes related to neighborhood development. This includes hosting community meetings, workshops, and forums to gather input, address concerns, and ensure that the perspectives of diverse voices are considered.
 - v. Considering transportation infrastructure and public spaces: We can advocate for the development of transportation infrastructure that connects mixed-income neighborhoods to employment centers, schools,



healthcare facilities, and other essential services. Additionally, we can support the creation and improvement of public spaces, such as parks and community centers, that foster social interaction and strengthen community bonds.

7. **Support the increased funding for homeless services and affordable housing in the Inland Empire**, recognizing the urgent need to address homelessness and its underlying causes. This includes allocating resources to expand emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing options for people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, implementing effective prevention programs that target at-risk populations, such as those facing eviction or housing instability, can help prevent homelessness before it occurs. These programs may include rental assistance, mediation services, and financial counseling to provide individuals and families with the support they need to maintain stable housing. By investing in comprehensive solutions and collaboration with local service providers and community organizations, we can make significant progress in reducing homelessness and improving the quality of life for residents in the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocating for increased funding: We can advocate for increased funding from local, state, and federal sources to support homeless services and affordable housing initiatives in the Inland Empire. This can involve engaging with policymakers, attending public hearings, and joining advocacy campaigns to raise awareness of the need for increased resources.
 - ii. Supporting emergency shelters and transitional housing: We can support and advocate for the expansion of emergency shelters and transitional housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This includes collaborating with local homeless service providers, participating in fundraising efforts, and raising public awareness about the importance of these services.
 - iii. Promoting permanent supportive housing: We can advocate for the development of permanent supportive housing, which combines affordable housing with supportive services, for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. This can involve working with housing developers, service providers, and community organizations to identify suitable sites and secure funding for the construction and operation of these housing units.
 - iv. Implementing prevention programs: We can support the implementation of prevention programs that target at-risk populations and help prevent homelessness. This includes advocating for funding for rental assistance programs, eviction prevention services, and financial counseling to support individuals and families facing housing instability.



- v. Collaborating with service providers and community organizations: We can actively collaborate with local homeless service providers, community organizations, and faith-based groups to support their efforts in addressing homelessness. This can involve volunteering, donating resources, and participating in community events aimed at raising awareness and providing support for homeless individuals and families.
8. **Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs to promote and protect local home ownership**, with a focus on assisting low- and moderate-income households. This includes exploring innovative strategies such as implementing taxes on non-local ownership of multiple units (targeting investors), vacancy taxes to incentivize occupied properties, and local home ownership incentives. These measures aim to curb speculative investments, preserve housing stock for local residents, and promote stable communities. Additionally, the implementation of down payment assistance and mortgage assistance programs can help overcome financial barriers and make home ownership more accessible to those with limited resources. By combining these efforts, we can foster sustainable and inclusive communities that prioritize local home ownership and provide opportunities for individuals and families to achieve long-term housing stability and wealth-building.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Supporting local home ownership programs: We can support and advocate for the development and implementation of local home ownership programs that specifically target low- and moderate-income households. This includes providing financial assistance, down payment assistance, and mortgage assistance programs to help individuals and families overcome financial barriers and make home ownership more accessible.
 - ii. Advocating for innovative housing policies: We can advocate for the implementation of innovative housing policies, such as taxes on non-local ownership of multiple units and vacancy taxes, to discourage speculative investments and preserve housing stock for local residents. By working with local policymakers and community organizations, we can raise awareness of these strategies and advocate for their adoption.
 - iii. Creating local home ownership incentives: We can advocate for the creation of local home ownership incentives, such as tax incentives or grants, that encourage and support individuals and families in purchasing homes in the Inland Empire. These incentives can help reduce the financial burden associated with home ownership and promote stable communities.
 - iv. Collaborating with stakeholders: We can collaborate with local government agencies, housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and financial institutions to develop and implement comprehensive home ownership programs. This includes fostering partnerships to provide



educational resources, financial counseling, and workshops on home buying and ownership for aspiring homeowners.

- v. Promoting financial literacy and education: We can support and advocate for financial literacy and education programs that empower individuals and families with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the home buying process. By partnering with local organizations and educational institutions, we can promote financial literacy workshops, homeownership counseling, and resources that guide individuals through the complexities of purchasing and maintaining a home.

9. **Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs that foster collaboration and coordination between sectors to promote sustainable and environmentally-friendly housing.** This includes establishing mechanisms for connecting communities and funding streams, particularly from sectors such as healthcare, energy, and other relevant industries. By facilitating communication and collaboration among these sectors, we can leverage their resources and expertise to support sustainable housing initiatives. Furthermore, integrating strategies and funding streams can ensure that environmental considerations and energy-efficient practices are embedded in the design, construction, and maintenance of housing projects. This holistic approach will not only advance environmental goals but also contribute to the overall health and well-being of residents, creating healthier and more resilient communities.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Supporting collaboration and coordination: Advocate for and support the development of platforms, forums, and initiatives that bring together stakeholders from different sectors, including housing, healthcare, energy, and other relevant industries. These platforms can facilitate communication, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration to promote sustainable and environmentally-friendly housing practices.
- ii. Advocating for funding and resources: Advocate for increased funding and resources from various sectors, including healthcare, energy, and other relevant industries, to support sustainable housing initiatives. This can include advocating for grants, partnerships, and investments that prioritize environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient housing projects.
- iii. Creating partnerships and networks: Foster partnerships and networks between housing developers, healthcare providers, energy companies, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable housing practices. Encourage the sharing of best practices, expertise, and resources to enhance the integration of environmental considerations in housing development and maintenance.
- iv. Supporting policy and regulatory frameworks: Advocate for policies and regulations that promote sustainable and environmentally-friendly housing practices. This can include advocating for incentives and mandates for



energy-efficient building materials, renewable energy installations, and environmentally-friendly design standards.

- v. Promoting knowledge and capacity-building: Support the creation of educational programs, training initiatives, and workshops that provide stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to implement sustainable housing practices. This can include offering training on green building techniques, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable development principles.
- vi. Facilitating partnerships with research institutions: Encourage partnerships between housing developers, healthcare providers, energy companies, and research institutions to explore innovative solutions, conduct research, and gather data on sustainable housing practices. This collaboration can inform evidence-based decision-making and contribute to the development of sustainable housing strategies.

10. Support and advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive set of solutions to accelerate the construction of diverse housing typologies at various cost levels, including the promotion of missing middle housing options. This can be achieved through several key actions. First, update building codes to accommodate and encourage the development of innovative housing designs and construction techniques that utilize non-traditional materials, such as modular construction or sustainable building materials. Second, establish incentives and streamlined processes to incentivize developers and builders to include a mix of housing types in their projects, with a focus on the missing middle housing segment. These incentives may include density bonuses, expedited permitting, and financial assistance programs. Third, foster collaboration between stakeholders, such as local government, developers, and community organizations, to identify suitable locations and maximize the utilization of available land for housing development. By implementing these measures, California can address the housing shortage and offer a wider range of affordable and sustainable housing options for its residents, ensuring greater housing affordability and accessibility across the region.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support innovative housing designs and construction techniques: Advocate for and support the adoption of updated building codes that accommodate and encourage the use of innovative housing designs and construction techniques. This can include promoting the use of non-traditional materials, such as modular construction or sustainable building materials, to expedite construction timelines and increase housing supply.
- ii. Advocate for incentives for diverse housing typologies: Support and advocate for the establishment of incentives and streamlined processes that encourage developers and builders to include a mix of housing types in their projects, with a particular focus on the missing middle housing segment. This can involve advocating for density bonuses, expedited

- permitting, and financial assistance programs that incentivize the construction of diverse housing options.
- iii. Foster collaboration and partnerships: Encourage collaboration between local government, developers, and community organizations to identify suitable locations for housing development and maximize the utilization of available land. This can involve facilitating partnerships and providing resources for stakeholders to work together in identifying potential sites, conducting feasibility studies, and streamlining the development process.
 - iv. Advocate for funding and financial support: Support efforts to secure funding and financial assistance programs that promote the construction of diverse housing typologies. This can include advocating for state and federal funding, grants, and low-interest loans that prioritize the development of affordable and sustainable housing options.
 - v. Promote public awareness and education: Advocate for public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to inform residents about the benefits of diverse housing typologies and the importance of housing affordability and accessibility. This can involve partnering with community organizations, hosting workshops, and disseminating information to promote public understanding and support for diverse housing options.

11. Promote increased housing density, particularly in areas well-served by high-quality transit, to maximize the efficient use of land and transportation infrastructure.

Embrace and leverage the provisions of Senate Bills 9 and 10 (2021) as valuable tools to facilitate increased housing production. SB9 allows for the creation of two residential units on single-family lots, enabling homeowners to build additional housing or create opportunities for small-scale multi-unit developments. SB10 grants local governments the ability to upzone and streamline the approval process for housing projects in transit-rich areas. By strategically implementing these policies, California can unlock the potential for higher-density housing development, fostering greater housing affordability, reducing sprawl, and supporting sustainable communities. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that the implementation of these measures is accompanied by robust community engagement processes to address potential concerns and mitigate any adverse impacts on existing neighborhoods.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support and advocate for increased housing density: We can support and advocate for policies and initiatives that promote increased housing density, particularly in areas well-served by high-quality transit. This includes supporting the provisions of Senate Bills 9 and 10 (2021) and their implementation in local planning processes.
- ii. Engage in community outreach and education: We can create opportunities for community members to learn about the benefits of increased housing density and the provisions of SB9 and SB10. This can involve hosting public forums, workshops, and informational sessions to



address concerns, answer questions, and foster meaningful community engagement.

- iii. Advocate for streamlined approval processes: We can advocate for local governments to streamline the approval process for housing projects in transit-rich areas, as enabled by SB10. This can include working with local officials, planning departments, and community stakeholders to ensure that the approval process is efficient, transparent, and supportive of housing production.
- iv. Support infrastructure improvements: We can support efforts to enhance transportation infrastructure, such as improving transit services and expanding pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in areas with increased housing density. This will help create walkable, bike-friendly neighborhoods and reduce reliance on private vehicles.
- v. Collaborate with developers and builders: We can collaborate with developers and builders to facilitate the construction of higher-density housing projects. This can involve providing technical assistance, connecting developers with financing options, and identifying suitable sites for development.
- vi. Promote affordable housing opportunities: We can advocate for the inclusion of affordable housing in higher-density developments, ensuring that increased housing density also translates into greater affordability and accessibility for residents of all income levels.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. Mixed-Income Housing Developments: Creating mixed-income housing developments can be a multisolver opportunity that addresses both affordability and community integration. By incorporating affordable housing units within mixed-income developments, it promotes socioeconomic diversity, reduces stigma, and provides affordable housing options for low-income individuals and families.
2. Transit-Oriented Development: Encouraging transit-oriented development near public transportation hubs is a multisolver opportunity that addresses both housing and transportation challenges. By developing housing options near transit, it promotes access to affordable housing while also reducing dependence on private vehicles, improving air quality, and enhancing mobility options for residents.
3. Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation: Investing in the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock is a multisolver opportunity that addresses both quality and affordability. By renovating and preserving affordable housing units, it ensures that existing housing remains safe, habitable, and affordable for residents, preventing displacement and maintaining community stability.
4. Supportive Housing: Developing supportive housing that combines affordable housing with wraparound services is a multisolver opportunity that addresses homelessness and housing stability. Supportive housing provides housing for individuals experiencing



- homelessness, along with on-site support services such as counseling, healthcare, and job training, leading to improved health outcomes and increased housing stability.
5. **Community Land Trusts:** Establishing community land trusts is a multisolver opportunity that addresses both affordability and long-term community control. Community land trusts acquire and hold land for the purpose of providing permanently affordable housing. By separating land ownership from housing ownership, it helps stabilize housing costs and ensures long-term affordability, promoting community wealth-building and preventing displacement.
 6. **Green and Sustainable Housing:** Promoting green and sustainable housing practices is a multisolver opportunity that addresses both environmental sustainability and affordability. Energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly housing reduces energy consumption, lowers utility costs for residents, and contributes to climate change mitigation efforts.
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Labor & Workforce

Labor and workforce refer to the individuals, organizations, and institutions that make up the workforce of a particular society or community. It encompasses a range of factors that influence employment, including skills, education, training, wages, and working conditions.

Labor and workforce are essential components of economic and social development, providing the human capital necessary for innovation, productivity, and growth. They are critical to the development of competitive and sustainable economies, and to the creation of meaningful and fulfilling employment opportunities.

However, labor and workforce are also subject to a range of social, economic, and environmental challenges, including inequality, discrimination, and the effects of technological change and automation. These challenges can perpetuate inequality and injustice, and can have significant social and economic impacts.

A sustainable approach to labor and workforce is one that promotes access to education and training, and that supports the development of skills and competencies that are aligned with the needs of the economy. It also involves the adoption of policies and practices that support fair and equitable working conditions, and that promote social and economic justice.

Labor & Workforce in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse and growing workforce but also faces a number of challenges related to labor and workforce development such as economic diversity, education and skills, immigrant workers and unemployment. To help address these challenges, the area has a number of workforce development programs that aim to improve the skills and employability of residents

Workforce

The Inland Empire has a diverse and growing workforce, but also faces a number of challenges related to labor and workforce development.

- **Economic Diversity:** The Inland Empire has a diverse economy, with a mix of industries such as manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and retail trade. However, it also has a high rate of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among low-skilled workers.
- **Education and Skills:** Many workers in the Inland Empire lack the education and skills needed to compete for higher-paying jobs. This is partly because of a lack of access to education and training opportunities, and also because of a lack of resources for low-skilled workers.
- **Immigrant Workers:** The Inland Empire has a large number of immigrant workers who may face additional barriers to entering the workforce, such as a lack of legal status or language barriers.
- **Workforce Development:** To help address these challenges, the Inland Empire has a number of workforce development programs that aim to improve the skills and employability of residents. These programs may include initiatives that focus on providing job training and education, connecting workers with employers, and providing support services such as childcare and transportation.

The Creative Economy

The “creative economy” refers to the businesses, workers, and industries that contribute to the creation, production, distribution, and promotion of arts, cultural, and entertainment products. In the Inland Empire, the creative economy plays an important role in the regional economy, generating jobs and income and providing opportunities for creative expression and cultural exchange.

Some of the key components of the creative economy in the Inland Empire include:

- **Arts and Culture:** The Inland Empire is home to a diverse array of arts and cultural organizations, including museums, theaters, music venues, and performance spaces. These organizations support local artists, promote cultural exchange, and provide opportunities for community engagement and education.
- **Native American Cultural Creativity:** The Inland Empire has a rich history of Native American culture and art, with several Native American communities and cultural centers that provide opportunities for residents to learn about and experience the diverse cultures of the region.
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** The Inland Empire has been a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship in recent years, with a growing number of startups, tech companies, and other businesses driving growth and creating new opportunities in the region.

- **Film & Television:** The Inland Empire is home to a growing film and television industry, with a number of production studios and facilities located in the region. The film and television industry provides jobs for a wide range of workers, from actors and directors to technicians and support staff.
- **Music:** The Inland Empire has a rich and diverse music scene, with a range of venues and events that showcase local and regional talent. The music industry supports musicians, producers, and other professionals, and helps to drive the regional economy through ticket sales, merchandise sales, and other related activities.
- **Gaming and Interactive Media:** The Inland Empire is also home to a growing gaming and interactive media industry, with a number of companies and developers located in the region. This industry provides jobs for game designers, artists, programmers, and other professionals, and contributes to the overall growth of the creative economy.

IE Labor & Workforce Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. Education significantly impacts employability, with degree holders in San Bernardino and Riverside experiencing higher employment rates compared to those without college experience.
2. Wage disparities are evident across industries, with lower wages observed in sectors such as food services and higher wages in fields like finance and insurance.
3. The Inland Empire witnessed a rise in job numbers since the pandemic lows, particularly in sectors like warehousing.
4. Labor groups like The Inland Empire Labor Council represent a vast network of union members, advocating for labor rights and fair working conditions.
5. While employment is crucial, the focus is shifting towards “good jobs,” encompassing fair pay, stability, benefits, and worker satisfaction.
6. Diversity persists in job quality, with varying percentages of “good jobs” held by different demographic groups.
7. Local efforts like The Inland Empire Labor Institute and the High Road Training Partnership contribute to elevating workforce skills, creating employment opportunities, and advocating for fair working conditions.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the economic development sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Unemployment and Underemployment:** The Inland Empire faces the challenge of high unemployment and underemployment rates, particularly during economic downturns or during periods of industry transitions. Many individuals struggle to find stable and meaningful employment that matches their skills and qualifications.
2. **Low-Wage Jobs:** The region has a significant number of low-wage jobs, which can make it difficult for workers to meet their basic needs and achieve financial stability. The prevalence of low-wage jobs contributes to income inequality and can hinder economic mobility for workers.
3. **Limited Access to Training and Education:** Some individuals in the Inland Empire may face challenges in accessing quality training and education opportunities that can enhance their skills and increase their employability. Limited access to affordable education and vocational training programs can hinder career advancement and limit job opportunities.
4. **Workforce Disparities:** Certain populations within the Inland Empire, such as communities of color, women, and individuals with disabilities, may face disparities and barriers in accessing employment opportunities, experiencing higher rates of unemployment or underrepresentation in certain industries or occupations.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Skills Mismatch:** The labor market in the Inland Empire may face challenges related to a skills mismatch, where the skills possessed by the local workforce do not align with the demands of the evolving job market. This can result in a gap between available job opportunities and the skills of job seekers.
2. **Technological Advancements and Automation:** Rapid technological advancements and automation pose long-term challenges for the labor and workforce sector. Automation may lead to the displacement of certain jobs and require workers to adapt to new technological skills and competencies.
3. **Industry Diversification:** The Inland Empire has historically been reliant on industries such as logistics and warehousing. Encouraging diversification by promoting the growth of emerging industries and fostering innovation can be a long-term challenge to reduce dependency on specific sectors and create more resilient job opportunities.
4. **Income Inequality:** Addressing income inequality is a long-term challenge in the labor and workforce sector. Bridging the wage gap between different occupations and industries and ensuring equitable access to job opportunities and benefits are important aspects of creating a more inclusive and equitable labor market.

Labor & Workforce - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for labor and workforce in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to good-paying, quality jobs with opportunities for career advancement, where workers' rights are protected, and where all work is valued and dignified.

2. We envision an Inland Empire where labor and workforce policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where workers are empowered to shape their own future.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where the region's diverse workforce is supported through effective training, education, and apprenticeship programs, and where our communities are resilient in the face of economic change.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where the gig economy and non-standard work arrangements are regulated to ensure fairness, safety, and dignity for workers, and where access to childcare, healthcare, and other benefits are guaranteed.
5. Our vision for labor and workforce is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in equitable and sustainable employment practices, where workers are valued and respected, and where our communities are economically prosperous and resilient.

Labor & Workforce- Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of labor and workforce in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Improve job quality and access:** This category includes solutions that focus on creating good-paying, quality jobs with opportunities for career advancement, protecting workers' rights, and valuing all types of work.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Equity Workforce Development Fund*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Future-Ready Workforce Training Program (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP)
 - ii. Riverside County Workforce Development
 - iii. Inland Empire SoCal United Way
 - iv. Cal State San Bernardino, Economic and Workforce Development Department
 - v. Justice for Janitors Campaign (National)
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. High Roads Training Partnership (HRTTP)
 - ii. Inland Empire Technical Training Center
 - iii. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
 - iv. Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)

- v. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- vi. IE Funders Alliance

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration between labor unions and employers: Unions can negotiate with employers for better wages, benefits, and working conditions for workers. This can lead to more stable employment and higher job quality. Employers can also partner with unions to provide training and education programs for their workers.
 - ii. Partnership between community colleges and employers: Community colleges can partner with employers to provide job training programs that prepare workers for specific jobs in high-demand industries. This can help to improve job access and quality for workers in the region.
 - iii. Partnership between workforce development organizations and employers: Workforce development organizations can partner with employers to provide job placement services, career coaching, and other support to help workers find and keep good jobs. This can help to improve job quality and access for workers who may face barriers to employment.
 - iv. Collaboration between government agencies and community organizations: Government agencies and community organizations can work together to develop policies and programs that support job quality and access. For example, they can collaborate on initiatives to increase the minimum wage, provide paid sick leave, or expand access to affordable childcare.
 - v. Partnership between businesses and community organizations: Businesses can partner with community organizations to provide job training programs, mentorship opportunities, and other support to workers in the region. This can help to improve job quality and access, while also strengthening ties between businesses and the community.
2. **Effective training and education programs:** This category includes solutions that focus on supporting the region's diverse workforce through effective training, education, and apprenticeship programs to enhance their skills and increase job opportunities.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Future-Ready Workforce Training Program (2)*
 - ii. *Youth Employment & Skills Development*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) - IE Labor Institute
 - ii. Generation Go/Vision2Succeed - San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department
 - iii. Guided Pathways
 - iv. Riverside Community College District (RCCD)
 - v. San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board
 - vi. Inland Empire Job Corps Center

- vii. Riverside County Workforce Development
- viii. Inland SoCal United Way
- ix. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire - mentorship programs
- x. California Employment Training Panel
- xi. K-16 Collaborative
- xii. Inland Empire Technical Trade Center
- xiii. MARS Career Promise - March Joint Powers Authority

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. The Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium (IEDRC)
- ii. San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board
- iii. Riverside County Workforce Development
- iv. High Roads Training Partnership (H RTP)
- v. Inland Empire Technical Training Center
- vi. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- vii. Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration between educational institutions and employers: There is a growing need for employers to partner with educational institutions to create training programs that meet the needs of the local workforce.
- ii. Public-private partnerships: Public-private partnerships can be an effective way to leverage the resources and expertise of both the public and private sectors to develop training and education programs that meet the needs of the local workforce.
- iii. Industry-led training programs: Many industries have taken the lead in developing their own training programs to address specific skills gaps and workforce needs.
- iv. Apprenticeship programs: Apprenticeship programs are a proven way to provide workers with on-the-job training and education, while also providing employers with a pipeline of skilled workers.
- v. Community-based training programs: Community-based organizations can play an important role in providing training and education programs that meet the needs of underserved communities.

3. **Regulate gig economy and non-standard work arrangements:** This category includes solutions that aim to regulate the gig economy and non-standard work arrangements to ensure fairness, safety, and dignity for workers and provide access to childcare, healthcare, and other benefits.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. No proposed solutions fit into this theme*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Inland Empire Labor Council
- ii. Inland Empire Labor Institute

- iii. Warehouse Worker Resource Center
- iv. Inland Empire Women's Business Center
- v. Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC)
- vi. Just San Bernardino
- vii. CA AB5

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. High Roads Training Partnership (HRTP)
- ii. Inland Empire Technical Training Center
- iii. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- iv. Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)
- v. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Labor unions: Labor unions can be important partners in advocating for worker protections and regulations for the gig economy and non-standard work arrangements. Unions can help raise awareness of issues facing gig workers, provide support and resources for organizing, and push for policy changes at the local and state level.
- ii. Community organizations: Community organizations can be powerful partners in advocating for policies that support workers in the gig economy and non-standard work arrangements.
- iii. Workforce development agencies: Workforce development agencies can play a critical role in supporting gig workers by providing training, education, and resources to help workers transition to more stable and secure employment.
- iv. Government agencies: Local and state government agencies can be important partners in regulating the gig economy and non-standard work arrangements.
- v. Business organizations: Business organizations can be important partners in advocating for policies that support gig workers while also promoting economic growth and innovation.

4. **Equitable and sustainable employment practices:** This category includes solutions that envision the Inland Empire as a leader in equitable and sustainable employment practices, where workers are valued and respected, and communities are economically prosperous and resilient.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. Regional Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub*
- ii. Inland Empire Public Sector Mental Health Initiative Pilot Program*
- iii. Inland Empire Workforce Development Exchange*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. High Road Training Partnership (HRTP)
- ii. Guided Pathways
- iii. Riverside Community College District (RCCD)
- iv. San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board

- v. Riverside County Workforce Development
- vi. Inland SoCal United Way
- vii. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- viii. Just San Bernardino
- ix. Inland Empire Technical Trade Center

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. High Roads Training Partnership (H RTP)
- ii. San Bernardino Workforce Development Board
- iii. Riverside County Workforce Development
- iv. San Bernardino Investment Playbook
- v. Inland Empire Technical Training Center
- vi. Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)
- vii. Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)
- viii. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Workforce Development Boards (WDBs): The Inland Empire has two WDBs, the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board and the Riverside County Workforce Development Board, which offer services to job seekers and employers.
- ii. Community-based organizations (CBOs): There are several CBOs in the Inland Empire that focus on providing job training, and support services to low-income and disadvantaged individuals.
- iii. Educational institutions: Colleges and universities in the Inland Empire often partner with employers to develop programs and curricula that align with industry needs.
- iv. Local government: Local governments in the Inland Empire often partner with employers to provide incentives for hiring and training workers.
- v. Industry associations: Industry associations in the Inland Empire often partner with employers, educational institutions, and government agencies to promote workforce development and training programs that support sustainable and equitable employment practices

Labor & Workforce - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to the labor and workforce.

1. **Promoting equitable workforce training and education for inclusive economic growth:** Enhance and broaden initiatives to address the demands of the Inland Empire's expanding industries by investing in vocational training, apprenticeships, upskilling programs, and professional development education, prioritizing transferable skills and

industry-recognized certifications. Ensure accessibility and availability of programs for all ages, including early exposure to career opportunities. Focus on communities historically marginalized within the labor force, such as individuals with disabilities and BIPOC communities, to promote equitable access, create pathways for economic advancement, and foster a diverse workforce that reflects the region's diversity and promotes social and economic equity.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support workforce training and education initiatives: We can support and allocate resources to existing programs and initiatives that promote vocational training, apprenticeships, upskilling programs, and professional development education. This includes advocating for increased funding and partnerships with educational institutions, industry associations, and workforce development agencies to expand and enhance these programs.
- ii. Advocate for accessible and inclusive programs: We can advocate for the development and implementation of vocational training and education programs that are accessible and available to individuals of all ages. This includes ensuring that programs are designed to accommodate different learning needs and providing support services, such as career counseling and mentorship, to help individuals navigate their educational and career pathways.
- iii. Promote early exposure to career opportunities: We can support initiatives that provide early exposure to career opportunities for students in the Inland Empire. This can involve partnering with schools, community organizations, and businesses to offer career exploration programs, internships, and mentorship opportunities that expose young people to various industries and help them develop transferable skills.
- iv. Prioritize equity and inclusion: We can prioritize equity and inclusion in workforce training and education by focusing on communities historically marginalized within the labor force, such as individuals with disabilities and BIPOC communities. This can include targeted outreach efforts, scholarship programs, and partnerships with community organizations that serve these populations. By addressing barriers to access and creating pathways for economic advancement, we can promote a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the region's diversity and fosters social and economic equity.
- v. Foster collaboration and partnerships: We can foster collaboration between educational institutions, industry stakeholders, and community organizations to create a comprehensive and coordinated approach to workforce training and education. This includes facilitating partnerships that align curriculum with industry needs, providing resources and support for educators and trainers, and establishing pathways for seamless transitions between education and employment.

2. **Develop and implement comprehensive workforce policies that promote equity, inclusion, and fairness**, including living wage ordinances, equal pay, non-discrimination policies, pathways to advancement, and gig economy worker protections. Provide guidance and resources to the private sector for developing internal plans that align with these policies, fostering inclusive work environments and compliance. Explore employer-mentorship programs where established businesses can share best practices, provide guidance, and support the implementation of effective workforce policies, strengthening their impact and promoting collaboration between employers and the workforce. This approach enhances the labor market's quality, promotes positive change, and benefits employees and employers alike.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support the implementation of comprehensive workforce policies: We can support the development and implementation of living wage ordinances, equal pay policies, non-discrimination policies, pathways to advancement, and gig economy worker protections. This includes advocating for the adoption of these policies at the local and regional levels and providing resources and guidance to businesses to ensure compliance.
 - ii. Advocate for equity and inclusion in the workforce: We can advocate for the adoption of inclusive practices and policies in the private sector. This includes advocating for the establishment of diverse and inclusive work environments that promote equal opportunities for all employees, regardless of their background or identity. We can also advocate for the enforcement of non-discrimination policies and equal pay regulations.
 - iii. Create guidance and resources for businesses: We can create resources and guidance materials that help businesses develop internal plans and practices that align with workforce equity and inclusion policies. This includes providing information on best practices, case studies, and toolkits that businesses can use to foster inclusive work environments and ensure compliance with relevant regulations.
 - iv. Promote employer-mentorship programs: We can promote and facilitate employer-mentorship programs where established businesses can mentor and guide smaller businesses in implementing effective workforce policies. This collaboration between employers can promote knowledge-sharing, provide guidance on best practices, and strengthen the impact of workforce policies in the region.
 - v. Collaborate with business organizations and chambers of commerce: We can collaborate with local business organizations and chambers of commerce to advocate for and support workforce policies that promote equity, inclusion, and fairness. By partnering with these organizations, we can amplify our advocacy efforts and leverage their influence to drive positive change in the business community.



3. **Promote and incentivize the development of local, sustainable, high-quality, high road jobs** that contribute to the region's economic growth and vitality. This can be achieved through strategic investments such as clean energy and green technology, fostering the growth of sustainable local manufacturing, and supporting the development of small businesses. By prioritizing these sectors, we can create opportunities for local job creation, encourage environmentally responsible practices, and enhance the long-term economic sustainability of the region.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support local, sustainable industries: We can support and advocate for the development and growth of local industries that align with sustainable practices, such as clean energy and green technology. This includes advocating for policies and incentives that encourage the establishment and expansion of businesses in these sectors, providing them with the necessary resources and support to thrive in the region.
 - ii. Foster sustainable local manufacturing: We can support and advocate for the development of sustainable manufacturing practices in the Inland Empire. This can involve partnering with manufacturers to promote environmentally responsible production processes, supporting the adoption of clean technologies, and advocating for the use of sustainable materials and practices throughout the supply chain.
 - iii. Create incentives for high-quality, high-road jobs: We can create incentives and programs that encourage the creation of high-quality jobs in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting initiatives that prioritize fair wages, benefits, and worker protections, as well as promoting opportunities for career advancement and skill development. By incentivizing businesses to adopt high-road practices, we can foster a thriving job market that benefits both workers and the local economy.
 - iv. Support small business development: We can create programs and resources that support the development and growth of small businesses in the Inland Empire. This can include providing access to capital, offering mentorship and business training programs, and streamlining regulatory processes to make it easier for small businesses to establish and operate. By fostering the growth of small businesses, we can stimulate local entrepreneurship, create job opportunities, and contribute to the region's economic vitality.
 - v. Collaborate with stakeholders and community organizations: We can collaborate with stakeholders, including local government, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, and community organizations, to advocate for and implement initiatives that promote sustainable and high-quality job creation. By working together, we can leverage collective resources and expertise to drive economic growth, while ensuring that it is environmentally responsible and socially inclusive.



4. **Strengthen collaboration between local high-road employers and education providers** to establish a robust talent pipeline that aligns with the demands of the local job market and enhances the overall quality of jobs in the region. This collaboration should not only focus on technical skills training but also emphasize the development of professional and foundational skills, commonly known as "soft skills" or "foundational skills." Programs such as mentoring and job coaching can play a vital role in supporting individuals in acquiring and honing these skills, ensuring a well-rounded workforce that meets the evolving needs of the job market and raises the standard for job quality in the region.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Support talent development programs:** We can support and advocate for the establishment and expansion of talent development programs that bridge the gap between education providers and local high-road employers. This includes supporting initiatives that provide opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning experiences, allowing students and job seekers to gain practical skills and industry exposure while connecting with potential employers.
 - ii. **Advocate for curriculum alignment:** We can advocate for the alignment of educational curricula with the demands of the local job market. This involves working with education providers to ensure that their programs and courses incorporate the necessary technical and foundational skills that are in high demand by local employers. By aligning education with industry needs, we can enhance the relevance of education and better prepare individuals for the workforce.
 - iii. **Create partnerships and collaboration platforms:** We can create platforms and programs that facilitate collaboration and partnerships between local high-road employers and education providers. This can include hosting job fairs, industry advisory boards, and networking events that bring together employers and educators to share insights, discuss industry trends, and explore opportunities for collaboration. By fostering these connections, we can strengthen the talent pipeline and ensure that education and training programs are responsive to the needs of the local job market.
 - iv. **Promote soft skills development:** We can support the development of soft skills or foundational skills that are essential for success in the workplace. This can involve advocating for the integration of soft skills training into educational programs and collaborating with employers to offer mentorship and job coaching programs that help individuals acquire and enhance these skills. By prioritizing the development of soft skills, we can cultivate a workforce that is not only technically proficient but also possesses the interpersonal and communication skills necessary for long-term career success.

- v. Invest in career counseling and guidance: We can create resources and programs that provide career counseling and guidance to individuals, helping them navigate career pathways, explore job opportunities, and make informed decisions about their education and training choices. By providing accessible and comprehensive career guidance, we can support individuals in making meaningful and informed career choices that align with the needs of the local job market.
5. **Support and encourage the development of worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses, while also fostering an environment that nurtures local entrepreneurs and innovators.** By promoting economic democracy and shared ownership through worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses, we can create opportunities for individuals to have a stake in their work, enhance job satisfaction, and foster a sense of ownership within the community. Additionally, providing support mechanisms such as mentorship programs, access to capital, and business development resources for local entrepreneurs and innovators will further stimulate economic growth, job creation, and innovation in the region.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses: We can actively support and advocate for the development and growth of worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses in the region. This can involve providing resources, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals and groups interested in starting or transitioning to a cooperative or employee-owned model. By promoting economic democracy and shared ownership, we can empower workers, enhance job satisfaction, and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive economy.
 - ii. Advocate for favorable policies and regulations: We can advocate for policies and regulations that create an enabling environment for worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses to thrive. This includes advocating for tax incentives, access to financing, and legal frameworks that recognize and support cooperative ownership structures. By working with policymakers and local government officials, we can help shape a supportive ecosystem that encourages the growth and sustainability of these businesses.
 - iii. Create mentorship and support programs: We can create mentorship programs that connect experienced cooperative members and employee-owners with individuals or groups looking to establish or grow their own businesses. These mentorship programs can provide guidance, share best practices, and offer insights into the unique challenges and opportunities of worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses. Additionally, we can support the development of business development resources and training programs tailored specifically for cooperative



models, equipping entrepreneurs and innovators with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

- iv. Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation: We can create an environment that nurtures local entrepreneurs and innovators by promoting entrepreneurship education, hosting entrepreneurship competitions, and providing networking opportunities. This can include partnering with educational institutions, business associations, and community organizations to offer training programs, workshops, and events that inspire and support aspiring entrepreneurs. By fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, we can stimulate economic growth, job creation, and community development in the Inland Empire.
- v. Facilitate access to capital: We can advocate for increased access to capital for worker cooperatives, employee-owned businesses, and local entrepreneurs. This can involve working with financial institutions, community development organizations, and impact investors to create loan programs, investment funds, and other financial mechanisms that specifically target and support these types of businesses. By addressing the capital needs of cooperative ventures and local entrepreneurs, we can remove a significant barrier to their growth and success.

6. **Prioritize and take proactive measures to support and enhance work-life balance and flexibility for employees in the Inland Empire.** This can include supporting local, state, and federal policies that prioritize paid family leave, sick leave, and telecommuting options, enabling workers to better manage their personal and professional responsibilities. Additionally, we can promote flexible work schedules and remote work opportunities, allowing employees to have greater control over their work hours and location. By collaborating with local organizations and community partners, we can also work towards increasing access to affordable and quality childcare options. Furthermore, fostering a supportive workplace culture that values employee well-being, offering wellness programs, employee assistance programs, and professional development opportunities, and leveraging communication and collaboration tools can contribute to a healthier work-life balance. By incorporating these strategies, we can create a more inclusive and supportive work environment that recognizes the diverse needs and obligations of workers, leading to higher job satisfaction, improved work-life integration, and ultimately, a thriving workforce in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support policies for work-life balance: We can actively support and advocate for local, state, and federal policies that prioritize and strengthen work-life balance measures. This includes advocating for paid family leave, sick leave, and telecommuting options, which allow employees to better manage their personal and professional responsibilities. By collaborating with lawmakers, community organizations, and advocacy



groups, we can help shape policies that promote work-life balance and improve the overall well-being of workers in the region.

- ii. Promote flexible work arrangements: We can advocate for and encourage the adoption of flexible work schedules and remote work opportunities among employers in the Inland Empire. This can involve working with businesses to develop policies and practices that allow employees to have greater control over their work hours and location. By highlighting the benefits of flexible work arrangements, such as increased productivity, improved work-life integration, and reduced commuting time, we can foster a supportive work environment that values work-life balance.
- iii. Increase access to affordable and quality childcare: We can collaborate with local organizations, childcare providers, and policymakers to increase access to affordable and quality childcare options in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for increased funding for childcare subsidies, expanding childcare facilities, and supporting initiatives that improve the availability and affordability of childcare services. By addressing childcare challenges, we can alleviate the burden on working parents and enable them to better manage their work and family responsibilities.
- iv. Foster a supportive workplace culture: We can work with employers to foster a supportive workplace culture that values employee well-being. This can include promoting wellness programs, employee assistance programs, and professional development opportunities that enhance work-life balance and support overall employee health and happiness. Additionally, leveraging communication and collaboration tools can facilitate effective remote work and flexible work arrangements, enabling employees to maintain a healthy work-life balance.
- v. Raise awareness and provide resources: We can support and create initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of work-life balance and provide resources to employees and employers in the Inland Empire. This can involve organizing workshops, webinars, and events that address work-life balance topics, providing educational materials and toolkits, and connecting individuals and organizations with relevant resources and support networks.

7. **Develop and implement policies and programs that support the needs of historically marginalized and underserved communities.** It is crucial to develop and implement policies and programs that support the needs of historically marginalized and underserved communities, including people of color, women, low-income workers, undocumented individuals, people with disabilities, and justice-impacted individuals. By addressing systemic barriers and providing targeted support, such as accessible accommodations, vocational training, mentorship programs, and fair hiring practices, we

can promote equitable access to opportunities and promote economic empowerment for all members of the community. By incorporating these strategies, we can create a more inclusive and supportive work environment that recognizes and uplifts the diverse talents and experiences of individuals, leading to a stronger and more resilient labor force in the Inland Empire.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support inclusive policies and programs: We can support and advocate for the development and implementation of policies and programs that specifically address the needs of historically marginalized and underserved communities. This includes advocating for equitable access to resources, services, and opportunities for people of color, women, low-income workers, undocumented individuals, people with disabilities, and justice-impacted individuals. By working with local policymakers, community organizations, and advocacy groups, we can help shape inclusive policies that promote economic empowerment and remove barriers to success.
- ii. Advocate for accessible accommodations: We can advocate for the implementation of accessible accommodations in workplaces and public spaces to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to employment and community participation. This includes supporting the enforcement of disability rights laws and regulations, promoting accessible infrastructure, and raising awareness about the importance of inclusivity and accessibility.
- iii. Promote vocational training and mentorship programs: We can support and create vocational training programs and mentorship initiatives that target historically marginalized and underserved communities. These programs can provide individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and support to access and thrive in the workforce. By collaborating with local educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations, we can create pathways to economic empowerment and upward mobility.
- iv. Advocate for fair hiring practices: We can advocate for fair hiring practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the labor market. This includes supporting policies and initiatives that encourage employers to adopt non-discriminatory practices, eliminate biases in recruitment and selection processes, and prioritize diverse hiring. By advocating for fair hiring practices, we can create more inclusive workplaces that value and celebrate the contributions of individuals from all backgrounds.
- v. Foster partnerships and collaborations: We can foster partnerships and collaborations between employers, community organizations, and educational institutions to create a supportive ecosystem that promotes economic empowerment for historically marginalized and underserved communities. This can involve creating networking opportunities,

establishing mentorship programs, and facilitating resource sharing to enhance access to job opportunities, training, and support services.

8. **Investment and support for wrap-around services** for individuals in the labor/workforce is crucial to ensure their success and well-being. By providing comprehensive support beyond job placement, such as childcare, transportation assistance, mental health services, housing assistance, and financial literacy programs, we can address the multifaceted needs of workers and remove barriers to their productivity and advancement. These wrap-around services create a supportive environment that fosters stability, reduces stress, and promotes work-life balance, ultimately enhancing job satisfaction, retention, and overall workforce resilience. Investing in these services not only benefits individuals but also contributes to a more equitable and thriving labor/workforce ecosystem, leading to improved productivity, economic growth, and stronger communities.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Support and advocate for comprehensive wrap-around services:** We can support and advocate for the availability and accessibility of wrap-around services for individuals in the labor/workforce. This includes supporting funding initiatives and policies that prioritize the provision of services such as childcare, transportation assistance, mental health services, housing assistance, and financial literacy programs. By partnering with local service providers, community organizations, and advocacy groups, we can ensure that these essential services are available to workers and tailored to their specific needs.
 - ii. **Create collaborative partnerships:** We can create collaborative partnerships between employers, service providers, and community organizations to establish and expand wrap-around service programs. These partnerships can involve sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise to develop and implement comprehensive support systems for workers. By leveraging the strengths and resources of various stakeholders, we can create a more coordinated and effective network of wrap-around services that address the diverse needs of workers in the Inland Empire.
 - iii. **Advocate for policies that support work-life balance:** We can advocate for policies that promote work-life balance and create supportive environments for workers. This includes advocating for policies such as flexible work hours, remote work options, and paid time off to ensure that workers have the flexibility to manage their personal and professional responsibilities. By supporting and advocating for these policies, we can contribute to a healthier work-life balance, reduced stress, and increased job satisfaction among workers.
 - iv. **Collaborate with employers to implement supportive practices:** We can collaborate with employers to create and implement supportive practices



that prioritize the well-being and success of workers. This can involve promoting initiatives such as employee assistance programs, wellness programs, and financial literacy workshops. By working directly with employers, we can foster a culture of support and understanding that recognizes the holistic needs of workers and provides the necessary resources to enhance their overall well-being.

- v. Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of wrap-around services: We can commit to regularly evaluating the effectiveness of wrap-around services and making improvements based on feedback and data. This includes conducting assessments, gathering input from workers and service providers, and using the findings to refine and enhance the delivery of wrap-around services. By continuously assessing and improving these services, we can ensure their relevance and effectiveness in meeting the evolving needs of workers in the Inland Empire.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. **Workforce Development Programs:** Investing in comprehensive workforce development programs that provide training, education, and skills development opportunities can address immediate challenges such as unemployment and underemployment. By equipping individuals with the skills needed for in-demand industries, these programs can enhance employability and promote economic mobility.
2. **Job Placement and Career Counseling Services:** Establishing job placement and career counseling services can help address immediate challenges related to limited access to employment opportunities and skills mismatch. These services can provide guidance to job seekers, connecting them with suitable job openings and assisting them in identifying career pathways that align with their interests and qualifications.
3. **Apprenticeship Programs:** Implementing apprenticeship programs that combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction can address immediate challenges of limited access to quality training and education. These programs provide individuals with hands-on experience while acquiring the necessary skills for specific trades or industries, fostering career advancement and reducing skills gaps.
4. **Economic Diversification:** Promoting economic diversification in the Inland Empire is a multisolver opportunity that can address both immediate and long-term challenges. By attracting and supporting the growth of emerging industries, the region can create new job opportunities and reduce dependence on specific sectors. This can enhance resilience, reduce unemployment rates, and foster innovation.
5. **Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs:** Providing support for small businesses and entrepreneurs is a multisolver opportunity that can address immediate challenges such as low-wage jobs and workforce disparities. By offering resources, mentorship, and access to capital, these initiatives can stimulate local economic growth, create new jobs, and empower individuals to become business owners.

6. **Workplace Equity and Inclusion Initiatives:** Implementing workplace equity and inclusion initiatives can address both immediate and long-term challenges, such as workforce disparities and income inequality. Promoting diversity, equal opportunity, and fair employment practices can create more inclusive work environments, reduce barriers faced by underrepresented groups, and contribute to a more equitable labor market.
7. **Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** Building strong partnerships and collaboration between employers and educational institutions can address long-term challenges related to skills mismatch and industry diversification. By aligning curriculum and training programs with industry needs, educational institutions can produce graduates with the skills required by employers, facilitating a smoother transition into the workforce.

Media & Democracy

Media and democracy refer to the complex and dynamic relationship between media institutions and the political processes and institutions that govern a society or community. It encompasses a range of factors that influence the quality and accessibility of information, as well as the ability of citizens to participate in democratic processes and decision-making.

Media and democracy are essential components of a healthy and vibrant society, providing citizens with access to information, facilitating public discourse, and promoting transparency and accountability in government. They are critical to the promotion of freedom of expression, the protection of human rights, and the development of inclusive and democratic institutions.

However, media and democracy are also subject to a range of challenges and threats, including the concentration of media ownership, the spread of misinformation and propaganda, and the erosion of trust in traditional media institutions. These challenges can undermine the quality and accessibility of information, and can have significant social and political impacts.

A sustainable approach to media and democracy is one that promotes media diversity and pluralism, and that supports the development of independent and trustworthy media institutions. It also involves the adoption of policies and practices that promote freedom of expression and access to information, and that promote transparency and accountability in government.

Media & Democracy in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse media landscape, but also faces a number of challenges related to media and democracy such as media ownership concentration, digital divide, language barriers and media literacy. To address these challenges, it's important to promote media literacy among Inland Empire residents and educate them about the role of media in

democracy, how to critically evaluate news and information, and how to use digital tools and platforms to engage with the democratic process.

Media

The Inland Empire has a diverse media landscape, but also faces a number of challenges related to media and democracy.

- **Media Ownership:** The Inland Empire has a diverse media landscape, with a mix of traditional print, broadcast, and digital outlets. However, there is a concentration of media ownership in the area, with a limited number of companies controlling a large share of the media market. This can lead to a lack of diverse perspectives and voices in the media.
- **Digital Divide:** There is a digital divide in the Inland Empire, with many residents, particularly low-income and rural residents, lacking access to high-speed internet and digital devices. This can limit access to news and information, as well as opportunities for civic engagement and participation in the democratic process.
- **Language Barriers:** The Inland Empire has a large population of residents who speak languages other than English, and many of these residents may have limited access to news and information in their preferred language.
- **Media Literacy:** To address these challenges, it's important to promote media literacy among Inland Empire residents. This includes educating residents about the role of media in democracy, how to critically evaluate news and information, and how to use digital tools and platforms to engage with the democratic process.

SPOTLIGHT: Ethnic Media in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire has a diverse population, and ethnic media is a critical aspect of the region's media landscape. Ethnic media refers to media outlets, such as newspapers, radio stations, and television programs, that serve specific ethnic or cultural communities. Ethnic media can help to connect these communities with each other and with the broader society, and can play a key role in promoting cultural understanding and representation.

In the Inland Empire, there are a variety of ethnic media outlets serving the region's diverse communities, including Spanish-language media, Asian-American media, and African-American media, among others. These media outlets can provide a voice for these communities and help to bring attention to important issues and stories that may not be covered by the mainstream media.

In addition to traditional media, there are also many online and social media outlets that serve ethnic communities in the Inland Empire. These digital media platforms can help to expand the reach of ethnic media and provide new opportunities for community engagement and discussion. Overall, ethnic media is a vital part of the Inland Empire's media landscape, and helps to promote cultural understanding, representation, and engagement in the region.

Democracy - Civic Engagement & Empowerment

Civic engagement and empowerment refer to the ways in which individuals and communities participate in and influence public decision-making and actions. The Inland Empire has several initiatives and organizations that support and promote civic engagement and empowerment:

- **Voter Engagement:** The Inland Empire has several organizations that work to increase voter turnout and civic engagement, such as the League of Women Voters and TODEC. These organizations host events, provide resources, and engage with the community to encourage individuals to become more informed and involved in the democratic process.
- **Community-Based Organizations:** There are numerous community-based organizations in the Inland Empire that work to empower individuals and communities, such as the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC). These organizations provide resources and support to help individuals and communities address various issues, such as poverty, education, and health.
- **Youth Engagement:** The Inland Empire has several programs and initiatives that work to engage and empower youth, such as the Inland Empire Youth Collective and the Intercollegiate Council of California-Inland Empire. These programs provide resources and support to help young people become active and engaged in their communities.
- **Advocacy Groups:** There are several advocacy groups in the Inland Empire that work to promote and protect the rights of marginalized communities. These groups advocate for policy changes and provide resources and support to help communities navigate and address various issues.
- **Voter Education:** Several organizations in the Inland Empire work to provide educational resources and information about the voting process to help individuals become more informed and confident when it comes to participating in elections.
- **Voter Registration:** There are numerous initiatives and organizations working to increase voter registration in the Inland Empire, including the California Secretary of State's office. These organizations provide resources and support to help individuals register to vote and become active participants in the democratic process.
- **Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Efforts:** There are several Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts in the Inland Empire, through organizations like CCAEJ and the NAACP. These efforts work to increase voter turnout and encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote.
- **Voter Protection:** There are also organizations and initiatives working to protect the rights of voters in the Inland Empire, like the work of the California Voter Foundation. These organizations monitor the voting process, address any issues that may arise, and ensure that all individuals are able to participate in elections fairly and freely.
- **Media & Democracy:** Media can play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and promoting civic engagement by providing information and creating a platform for discussions on issues that affect the community. In the Inland Empire, local media outlets, such as newspapers, radio stations, and television networks, can help foster a sense of community and raise awareness about important topics, including politics,

social issues, and local events. Additionally, the rise of digital media has made it easier for people to access information and participate in online discussions and forums, which can also help to promote civic engagement. However, it's important to ensure that media outlets in the region provide accurate and unbiased information to support informed decision-making and civic participation.

IE Media & Democracy Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. The Inland Empire boasts a rich tapestry of diversity, fostering a community with a range of cultural backgrounds and perspectives.
2. Local media outlets, while limited, play a crucial role in providing information to residents about their immediate surroundings.
3. Bridging the digital divide is an ongoing challenge, with some residents still lacking access to digital media due to limited internet availability.
4. Efforts to enhance political engagement are ongoing, as the region aims to improve voter turnout and civic participation.
5. Political polarization: The Inland Empire has a history of political polarization, with conservative and liberal viewpoints often clashing. This can lead to a lack of trust in local media sources and a tendency for residents to seek out news that confirms their existing beliefs.
6. Community-based media: Despite the challenges, there are several community-based media outlets in the Inland Empire, such as The Press-Enterprise, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, and IECN.com. These outlets often focus on hyper-local news and events.
7. Alternative media: In recent years, alternative media sources have emerged in the Inland Empire, such as Inland Empire Community News and The Inland Empire Community Collaborative. These outlets often focus on social justice and community issues.
8. Need for civic engagement: With limited media outlets and a lack of transparency in some local governments, there is a need for greater civic engagement in the Inland Empire. Residents can get involved in their community by attending local meetings, volunteering, and supporting community-based media.
9. Importance of media literacy: With the prevalence of fake news and disinformation, media literacy is increasingly important in the Inland Empire. Residents can take steps to ensure they are consuming accurate and reliable information by fact-checking sources, seeking out multiple perspectives, and avoiding sources that are known to be biased or unreliable.
10. [Inland Empowerment United](#) is a coalition of community organizations working to center vulnerable communities in drives to increase civic engagement and participation. Major programming includes emerging leadership academies and region-wide voter engagement.
11. [The CIELO Fund](#) and the [Black Equity Fund](#), local endowments fiscally sponsored by the Inland Empire Community Foundation. Both endowments cite civic engagement as one of the major funding tenets for their grantmaking boards.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the media and democracy sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Limited Local News Coverage:** The Inland Empire faces a challenge of limited local news coverage, which can lead to a lack of information and awareness about important local issues and events. This can hinder civic engagement and public discourse, limiting the ability of residents to make informed decisions.
2. **Disinformation and Misinformation:** The spread of disinformation and misinformation poses an immediate challenge to media and democracy. False or misleading information can erode trust in democratic institutions, distort public opinion, and undermine the democratic process.
3. **Digital Divide:** The digital divide, characterized by unequal access to internet and digital technologies, poses an immediate challenge to media and democracy. Limited access to reliable internet connections and digital devices can hinder individuals' ability to access information, participate in online discussions, and engage in digital democracy.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Erosion of Local Journalism:** The decline of traditional local news outlets and the shift towards digital platforms have led to a long-term challenge of the erosion of local journalism. This can result in a loss of investigative reporting, accountability journalism, and in-depth coverage of local issues, impacting the health of democracy and civic engagement.
2. **Polarization and Echo Chambers:** The long-term challenge of polarization and the rise of echo chambers in media and social media platforms can limit exposure to diverse perspectives and contribute to the fragmentation of public discourse. This can hinder constructive dialogue, compromise, and the ability to find common ground in democratic decision-making.
3. **Lack of Media Literacy:** The long-term challenge of media literacy gaps can impact the ability of individuals to critically evaluate media content, discern credible sources, and differentiate between fact and opinion. This can leave people susceptible to manipulation and misinformation, undermining the democratic process.

Media & Democracy - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for media and democracy in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to independent and reliable information, where media is used as a tool for education, empowerment, and civic engagement, and where our democracy is vibrant and inclusive.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where media and democracy policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where our communities are empowered to shape their own narrative and participate in decision-making processes.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where media literacy and critical thinking are prioritized in education, and where our media landscape reflects the diversity of our region's voices and perspectives.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where our media ecosystem is protected from censorship, corporate consolidation, and disinformation, and where public media and community-based media are supported and strengthened.
5. Our vision for media and democracy is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in participatory democracy, where media serves the public interest, and where our communities are informed, engaged, and empowered.

Media & Democracy - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of media and democracy in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Policies and Programs Guided by Equity, Justice, and Sustainability:** Solutions that aim to promote media and democracy policies and programs guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles. The community envisions an Inland Empire where their voice is heard and where they can participate in decision-making processes.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Community Media Fund (1)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Civic Engagement and Public Accountability Platform (1)*
 - iii. *Inland Empire Public Access Media Network (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. MediaJustice (national)
 - ii. Inland Empire Media Academy (San Bernardino Valley College)
 - iii. AcademyGo

- iv. Pomona Hope
- v. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- vi. Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
- vii. Center for Social Innovation, UCR
- viii. Voice Media Ventures
- ix. Black Voice News
- x. The IE Voice
- xi. The Raincross Gazette

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. California Community Foundation (civic engagement)
- ii. Art for Justice Fund
- iii. CIELO Fund
- iv. Inland Empire Community Foundation

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with community-based organizations: Media organizations can partner with community-based organizations that have a focus on equity, justice, and sustainability to create programs and events that promote civic engagement, public discourse, and community empowerment.
- ii. Partnership with educational institutions: Media organizations can partner with local schools, colleges, and universities to create programs and events that promote media literacy and civic education. This could involve creating a curriculum that integrates media literacy and civic education or hosting events that highlight the intersection of media, democracy, and social justice.
- iii. Partnership with local governments: Media organizations can partner with local governments to create public awareness campaigns that promote equity, justice, and sustainability. This could involve creating multimedia content that educates the public about policies and programs related to these issues or hosting events that engage the community in discussions about these topics.
- iv. Collaboration with local businesses: Media organizations can partner with businesses that have a focus on equity, justice, and sustainability, such as renewable energy companies or fair trade businesses. This partnership could involve joint programming or events that highlight the intersection of media, business, and social justice.
- v. Partnership with media watchdog organizations: Media organizations can partner with media watchdog organizations to promote ethical journalism practices and hold media outlets accountable for reporting that is biased or inaccurate. This could involve collaborating on media literacy programs or hosting events that highlight the importance of ethical journalism in a democratic society.

2. **Media Literacy and Critical Thinking:** Solutions that prioritize media literacy and critical thinking in education, ensuring that students are able to think critically about the information they consume. The community also wants to ensure that their media landscape reflects the diversity of their region's voices and perspectives.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Media Literacy and Environmental Justice Workshops*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Media Arts Center San Diego - The Media Arts Center San Diego offers a variety of programs and workshops focused on media literacy and critical thinking, including film screenings and media literacy education for students.
 - ii. Riverside Unified School District - The Riverside Unified School District has implemented media literacy education into its curriculum, with a focus on teaching students how to analyze and evaluate media messages.
 - iii. Inland Empire Media Academy - The Inland Empire Media Academy is a program that offers media literacy education to high school students in the Inland Empire, with a focus on developing critical thinking skills and digital media literacy.
 - iv. San Bernardino County Library - The San Bernardino County Library offers a variety of resources and workshops focused on media literacy, including online resources and in-person workshops for children and adults.
 - v. California State University, San Bernardino - The California State University, San Bernardino offers a media literacy course as part of its communication studies program, focused on teaching students how to critically analyze media messages.
 - vi. University of California, Riverside - The University of California, Riverside offers a media and cultural studies program that includes coursework on media literacy and critical thinking, with a focus on analyzing media representations of race, gender, and sexuality.
 - vii. Inland Empire Media Group - The Inland Empire Media Group is a community-based organization that offers media literacy education to youth and adults in the Inland Empire, with a focus on developing critical thinking skills and promoting civic engagement.
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. California News Publishers Association: This organization provides funding for local news organizations in the Inland Empire and throughout the state to improve their coverage and increase their ability to provide accurate and trustworthy information to their communities.
 - ii. Inland Empire Community Foundation: This foundation provides grants to organizations and programs that focus on media literacy and critical thinking in the Inland Empire. They have supported projects such as youth media programs and media literacy initiatives in schools.



- iii. California Humanities: This organization provides grants for humanities-based projects that promote critical thinking and civic engagement. They have supported projects in the Inland Empire that focus on media literacy and storytelling, such as the Inland Empire COVID-19 Oral History Project.
- iv. Inland Empire Future Leaders Program: This program provides media literacy education and leadership training to young people in the Inland Empire. The program is supported by grants from foundations and partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaborating with local libraries: Public libraries are often seen as reliable sources of information, and partnering with them could provide opportunities to promote media literacy and critical thinking. For example, an arts organization could host an exhibit or event at a library to raise awareness about the importance of independent media and reliable information.
- ii. Partnering with local journalism organizations: Collaborating with local journalism organizations such as can provide opportunities to promote access to independent and reliable information. This could involve sponsoring journalism training programs or events that highlight the role of journalism in democracy.
- iii. Working with local educational institutions: Partnering with schools, colleges, and universities to promote media literacy and critical thinking skills can help ensure that students are equipped with the skills they need to be informed and engaged citizens. This could involve creating curriculum or hosting events that focus on media literacy, critical thinking, and access to independent and reliable information.
- iv. Collaborating with community organizations: Partnering with local community organizations such as the Inland Empire Community Foundation or local non-profits can help to promote the importance of access to independent and reliable information. This could involve hosting joint events or creating public awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of media literacy and critical thinking.

- 3. **Access to Independent and Reliable Information:** Solutions that ensure everyone has access to independent and reliable information, with media used as a tool for education, empowerment, and civic engagement.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire Regional Center for Local Journalism (1)*
- ii. *Inland Empire Public Access Media Network (2)*
- iii. *Inland Empire Civic Engagement and Public Accountability Platform (2)*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Inland Empire Community News (IECN): IECN is a local news organization that covers a variety of topics, including politics, crime, education, and entertainment, with a focus on providing unbiased and accurate reporting. They have been serving the Inland Empire since 2005 and publish both online and in print.
- ii. The Press-Enterprise: The Press-Enterprise is a daily newspaper that covers news and events throughout the Inland Empire, with a focus on local issues and politics. They have been in operation for over 140 years and have a strong commitment to providing reliable and objective reporting.
- iii. Inland News Today: Inland News Today is a news website that covers a wide range of topics, including local news, business, and sports, with a focus on the Inland Empire region. They aim to provide unbiased and accurate reporting to their readers.
- iv. Community-based media organizations: There are several community-based media organizations throughout the Inland Empire that focus on providing access to independent and reliable information to underserved communities. Examples include KVCR News, a public radio station that covers news and events throughout the region, and the Black Voice News, a newspaper that focuses on issues affecting the Black community in the Inland Empire.
- v. Libraries: Public libraries throughout the Inland Empire offer access to a variety of independent and reliable information sources, including newspapers, magazines, and online databases. They also provide programming and events focused on media literacy and critical thinking.
- vi. COVID Narrative Hub - IE United
- vii. Inland Empire Media Roundtable - Voice Media Ventures/Tzunu Strategies

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Grants for independent media: Foundations such as the Knight Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation offer grants to support independent media organizations that provide reliable and objective news and information.
- ii. Funding for media literacy programs: Organizations such as the California News Publishers Association and the California Press Foundation offer funding for media literacy programs that aim to teach people how to critically evaluate news and information sources.
- iii. Investment in local news organizations: Local news organizations play a critical role in providing reliable and relevant information to communities. Investing in these organizations can help ensure that residents have access to independent and reliable information.
- iv. Support for public broadcasting: Public broadcasting organizations such as KVCR and KVIE provide independent and reliable news and

information to communities. Supporting these organizations can help ensure that residents have access to objective and diverse perspectives.

- v. Partnerships between media organizations and community groups: Media organizations can partner with community groups to help ensure that residents have access to independent and reliable information. For example, a local news organization could partner with a community organization to provide news and information in multiple languages or to address specific community concerns.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with local media outlets: Nonprofit organizations and community groups can partner with local media outlets to produce and distribute high-quality, unbiased news and information. This partnership could involve joint projects or programs, such as training citizen journalists or producing multimedia content.
- ii. Partnership with libraries: Libraries can be important partners in promoting access to independent and reliable information. Nonprofit organizations and community groups can work with libraries to host workshops or events on media literacy or to develop resources for accessing quality news and information.
- iii. Collaboration with schools and universities: Nonprofit organizations and community groups can partner with local schools and universities to promote media literacy and critical thinking skills among students. This partnership could involve creating curriculum materials or hosting events that focus on media literacy.
- iv. Partnership with technology companies: Technology companies, particularly those that specialize in online news and information, can be important partners in promoting access to independent and reliable information. Nonprofit organizations and community groups can work with these companies to develop tools or platforms that promote quality news and information.

4. **Participatory Democracy and Civic Engagement:** Solutions that promote participatory democracy, where media serves the public interest, and where communities are informed, engaged, and empowered. The community envisions an Inland Empire where their democracy is vibrant and inclusive.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire Community Media Fund (2)*
- ii. *Inland Empire Civic Engagement and Public Accountability Platform (3)*
- iii. *Inland Empire Public Access Media Network (3)*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective (IEIYC)
- ii. California Envirovoters programs
- iii. The League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area



- iv. The Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC)
- v. Congregations Organized for Prophetic Change (COPE)
- vi. Intercollegiate Council of the Inland Empire - CSI-UCR
- vii. Women's Policy Institute - Women's Foundation California
- viii. Inland Empowerment

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. The California Documentary Project, which provides grants for documentaries and other media that promote understanding and engagement with California's diverse cultures, peoples, and histories.
- ii. The California Endowment, which funds projects that aim to create healthier communities, including through civic engagement and community organizing.
- iii. The Knight Foundation, which provides funding for journalism and media projects that support informed and engaged communities.
- iv. Another area of investment/funding could be in supporting organizations that facilitate community engagement and participatory decision-making processes, such as community-based organizations, non-profits, and local government agencies. This could involve funding for initiatives that provide education and training on democratic processes and encourage community members to get involved in decision-making.
- v. Additionally, investment/funding could go towards supporting technology and infrastructure that promotes participatory democracy, such as online platforms and tools that enable residents to participate in decision-making processes, provide feedback, and collaborate with others.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaborating with community organizations: Media outlets can partner with community-based organizations that work to engage and empower residents in the democratic process. This could include collaborating on voter registration drives, hosting candidate forums, or developing community-led campaigns around issues that impact local residents.
- ii. Partnering with local governments: Media outlets can partner with local governments to increase transparency and public participation in decision-making processes. This could include broadcasting public meetings, hosting town hall events, or collaborating on initiatives to increase civic engagement.
- iii. Collaborating with educational institutions: Media outlets can partner with local schools, colleges, and universities to engage young people in the democratic process. This could include developing youth-led media initiatives, hosting student-led debates, or creating curricula that integrate media literacy and civic engagement.
- iv. Partnering with other media outlets: Media outlets can collaborate with other media organizations to increase coverage and engagement around participatory democracy. This could include joint reporting projects,

shared content production, or cross-promotion of each other's programming.

- v. Partnering with technology companies: Media outlets can partner with technology companies to develop innovative tools and platforms that increase public participation in the democratic process. This could include developing mobile apps for voter registration, creating online forums for public discussion, or leveraging social media to increase civic engagement.

Media & Democracy - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to media and democracy.

1. **Promote Local Media Investment and Engagement:** Foster investment in local media outlets, both existing and new, with a specific focus on regional issues, narrative change, and expanding audience reach. This includes providing financial support to ensure increased coverage of local news, particularly in ethnic media, nonprofit, and community-based outlets. By investing in and amplifying local media, we can enhance civic engagement, raise awareness of important issues, and cultivate a more informed and connected community in the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support local media outlets: We can support local media outlets by advocating for policies and initiatives that provide financial support and resources. This includes supporting funding mechanisms that provide grants or subsidies to local media organizations, particularly those serving underrepresented communities and ethnic media outlets. By supporting these outlets, we can ensure the availability of diverse and comprehensive coverage of regional issues that are relevant to the Inland Empire.
 - ii. Advocate for media diversity and inclusivity: We can advocate for media diversity and inclusivity by encouraging the representation of diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences in local media. This includes advocating for inclusive hiring practices, diversity in newsroom leadership, and coverage that reflects the diverse demographics of the Inland Empire. By advocating for these principles, we can foster an inclusive media landscape that accurately represents the community and promotes a more inclusive and equitable society.
 - iii. Create partnerships between local media and community organizations: We can create partnerships between local media outlets and community organizations to collaborate on content creation and dissemination. This can involve supporting joint initiatives, such as collaborative reporting



projects, community engagement events, and storytelling workshops. By fostering these partnerships, we can strengthen the connection between local media and the community, amplify community voices, and address important local issues.

- iv. Support media literacy and journalism education: We can support media literacy programs and journalism education initiatives in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for media literacy curriculum in schools, supporting journalism training programs, and providing resources for aspiring journalists. By promoting media literacy and journalism education, we can empower residents to critically engage with media, distinguish reliable sources, and participate in shaping the narrative of the Inland Empire.
- v. Encourage community engagement and audience participation: We can encourage community engagement and audience participation in local media by supporting platforms and initiatives that facilitate dialogue and interaction. This can include advocating for online forums, town hall meetings, and community journalism projects that allow residents to contribute to the media landscape. By promoting community engagement, we can foster a sense of ownership and connection to local media, encouraging active participation and dialogue within the community.

2. **Providing support and training for citizen journalism, community storytelling, and other forms of grassroots media**, including ethnic media outlets and journalists, that can help amplify the voices of underrepresented communities and increase participation in local democracy. By recognizing the importance of ethnic media and journalists in capturing diverse perspectives and stories, we can ensure a more inclusive and representative media landscape that reflects the rich cultural fabric of the Inland Empire. These efforts will empower communities to share their experiences, challenge narratives, and contribute to a more informed and engaged citizenry.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support citizen journalism and grassroots media: We can support citizen journalism and grassroots media initiatives by providing resources, training programs, and mentorship opportunities for individuals interested in participating in these forms of media. This can include workshops on storytelling, media production, and ethical journalism practices. By supporting these initiatives, we can empower community members to become active contributors to the media landscape, amplifying their voices and perspectives.
- ii. Advocate for funding and resources for ethnic media outlets: We can advocate for increased funding and resources for ethnic media outlets in the Inland Empire. This can include lobbying for public funding or grants that specifically target ethnic media organizations. By advocating for these resources, we can ensure the sustainability and growth of ethnic

media outlets, enabling them to continue providing diverse and inclusive coverage that reflects the experiences and perspectives of underrepresented communities.

- iii. Create partnerships between mainstream and ethnic media: We can encourage partnerships and collaborations between mainstream media outlets and ethnic media organizations. This can involve sharing content, cross-promotion, and joint reporting projects that highlight the stories and issues relevant to underrepresented communities. By fostering these partnerships, we can bridge the gap between mainstream and ethnic media, promoting more inclusive coverage and amplifying underrepresented voices.
- iv. Promote media literacy and engagement: We can promote media literacy and engagement initiatives that empower individuals to critically consume and create media. This can include supporting media literacy programs in schools, organizing community workshops on media literacy, and advocating for media literacy curriculum integration. By promoting media literacy, we can equip community members with the skills to navigate and evaluate media content, ensuring they can engage with media in an informed and discerning manner.
- v. Advocate for policies that promote media diversity and representation: We can advocate for policies that promote media diversity, representation, and inclusion. This can include supporting policies that require media outlets to reflect the diversity of their communities in their staffing and coverage. By advocating for these policies, we can encourage greater representation and inclusivity in the media landscape, fostering a more accurate and comprehensive portrayal of the Inland Empire.

3. **Supporting the development of community-based media cooperatives and public access media channels** to provide an alternative to corporate media and ensure diverse perspectives are represented, including the involvement of k-12 and college students. By actively engaging high school and college students in the community, we can foster their participation in gathering information and building their knowledge of the region. Encouraging their involvement in media cooperatives and public access channels not only promotes youth empowerment and civic engagement but also strengthens the diversity of voices and perspectives in our local media landscape. This creates a platform for students to share their unique insights and experiences, contributing to a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of the Inland Empire.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for community-based media cooperatives: We can support the development of community-based media cooperatives by providing resources, training, and mentorship for individuals and groups interested in establishing these cooperatives. This can include facilitating workshops



- on media production, journalism ethics, and business management, as well as connecting them with existing media cooperatives for guidance and collaboration. By supporting the formation of these cooperatives, we can create platforms for community members, including high school and college students, to actively participate in media creation, ensuring diverse perspectives are represented.
- ii. **Advocacy for public access media channels:** We can advocate for the establishment and maintenance of public access media channels that provide space for community-produced content. This can involve working with local government bodies and media organizations to secure funding and resources for these channels. Additionally, we can advocate for policies that prioritize community access and participation in these channels. By advocating for public access media channels, we can create avenues for diverse voices, including those of high school and college students, to be heard and shared with the wider community.
 - iii. **Collaboration with educational institutions:** We can collaborate with K-12 schools and colleges in the Inland Empire to involve students in community-based media initiatives. This can include developing partnerships with schools to integrate media literacy and production into their curricula, providing internships and mentorship opportunities for students interested in media careers, and showcasing student-produced content on community media platforms. By actively involving students, we can nurture their media skills, empower them to share their unique perspectives, and cultivate a new generation of media creators and informed citizens.
 - iv. **Creation of platforms for student voices:** We can create dedicated platforms or segments within existing media outlets to amplify student voices and experiences. This can involve collaborating with schools and colleges to curate and broadcast student-produced content, such as news stories, documentaries, and podcasts, on community media channels. By providing spaces for student voices to be heard, we can elevate their perspectives, foster their engagement with local issues, and promote a more inclusive and representative media landscape.
4. **Increasing transparency and accountability in local government** through measures such as open data policies, participatory budgeting, and citizen advisory boards. These measures aim to enhance public trust, encourage citizen involvement, and foster a more inclusive and accountable governance structure.
- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Support for open data policies:** We can support the implementation of open data policies in local government by advocating for transparency and accessibility of government data. This can involve working with local officials to develop and implement open data initiatives that make



government information readily available to the public in a user-friendly format. By supporting open data policies, we can empower residents to access and analyze government data, promoting transparency and informed decision-making.

- ii. **Advocacy for participatory budgeting:** We can advocate for the adoption of participatory budgeting processes in local government. This involves advocating for the allocation of a portion of the budget to be decided upon through direct community input. We can support initiatives that engage residents in decision-making processes, such as town hall meetings, surveys, and participatory budgeting assemblies. By advocating for participatory budgeting, we can ensure that community members have a voice in determining how public funds are allocated, promoting greater transparency, accountability, and community involvement in budget decisions.
- iii. **Creation of citizen advisory boards:** We can advocate for the creation and empowerment of citizen advisory boards in local government. These boards can serve as a platform for community members to provide input and advice on policy decisions, representing the diverse interests and perspectives of the community. We can support the establishment of these boards by advocating for their creation, participating in the selection process for board members, and providing resources and training to enhance their effectiveness. By creating citizen advisory boards, we can promote inclusive governance and foster meaningful community engagement in decision-making processes.
- iv. **Support for civic education and engagement:** We can support initiatives that promote civic education and engagement in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for the inclusion of civics education in school curricula, supporting organizations that provide civic education programs, and encouraging community members to participate in local government processes. By supporting civic education and engagement, we can empower residents with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in local governance, fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry.

5. **Providing funding and technical assistance to support civic engagement:** By providing funding, technical assistance, and promoting equitable access to digital technology and internet connectivity, we can support civic engagement initiatives such as community organizing, voter education and registration campaigns, youth leadership programs, and promote access to the tools and resources needed for residents to participate in local democracy, access information, and have a voice in shaping their communities.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...



- i. Support for civic engagement funding: We can support and advocate for increased funding for civic engagement initiatives in the Inland Empire. This can involve advocating for government funding allocations, seeking grants from foundations and philanthropic organizations, and supporting community-led fundraising efforts. By providing financial resources, we can ensure that civic engagement programs have the necessary funding to operate and expand their reach, enabling more residents to participate in local democracy.
 - ii. Technical assistance for civic engagement initiatives: We can provide technical assistance to support civic engagement initiatives in the Inland Empire. This can include offering expertise in areas such as community organizing, voter education, digital technology, and internet connectivity. By sharing knowledge and resources, we can help strengthen the capacity of local organizations and grassroots efforts, enhancing their effectiveness in promoting civic engagement and fostering inclusive participation.
 - iii. Promote equitable access to digital technology and internet connectivity: We can advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equitable access to digital technology and internet connectivity in the Inland Empire. This can involve supporting efforts to bridge the digital divide by advocating for broadband infrastructure investment, expanding affordable internet access programs, and promoting digital literacy training. By ensuring that all residents have access to the necessary tools and resources, we can remove barriers to civic engagement and empower individuals to participate fully in local democracy.
 - iv. Collaboration with community organizations: We can collaborate with community organizations in the Inland Empire to create and support civic engagement programs. This can involve partnering with local nonprofits, community centers, schools, and youth organizations to develop and implement initiatives that promote civic education, leadership development, and community organizing. By working together, we can leverage the strengths and resources of different organizations to maximize the impact of civic engagement efforts.
6. **Encourage greater voter participation, combat voter suppression, and promote competitive elections in local offices** by implementing a "top two" system for county and city offices, similar to what is available for state elected offices and federal legislative offices. This reform would ensure that if a local candidate exceeds 50% in a low-turnout primary, there is still competition in the general election, promoting more representative local elections. In addition, implementing policies such as automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and early voting options can further increase voter participation, combat voter suppression, and enhance the democratic process at the local level.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for "top two" system implementation: We can advocate for and support the implementation of a "top two" system for county and city offices in the Inland Empire. This involves advocating for changes to local election laws to allow for this system, which ensures that if a local candidate exceeds 50% in a low-turnout primary, there is still competition in the general election. By advocating for this reform, we can promote more competitive local elections and increase voter engagement and participation.
 - ii. Advocacy for voter registration reforms: We can advocate for voter registration reforms in the Inland Empire, such as automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration. These reforms simplify the voter registration process, remove barriers to participation, and ensure that eligible residents are registered to vote. Additionally, supporting early voting options can provide greater flexibility for voters, allowing them to cast their ballots at their convenience and increasing overall voter turnout.
 - iii. Combating voter suppression: We can advocate for measures to combat voter suppression in the Inland Empire. This can involve supporting legislation or policies that protect voters' rights, such as expanding access to polling locations, ensuring language accessibility for diverse communities, and advocating for fair redistricting processes. By actively opposing efforts that suppress or disenfranchise voters, we can ensure that all residents have equal opportunities to participate in the democratic process.
 - iv. Voter education and engagement: We can create and support voter education and engagement initiatives in the Inland Empire. This can include partnering with local organizations, schools, and community groups to provide voter education resources, host candidate forums or debates, and conduct voter registration drives. By promoting civic education and encouraging active participation in the electoral process, we can empower residents to make informed choices and engage in local elections.
7. **Encourage and facilitate greater participation in public meetings** and hearings by implementing measures that promote inclusivity and provide diverse avenues for engagement. This includes enhancing language access to ensure that language barriers do not hinder individuals from participating, offering virtual participation options to accommodate those who may face geographical or scheduling constraints, and providing incentives for attendance to incentivize community members to actively contribute their perspectives. By defining and promoting various ways to participate, we can engage a broader range of individuals, build momentum for sustained involvement, and foster a more inclusive and participatory decision-making process in the community.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...



- i. Support language access initiatives: We can support and advocate for language access initiatives that ensure individuals with limited English proficiency can fully participate in public meetings and hearings. This may include providing translation services, offering multilingual materials, and utilizing interpreters to bridge language barriers. By advocating for and supporting these initiatives, we can create a more inclusive and accessible environment that encourages diverse community members to engage in the decision-making process.
 - ii. Promote virtual participation options: We can advocate for the implementation of virtual participation options in public meetings and hearings. This can include live streaming, online comment platforms, and virtual meeting platforms that enable remote participation. By advocating for these tools and resources, we can accommodate individuals who may face geographical or scheduling constraints, allowing them to participate and contribute their perspectives without the need for physical attendance.
 - iii. Incentivize attendance and participation: We can create incentives to encourage community members to attend and actively participate in public meetings and hearings. This can involve providing small incentives such as gift cards or tokens of appreciation for attendees, recognizing and highlighting the contributions of active participants, and fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that values community input. By creating a positive and engaging environment, we can motivate individuals to take part in public discussions and decision-making processes.
 - iv. Raise awareness and promote engagement: We can support efforts to raise awareness about public meetings and hearings, ensuring that community members are informed about opportunities to participate. This can involve collaborating with local organizations, community leaders, and media outlets to disseminate information, hosting community workshops to educate residents about the importance of participation, and using social media platforms to share updates and engage with the community. By actively promoting engagement and informing residents about their opportunities to participate, we can encourage broader involvement and ensure a more representative decision-making process.
8. **Build Civic Muscle in the Inland Empire:** Foster an environment of active civic engagement and community empowerment through a multi-solver approach that leverages interconnected solutions to address multiple vital conditions. This strategy includes promoting community-based participatory planning to involve residents and stakeholders in decision-making, which can enhance social connectedness, equity, and education. Supporting civic education and leadership development empowers underrepresented groups, contributing to social equity, education, and economic



opportunity. Expanding access to digital and technological resources for equitable participation not only improves connectivity but also enhances education and economic opportunity. Revitalizing neighborhoods through place-based strategies fosters social connectedness, equity, and economic opportunity. Additionally, encouraging volunteerism and service programs that address local needs strengthens social connectedness, equity, education, and community well-being. By implementing these interconnected initiatives, the Inland Empire can strengthen civic muscle and realize broad impacts across vital conditions, creating a more vibrant and resilient community.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support community-based participatory planning: We can support and advocate for community-based participatory planning processes that involve residents and stakeholders in decision-making. This can include advocating for the inclusion of diverse voices in planning committees, supporting community-led initiatives, and providing resources and training to empower residents to actively participate in shaping their neighborhoods and communities.
- ii. Promote civic education and leadership development: We can support programs and initiatives that promote civic education and leadership development, particularly among underrepresented groups. This can include advocating for the inclusion of civics education in schools, supporting youth leadership programs, and providing resources and mentorship opportunities to foster civic engagement and empower individuals to become active participants in the community.
- iii. Expand access to digital and technological resources: We can advocate for and support initiatives that aim to bridge the digital divide and provide equitable access to digital and technological resources. This can include advocating for expanded broadband infrastructure in underserved areas, supporting initiatives that provide affordable internet access and devices to low-income households, and promoting digital literacy training programs to ensure all community members can participate effectively in the digital sphere.
- iv. Revitalize neighborhoods through place-based strategies: We can support and advocate for place-based strategies that revitalize neighborhoods, enhance social connectedness, promote equity, and create economic opportunities. This can include supporting initiatives that invest in infrastructure improvements, promote mixed-use developments, and prioritize the creation of community gathering spaces, parks, and recreational areas. By focusing on neighborhood revitalization, we can create vibrant and inclusive communities that foster civic engagement and community well-being.
- v. Encourage volunteerism and service programs: We can support and promote volunteerism and service programs that address local needs and strengthen social connectedness. This can include advocating for the

expansion of volunteer programs, supporting organizations that facilitate volunteer opportunities, and promoting a culture of service and community engagement. By encouraging volunteerism, we can enhance social cohesion, build stronger community bonds, and address important local challenges.

9. **Promote Media Literacy and Democracy for Youth in the Inland Empire:** Implement comprehensive initiatives to promote media literacy and critical thinking skills at the K-12 level, fostering an informed and engaged citizenry. This strategy involves integrating media literacy education into the curriculum, providing students with the tools to critically evaluate media narratives, recognize biases, and understand the influence of media on shaping public opinion. Additionally, create partnerships with local media organizations to facilitate student engagement with the regional media landscape, encouraging field trips, guest speakers, and opportunities for student-produced content. By equipping young learners with media literacy skills, we can empower them to navigate and contribute to the media landscape in a responsible and informed manner, strengthening our democracy and fostering a culture of civic engagement in the Inland Empire.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support media literacy integration in the curriculum: We can advocate for the integration of media literacy education into the K-12 curriculum in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting the development of media literacy standards, providing professional development opportunities for educators, and allocating resources for instructional materials and tools that promote critical thinking and media analysis skills.
 - ii. Advocate for policies promoting media literacy: We can support and advocate for policies at the local and state levels that promote media literacy education. This can include advocating for legislation that prioritizes media literacy in educational standards, funding initiatives that support media literacy programs, and encouraging collaboration between schools, districts, and media organizations to enhance media literacy efforts.
 - iii. Foster partnerships with local media organizations: We can create partnerships and collaborations between schools and local media organizations in the Inland Empire. This can involve organizing field trips to media outlets, inviting guest speakers from the industry, and creating opportunities for students to produce and publish their own media content with the guidance and support of professionals. These partnerships can enhance student engagement with the regional media landscape and provide real-world experiences that deepen their understanding of media production and its role in society.
 - iv. Provide resources and support for educators: We can support educators by providing them with resources, materials, and professional development opportunities to effectively teach media literacy skills. This

can include workshops, training programs, and access to instructional materials that equip educators with the knowledge and tools to integrate media literacy into their teaching practices.

- v. Engage parents and caregivers: We can engage parents and caregivers in promoting media literacy by providing resources, workshops, and information on how to support media literacy education at home. This can include sharing tips for navigating media consumption, discussing media content with children, and fostering critical thinking skills in media engagement.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. **Renewable Energy Transition:** Promoting the development and adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and mitigating climate change. This transition not only addresses environmental challenges but also creates job opportunities and promotes economic growth in the clean energy sector.
2. **Energy Efficiency Programs:** Implementing energy efficiency programs and initiatives can result in multiple benefits. By reducing energy consumption and promoting sustainable practices, such programs can lower greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs for residents and businesses, and enhance the region's resilience to energy disruptions.
3. **Sustainable Transportation:** Encouraging the use of sustainable transportation options, such as electric vehicles, public transit, and active transportation, can have a positive impact on both the environment and public health. This approach reduces air pollution, decreases reliance on fossil fuels, and promotes physical activity, leading to improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and enhanced well-being.
4. **Conservation and Land Management:** Investing in land conservation, reforestation, and sustainable land management practices can address multiple challenges in the energy and environment sector. These actions help preserve natural habitats, protect biodiversity, support water conservation efforts, and enhance the region's resilience to climate change impacts.
5. **Circular Economy and Waste Reduction:** Transitioning to a circular economy model that prioritizes waste reduction, recycling, and resource recovery can address environmental challenges while also promoting economic growth. By minimizing waste generation, maximizing resource efficiency, and encouraging sustainable consumption and production, this approach contributes to a more sustainable and resilient region.
6. **Community Engagement and Education:** Promoting community engagement and education on energy and environmental issues is a multisolver opportunity that can foster behavior change and empower residents to contribute to sustainable practices. By raising awareness, providing resources, and involving community members in decision-making processes, this approach can drive collective action and amplify the positive impact of individual efforts.

Public Safety & Justice Reform

Public safety and justice reform refer to the complex set of policies, programs, and institutions that are designed to ensure the safety and security of individuals and communities, and to promote fairness and equity in the administration of justice

Public safety and justice reform are essential components of a healthy and vibrant society, providing citizens with protection from harm and ensuring that justice is administered fairly and equitably. They are critical to promoting social cohesion and trust in government, and to the development of inclusive and democratic institutions.

However, public safety and justice reform are also subject to a range of challenges and threats, including systemic biases, discrimination, and the overuse of punitive measures. These challenges can undermine the effectiveness and legitimacy of public safety and justice institutions, and can have significant social and economic impacts.

A sustainable approach to public safety and justice reform is one that promotes equity and fairness in the administration of justice, and that supports the development of programs and services that address the root causes of crime and violence. It also involves the adoption of policies and practices that promote community engagement and participation in public safety and justice processes, and that support the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society.

Public Safety & Justice Reform in the Inland Empire

Public safety is an important issue in the Inland Empire, with a crime rate higher than the national average and issues with police-community relations. The area is also prone to wildfires, which can pose a significant threat to public safety and property. The area has emergency services and first responders organizations, emergency preparedness and response plans in place to deal with natural disasters and other emergencies.

- **Crime Rates:** The crime rate in the Inland Empire varies depending on the specific area, but overall it is higher than the national average. According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the violent crime rate in Riverside and San Bernardino counties is higher than the national average, while the property crime rate is similar to the national average.
- **Police-Community Relations:** Police-community relations in the Inland Empire have been a concern in recent years, with some communities expressing mistrust and dissatisfaction with local law enforcement. There have been instances of police brutality and use of excessive force reported.

- **Fire Safety:** The Inland Empire is also prone to wildfires, which can pose a significant threat to public safety and property. The area has seen an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires in recent years, due to factors such as climate change and human-caused fires.
- **Emergency Services:** The Inland Empire has a number of emergency services and first responder organizations, including police departments, sheriff's offices, and fire departments, that work to keep residents safe. The area also has a number of emergency preparedness and response plans in place to deal with natural disasters and other emergencies.

Justice Reform

Justice reform in the Inland Empire is a complex and multifaceted issue that touches on a range of areas including criminal justice, policing, and the administration of justice. There have been ongoing efforts to address a number of challenges in the justice system, including racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, over-incarceration, and the need for more effective and efficient ways to manage criminal behavior and reduce crime.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to reduce mass incarceration and focus on evidence-based approaches to criminal justice. This has led to a number of reforms aimed at reducing the number of people in prisons and jails, improving conditions of confinement, and supporting rehabilitation and reentry programs.

In the Inland Empire, there have been efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, including the implementation of policing reforms and increased accountability and transparency in the criminal justice system. Additionally, there have been efforts to expand access to mental health and substance abuse services, as well as support for rehabilitation and reentry programs, to help reduce recidivism and support positive outcomes for individuals leaving the criminal justice system.

There are also ongoing efforts to improve the quality of policing and increase community trust, including the development of community policing programs and increased training for law enforcement officers on topics such as implicit bias and cultural competency.

IE Public Safety & Justice Reform Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. The Inland Empire community is actively working toward addressing challenges in public safety and justice reform to create a more equitable and just community.
2. Insights into youth arrests reveal areas where targeted interventions and support can make a significant impact.
3. Examination of police use of force underscores the importance of transparent and accountable law enforcement practices.
4. Incarceration rates reflect ongoing efforts to ensure fair and unbiased justice for all residents.

5. Perception of safety highlights the need for inclusive strategies that address concerns across diverse communities.
6. The evolution of emergency response systems reflects the region's commitment to adapting to changing needs.
7. The ReTHINK Public Safety Coalition demonstrates the power of collaboration in pursuing restorative justice solutions.
8. The Inland Empire's advocacy for police reform reflects a growing community demand for transparency and fairness.
9. The presence of a significant population under supervision emphasizes the importance of reintegration and support.
10. Mental health and substance abuse challenges in the criminal justice system point to a need for comprehensive care.
11. Investing in community-based organizations is crucial for addressing the root causes of crime and promoting well-being.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the public safety and justice reform sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **High Crime Rates:** The region grapples with high crime rates, including violent crimes, property crimes, and gang-related activities, which pose immediate safety concerns for residents and communities.
2. **Inadequate Law Enforcement Resources:** Limited resources and staffing levels within law enforcement agencies can hinder their ability to effectively respond to and prevent crime, leading to longer response times and reduced community trust.
3. **Recidivism and Rehabilitation:** The challenge of reducing recidivism rates and ensuring effective rehabilitation programs for individuals involved in the criminal justice system remains a pressing issue. Limited access to educational and vocational opportunities can hinder successful reintegration into society.
4. **Substance Abuse and Addiction:** Substance abuse and addiction-related issues, including opioid abuse and methamphetamine use, contribute to criminal behavior and strain public safety resources. Access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment and support services is crucial for addressing this challenge.

Long-term Challenges:

1. **Systemic Inequities:** Addressing systemic inequities within the criminal justice system, such as racial disparities and biases, is a long-term challenge. Achieving equitable outcomes and fostering trust between communities and law enforcement require sustained efforts and systemic reforms.
2. **Community-Police Relations:** Building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve is a long-term challenge that requires promoting transparency, accountability, and meaningful community engagement. Establishing effective community policing practices and promoting restorative justice approaches can help bridge gaps and enhance trust.
3. **Mental Health and Crisis Intervention:** Ensuring adequate resources and training for law enforcement to respond effectively to mental health crises and providing accessible mental health services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system are long-term challenges. Collaborative efforts between mental health providers and law enforcement are crucial for addressing these complex issues.
4. **Alternatives to Incarceration:** Developing and expanding alternatives to incarceration, such as diversion programs, restorative justice practices, and community-based rehabilitation, is a long-term challenge. Shifting the focus from punitive measures to rehabilitation and community support can reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reintegration.

Public Safety & Justice Reform - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for public safety and justice reform in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone feels safe, where policing is reimagined, and where the justice system is equitable and restorative.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where public safety and justice policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where our communities are empowered to shape their own safety and justice future.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where community-led public safety strategies and practices are prioritized, and where law enforcement is held accountable for abusive and discriminatory practices.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where the justice system is transformed to focus on rehabilitation and restorative justice, and where we move away from mass incarceration and punitive measures.
5. Our vision for public safety and justice reform is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in innovative and equitable approaches to public safety and justice, where our communities are protected and thriving, and where justice is truly served for all.

Public Safety & Justice Reform- Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of public safety and justice reform in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into

broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Reimagining policing and promoting safety:** Solutions that aim to improve public safety and reform policing to be more equitable and restorative.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Implementation of Community-Based Policing*
 - ii. *Implementation of Implicit Bias Training*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. The People's Plan: Just San Bernardino
 - ii. Community Police Review Commission - City of Riverside
 - iii. The Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board in California: This board was established by the California Department of Justice to eliminate racial and identity profiling and improve diversity and cultural competency in law enforcement.
 - iv. Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
 - v. Rethink Public Safety - COPE
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Police Reform and Equitable Justice grant program: funding to strengthen and sustain policies and practices police departments are using toward equitable treatment
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Collaborations with CBOs: CBOs can help with running listening sessions to gain insight on community concerns as well as opportunities to reform current practices
 - ii. Collaborations with other municipalities: potential to learn from others' efforts in terms of roadblocks and best practices, including possibility for creating peer-learning collaboratives
2. **Community-led safety and justice policies:** Solutions that prioritize community-led public safety strategies and programs and empower communities to shape their own safety and justice future.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Public Safety Community Oversight Boards (1)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Restorative Justice Circles Program (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Rethink Public Safety - COPE
 - ii. Anti Racist Riverside
 - iii. Black Equity Initiative of the IE - BLU Educational Foundation/COPE

- c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Community Policing Development micogrants program: helps develop law enforcement's capacity to implement community policing
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Collaboration between CBOs and trusted messengers: CBOs can help lead discussions about community needs and potential for empowerment
 - ii. Collaboration with government entities: opportunities for discussion between government entities and communities, to better understand
 - iii. Collaboration with other municipalities: opportunities for local organizations to learn from others' experiences, in terms of promising solutions and best practices
- 3. **Accountability for law enforcement:** Solutions that promote accountability for law enforcement, specifically in regards to abusive and discriminatory practices.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Public Safety Community Oversight Boards (2)*
 - ii. *Code Enforcement Repair Taskforce & Community Fund (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. California Partnership for Safe Communities: The California Partnership for Safe Communities is a collaborative effort between law enforcement, government agencies, and community organizations to promote public safety and reduce crime. The program focuses on using data-driven strategies to address crime and improve police-community relations.
 - ii. Inland Congregations United for Change: Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) is a grassroots organization that works to promote social justice and improve the quality of life for communities in the Inland Empire. One of their focuses is to hold law enforcement accountable and ensure that they are serving the community in a fair and just manner.
 - iii. ACLU of Southern California: The ACLU of Southern California has a focus on police accountability and has worked on several cases in the Inland Empire, including advocating for greater transparency and accountability for law enforcement.
 - iv. Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches: The Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches is a faith-based organization that works to promote social justice and improve the quality of life for communities in the Inland Empire. One of their focuses is to hold law enforcement accountable and ensure that they are serving the community in a fair and just manner.
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Research and Evaluation on Policing Practices, Accountability Mechanisms, and Alternatives: funding for research and evaluation on the impact of accountability and police training, among other aspects. Could be particularly useful as the findings could shed light on best practices as well as policy and implementation impact

- d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Collaboration with other municipalities: opportunities to learn from others' experiences in terms of interactions with law enforcement, and best practices for productive discussions
 - ii. Collaboration with CBOs: can provide a space for organizations to come together to understand major issues related to accountability, and how communities can best provide feedback to law enforcement agencies
 - iii. Collaboration with trusted messengers: this could be a prime opportunity for justice organizations to understand how the public perceives their practices and actions, and what types of actions can best signal interest in and desire for reform and accountability
- 4. **Rehabilitation and restorative justice:** Solutions that aim to transform the justice system to focus on rehabilitation and restorative justice, moving away from mass incarceration and punitive measures.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Inland Empire Restorative Justice Circles Program (2)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Empire Rebound
 - ii. The Adult Reentry Program
 - iii. Cal State San Bernardino Reentry Initiative (CSRI)
 - iv. Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association
 - v. Prison to Employment - Operation New Hope
 - vi. Starting Over, Inc.
 - c. **Promising Areas for Investment & Funding**
 - i. Restorative Justice Training Program grant: providing funding for development and implementation of training curriculum, including providing technical assistance for prosecutors, criminal justice system personnel, and allied victim service providers.
 - d. **Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities**
 - i. Collaboration with CBOs: can provide a opportunity for community groups to provide input on best practices for rehabilitation and restorative justice, also help identify typical efforts that are punitive
 - ii. Collaboration with Governments: provide an opportunity to do peer learning and identify best practices

Public Safety & Justice Reform - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to public safety and justice reform.



1. **Invest in a range of community-based alternatives to policing that address both crisis intervention and proactive prevention.** Examples include establishing mental health crisis response teams similar to the LA Metro's Public Safety Ambassadors program, implementing violence prevention initiatives, and promoting restorative justice programs. By adopting intervention and prevention plans that address the immediate crisis while also building long-term solutions, we can create a safer and more equitable community that focuses on the well-being and needs of its residents.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Support the establishment of mental health crisis response teams: We can advocate for the creation and funding of mental health crisis response teams similar to the LA Metro's Public Safety Ambassadors program. These teams would consist of trained professionals who can respond to mental health crises and provide appropriate support and resources to individuals in need. By supporting the establishment and expansion of these teams, we can ensure that individuals experiencing mental health crises receive the help they need from qualified professionals rather than relying solely on traditional law enforcement responses.
 - ii. Advocate for violence prevention initiatives: We can advocate for the implementation of evidence-based violence prevention programs in the Inland Empire. These initiatives may include community-based programs that address the root causes of violence, promote conflict resolution skills, and provide resources and support to individuals at risk of engaging in violent behavior. By advocating for funding and support for violence prevention initiatives, we can create safer communities and reduce the reliance on traditional law enforcement approaches.
 - iii. Promote restorative justice programs: We can support and advocate for the implementation of restorative justice programs in the Inland Empire. Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm, addressing the needs of victims and offenders, and promoting healing and reconciliation within the community. By advocating for the implementation of restorative justice practices, we can create a justice system that emphasizes accountability, rehabilitation, and community engagement, rather than solely punitive measures.
 - iv. Invest in community-led initiatives: We can support and invest in community-led initiatives that promote community safety, well-being, and proactive prevention. This can include funding grassroots organizations and initiatives that focus on addressing community needs, providing resources for youth development programs, supporting community organizing efforts, and fostering partnerships between community organizations, residents, and local government entities.



2. **Develop comprehensive reentry programs and services that support individuals transitioning back into society from the criminal justice system.** This includes forging partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and social service agencies to provide a network of support, resources, and opportunities for successful reintegration. By minimizing barriers and reducing stigma associated with accessing these resources, we can empower individuals to rebuild their lives, contribute positively to their communities, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Support the development of comprehensive reentry programs: We can support and advocate for the development of comprehensive reentry programs in the Inland Empire that provide individuals transitioning from the criminal justice system with the support and resources they need to successfully reintegrate into society. This includes supporting the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new initiatives that address the specific needs of individuals during the reentry process.
 - ii. Advocate for partnerships and collaborations: We can advocate for partnerships between community organizations, businesses, social service agencies, and the criminal justice system to create a robust network of support for individuals reentering society. By fostering collaborations, we can ensure that individuals have access to housing, employment opportunities, educational programs, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and other necessary support systems.
 - iii. Create opportunities for education and skills development: We can support the creation of educational and vocational training programs specifically designed for individuals transitioning from the criminal justice system. By providing access to education and skills development, we can equip individuals with the tools they need to secure stable employment and build a successful future.
 - iv. Reduce barriers and stigma: We can advocate for policies and practices that minimize barriers and reduce stigma associated with accessing resources and opportunities for individuals with criminal records. This can include promoting "ban the box" policies that remove questions about criminal history on job applications and advocating for fair housing practices that prevent discrimination against individuals with criminal records.
 - v. Provide ongoing support and mentoring: We can support and create mentoring programs that pair individuals reentering society with mentors who can provide guidance, support, and assistance throughout their reintegration journey. Mentoring programs can help individuals navigate challenges, set and achieve goals, and build positive relationships within the community.

3. **Promote community engagement and collaboration to identify and address systemic issues within the criminal justice system, including racial bias, socio-economic biases, disparities, and a lack of cultural humility.** Work together to develop solutions that address these complex challenges and ensure fair and equitable treatment for all individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Acknowledge and build upon the local work already being done in this area, such as the investment in prevention work by Riverside County Probation, which has received funding from the state of California. Support efforts to reduce recidivism rates through the implementation of evidence-based practices, access to educational and vocational programs, comprehensive re-entry services, and mentorship programs. Collaborate with organizations like The Love Project, Young Visionaries, and Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide effective intervention and prevention strategies that address the diverse needs of the community. By addressing these issues head-on and fostering a more inclusive and culturally humble criminal justice system, we can create a more just and equitable society for all individuals.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Support community engagement and collaboration:** We can support and advocate for community engagement initiatives that involve diverse stakeholders, including community members, advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and local government, to identify and address systemic issues within the criminal justice system. By fostering collaboration and dialogue, we can develop comprehensive solutions that address racial bias, socio-economic biases, disparities, and cultural humility.
 - ii. **Advocate for equitable treatment:** We can advocate for policies and practices that promote fair and equitable treatment for all individuals involved in the criminal justice system. This includes advocating for the implementation of training programs that address implicit biases, promoting cultural humility, and ensuring that individuals are treated with dignity and respect throughout their interactions with the system.
 - iii. **Support evidence-based practices and programs:** We can support the implementation of evidence-based practices within the criminal justice system that have been shown to effectively reduce recidivism rates. This can include supporting access to educational and vocational programs, comprehensive re-entry services, and mentorship programs that provide individuals with the tools they need to successfully reintegrate into society.
 - iv. **Collaborate with local organizations:** We can collaborate with organizations such as The Love Project, Young Visionaries, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and other community-based organizations that are already working to address the needs of the community. By supporting their efforts and collaborating on intervention and prevention strategies, we



can create a comprehensive network of support that meets the diverse needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

- v. Build upon existing local work: We can acknowledge and build upon the local work already being done in the Inland Empire, such as the investment in prevention work by Riverside County Probation. By supporting and expanding upon these initiatives, we can leverage existing resources and expertise to create lasting change.

4. **Providing greater support for people impacted by crime and trauma, including access to trauma-informed care and support services.** Strengthen collaborations with local organizations and agencies specializing in trauma-informed care to ensure a holistic approach to supporting victims, including those who choose not to file a legal case. Explore partnerships with community-based organizations to expand the availability of support services including supporting Family Justice Centers, promoting greater access to the necessary care and resources people need to heal and recover. By amplifying the network of support and emphasizing trauma-informed practices, we can provide a more comprehensive and responsive system of care for residents throughout the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support access to trauma-informed care: We can support and advocate for increased funding and resources to ensure access to trauma-informed care and support services for individuals impacted by crime and trauma. This includes supporting the expansion of mental health services, counseling programs, and victim advocacy organizations that specialize in trauma-informed care.
- ii. Strengthen collaborations with local organizations: We can strengthen collaborations with local organizations and agencies that specialize in trauma-informed care to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to supporting victims. This includes establishing formal partnerships, sharing resources and expertise, and promoting cross-sector collaboration to provide comprehensive support services.
- iii. Expand support services for victims: We can create and advocate for the creation of Family Justice Centers and similar initiatives that provide a centralized hub for comprehensive support services for victims. By supporting the establishment of these centers and promoting greater access to necessary care and resources, we can ensure that individuals have the support they need to heal and recover.
- iv. Promote trauma-informed practices: We can advocate for the integration of trauma-informed practices in various settings, including schools, healthcare facilities, and social service agencies. This includes providing training and resources to professionals working with individuals impacted by trauma, promoting trauma-informed policies and procedures, and raising awareness about the importance of trauma-informed care.

- v. Foster community awareness and education: We can support community-based organizations in raising awareness about the impact of trauma and the available support services. This includes promoting educational initiatives, hosting community forums and workshops, and leveraging media platforms to disseminate information about trauma-informed care and resources.
5. **Collaborate with community stakeholders and organizations to identify and address the root causes of crime and public safety concerns, leveraging data sharing initiatives to inform evidence-based solutions.** This includes utilizing data from grant-funded collaboratives and county records to gain insights into patterns and volumes of safety concerns at the census tract level. By analyzing this data, we can better understand the underlying factors contributing to crime and develop targeted initiatives and programs to address them. Examples of these initiatives may include job training programs, educational outreach efforts, and community development initiatives aimed at addressing poverty, unemployment, housing instability, and improving access to education and healthcare.
- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support data sharing initiatives: We can support and advocate for data sharing initiatives that facilitate the exchange of information between community stakeholders, organizations, and law enforcement agencies. By advocating for improved data sharing practices, we can ensure that relevant data on crime and public safety concerns is accessible and utilized to inform evidence-based solutions.
 - ii. Collaborate with community stakeholders: We can actively engage with community stakeholders, including residents, local organizations, nonprofits, and businesses, to identify and address the root causes of crime and public safety concerns. This involves creating platforms for collaboration, such as community forums and task forces, to facilitate open dialogue, gather insights, and co-create solutions.
 - iii. Utilize data analysis for evidence-based solutions: We can support the analysis of data from grant-funded collaboratives, county records, and other relevant sources to gain insights into patterns and volumes of safety concerns at the census tract level. By leveraging data analysis, we can identify hotspots, trends, and underlying factors contributing to crime, allowing us to develop evidence-based solutions that address the root causes.
 - iv. Develop targeted initiatives and programs: Based on the data analysis and community input, we can create and support targeted initiatives and programs that address the root causes of crime and public safety concerns. These initiatives may include job training programs, educational outreach efforts, community development projects, and



initiatives aimed at addressing poverty, unemployment, housing instability, and improving access to education and healthcare.

- v. Advocate for resource allocation: We can advocate for the allocation of resources to support the implementation of evidence-based initiatives and programs aimed at addressing crime and public safety concerns. This includes advocating for funding from local, state, and federal sources, as well as collaborating with policymakers and decision-makers to prioritize public safety investments in the Inland Empire.

- 6. **Promote public safety and justice reform by prioritizing and investing in traditions and training in "constructive nonviolence" as a foundational approach.** This strategy involves shifting the focus from punitive measures to comprehensive efforts that address the root causes of violence, trauma, and addiction. By emphasizing alternatives to violence, providing trauma-informed care, and expanding access to addiction treatment and support services, we can create safer and more resilient communities. This approach includes collaboration with community organizations, law enforcement agencies, and social service providers to implement restorative justice practices, diversion programs, and community-based interventions. By embracing constructive nonviolence and prioritizing freedom from violence, trauma, and addiction, we can foster healing, reduce recidivism, and create a more just and equitable society in the Inland Empire.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support and advocate for constructive nonviolence training: We can support and advocate for the implementation of constructive nonviolence training programs in collaboration with community organizations, schools, law enforcement agencies, and social service providers. This includes promoting the integration of nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, de-escalation strategies, and trauma-informed approaches into training curricula for law enforcement officers, educators, community leaders, and other stakeholders.
- ii. Advocate for justice reform: We can advocate for justice reform policies that prioritize alternatives to punitive measures and address the root causes of violence, trauma, and addiction. This includes advocating for the expansion of diversion programs, restorative justice practices, and community-based interventions that focus on rehabilitation, healing, and addressing underlying issues such as mental health, substance abuse, and trauma.
- iii. Collaborate with community organizations and social service providers: We can foster collaboration among community organizations, law enforcement agencies, and social service providers to develop and implement comprehensive approaches to public safety and justice reform. This includes creating partnerships and networks to ensure a coordinated response that integrates services such as trauma-informed care,

addiction treatment, mental health support, and community-based resources.

- iv. **Create trauma-informed care initiatives:** We can create and support initiatives that promote trauma-informed care practices across various sectors, including law enforcement, education, healthcare, and social services. This involves providing training and resources to professionals working with individuals impacted by violence, trauma, and addiction, as well as implementing trauma-informed policies and practices within organizations and institutions.
- v. **Increase access to addiction treatment and support services:** We can advocate for increased funding and resources for addiction treatment programs and support services in the Inland Empire. This includes expanding access to evidence-based treatment options, recovery support programs, harm reduction initiatives, and community resources that address the underlying factors contributing to addiction.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. **Community-Police Partnerships:** Fostering collaborative relationships between law enforcement agencies and community members can enhance public safety, improve trust, and address systemic issues. Engaging residents in neighborhood watch programs, community policing initiatives, and dialogue forums can promote mutual understanding and shared responsibility for public safety.
2. **Restorative Justice Practices:** Implementing restorative justice approaches, such as diversion programs, victim-offender mediation, and community conferencing, can provide alternatives to traditional punitive measures. Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm, promoting healing, and reintegrating individuals into the community, addressing both immediate and long-term challenges.
3. **Mental Health Crisis Intervention:** Enhancing crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers and establishing collaborations with mental health professionals can improve responses to individuals experiencing mental health crises. This multisolver approach ensures that individuals receive appropriate mental health support while reducing the reliance on incarceration for those with mental health challenges.
4. **Community-Based Rehabilitation:** Investing in community-based rehabilitation programs, including substance abuse treatment, vocational training, and educational support, can reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reintegration into society. By addressing the root causes of criminal behavior and providing comprehensive support, these programs contribute to improved public safety and individual well-being.
5. **Holistic Support Services:** Developing comprehensive support services for justice-involved individuals, including access to housing, healthcare, employment, and education, can address the underlying challenges that contribute to criminal behavior. By addressing the multifaceted needs of individuals, these services can promote long-term rehabilitation and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

6. **Data-Driven Approaches:** Utilizing data and evidence-based practices in public safety and justice reform can lead to more effective and efficient outcomes. Analyzing data to identify patterns, disparities, and areas of improvement can inform policy decisions and resource allocation, promoting equitable and evidence-based approaches to public safety.

Social Services

Social services refer to the broad range of programs, policies, and institutions that are designed to support individuals and communities in meeting their basic needs, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and social support.

Social services are essential components of human development and well-being, providing individuals and families with the support necessary to lead healthy and productive lives. They are critical to promoting social inclusion and equity, and to reducing poverty and inequality.

However, social services are also subject to a range of challenges and threats, including insufficient funding, inadequate access to services, and stigma and discrimination. These challenges can limit the effectiveness and accessibility of social services, and can perpetuate inequality and injustice.

A sustainable approach to social services is one that promotes equitable access to services, and that supports the development of programs and policies that address the root causes of social inequality and exclusion. It also involves the adoption of policies and practices that promote community engagement and participation in the design and delivery of social services, and that support the development of partnerships and collaborations among different stakeholders.

Social Services in the Inland Empire

Social services play an important role in addressing the needs of residents in the Inland Empire, which has a high poverty rate, many residents struggling to access basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare. There are a number of healthcare providers in the region but also many residents who are uninsured or underinsured, which can make it difficult for them to access healthcare services. The region has a high rate of mental health issues, educational and job training programs, childcare and food assistance programs to help the people in need.

- **Poverty:** The Inland Empire has a high poverty rate, with many residents struggling to access basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare. This can lead to a high demand for social services.

- **Health Care:** There are a number of healthcare providers in the Inland Empire, including community health clinics, hospitals, and health insurance plans. However, there are also many residents who are uninsured or underinsured, which can make it difficult for them to access healthcare services.
- **Mental Health:** The Inland Empire has a high rate of mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, which can be exacerbated by the region's high poverty rate and lack of access to healthcare services.
- **Education and Job Training:** The Inland Empire has a number of educational and job training programs that aim to help residents acquire the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.
- **Childcare:** Childcare is an important service in the Inland Empire, as many families struggle to afford the high cost of care.
- **Food Assistance:** Food assistance is also important in the Inland Empire, as many residents struggle to afford nutritious meals.

IE Social Services Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. Social services in the Inland Empire region play a crucial role in supporting residents facing various challenges.
2. Public assistance programs provide essential aid to a significant portion of the population, contributing to overall community well-being.
3. Efforts to measure the cost of living against poverty thresholds reveal important insights into household financial stability.
4. Disparities in poverty rates among different racial and ethnic groups highlight the need for targeted support and equitable solutions.
5. Availability and utilization of programs like Calworks showcase the region's commitment to assisting families and children in need.
6. Addressing food insecurity among seniors remains an important focus, with implications for the overall health of the community.
7. Initiatives like the Inland Empire United Way's 211 hotline and website facilitate access to a wide range of vital services.
8. The availability and quality of mental health services are critical for the overall well-being of the community.
9. Collaborative efforts such as the IE Children's Cabinet demonstrate the commitment to improving the lives of children and families.
10. Despite their vital role, social service agencies in the Inland Empire often face resource constraints, underscoring the need for continued support.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the social services sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making

this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Limited Resources:** The social services sector often faces limited funding and resources, making it challenging to meet the growing needs of the community. Insufficient resources can result in gaps in service provision and hinder the sector's ability to address complex challenges effectively.
2. **High Demand for Services:** The Inland Empire experiences a high demand for social services due to factors such as poverty, homelessness, mental health issues, substance abuse, and unemployment. Meeting the immediate needs of individuals and families requires adequate staffing, infrastructure, and support systems.
3. **Access to Services:** Accessibility barriers, such as geographic distance, transportation limitations, language barriers, and lack of awareness, can hinder individuals' access to essential social services. Ensuring equitable access to services is crucial for addressing immediate needs and promoting social inclusion.

Long-Term Challenges:

1. **Systemic Inequalities:** Long-standing systemic inequalities, including racial and socioeconomic disparities, impact the social services sector. Addressing systemic challenges requires comprehensive strategies that tackle underlying root causes and work towards dismantling structural barriers.
2. **Interconnected Social Issues:** Many social issues are interconnected, making it challenging to address them in isolation. Challenges like poverty, education gaps, healthcare disparities, and housing instability often coexist and require a comprehensive and integrated approach for sustainable solutions.
3. **Complex Client Needs:** Individuals seeking social services often face complex and multifaceted challenges that require tailored and holistic support. Addressing long-term challenges necessitates a person-centered approach that considers the unique needs, strengths, and aspirations of individuals and families.
4. **Workforce Development:** The social services sector requires a skilled and diverse workforce equipped with the necessary knowledge and training to address evolving challenges effectively. Recruitment, retention, and professional development of social service professionals are critical to ensuring the sector's long-term effectiveness.
5. **Policy and Advocacy:** Advocating for policies that support social services and addressing systemic barriers requires ongoing effort. Policy changes, resource allocation, and advocacy play a vital role in shaping the long-term landscape of the social services sector and addressing broader societal challenges.

Social Services - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for social services in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to quality and comprehensive services that support their health, well-being, and basic needs, where social safety nets are strong, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect while ensuring everyone has access to community resources that address their social determinants of health needs.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where social services policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where our communities are empowered to shape their own social services future.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where our region's diverse needs are effectively met through collaboration and innovation, and where social services are integrated with broader social and environmental objectives.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where social services are available and accessible to everyone, regardless of income, ability, or status, and where cultural competency is valued and practiced in all services.
5. Our vision for social services is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in holistic and equitable approaches to social services, where our communities are healthy, resilient, and thriving, and where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Social Services - Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of social services in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Comprehensive and equitable social services:** Solutions that aim to provide everyone with quality and comprehensive services that support their health, well-being, and basic needs, where social safety nets are strong, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Equitable Social Services Access Program (1)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Community Caregivers Program (1)*
 - iii. *Redirecting Resources for Social Services in the Inland Empire*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)

- ii. Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)
- iii. San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services
- iv. Riverside County Department of Public Social Services
- v. The Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR)
- vi. Sahaba Initiative
- vii. Family Service Association
- viii. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. California Department of Social Services: provides grants and funding opportunities for various social service programs, including those that serve older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income families.
- ii. Inland Empire Community Foundation: offers grant opportunities for nonprofit organizations that focus on a range of social service areas, including housing, health, and education.
- iii. San Bernardino County Community Development and Housing Agency: provides funding opportunities for affordable housing and community development programs.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with local community-based organizations: partnering with organizations that provide social services, such as food banks, homeless shelters, and mental health clinics, can help to expand the reach and impact of social service programs.
- ii. Partnership with local government agencies: working with government agencies that provide social services, such as the Department of Public Social Services and the Department of Aging and Adult Services, can help to leverage resources and expertise to address the needs of the community.
- iii. Collaboration with private sector organizations: partnering with private sector organizations that have a commitment to social responsibility and community engagement, such as corporations, foundations, and businesses, can help to increase funding and support for social service programs.
- iv. Collaborating with universities to expand the social services workforce, thereby enhancing the capacity of clinicians and practitioners to effectively respond to the increasing demands related to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).

2. **Collaboration and innovation:** Solutions that aim to effectively meet the diverse needs of the region through collaboration and innovation, and where social services are integrated with broader social and environmental objectives.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Inland Empire Community Resource Connection Platform*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
- ii. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- iii. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- iv. Inland SoCal United Way

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. California Endowment
- ii. Inland Empire Black Equity Fund
- iii. Inland Empire Community Foundation
- iv. The San Bernardino County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for local community development projects, including those related to social services.
- v. The Inland Empire Funders Alliance
- vi. The California Wellness Foundation
- vii. Inland Empire Capacity Builders Network
- viii. Parkview Legacy Foundation

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Social services organizations can partner with local governments and community-based organizations to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to individuals and families in need.
- ii. Collaboration with private sector organizations, such as businesses and foundations, can help leverage resources and expertise to support social service initiatives.
- iii. Social services organizations can partner with academic institutions to conduct research, evaluate programs, and develop innovative solutions to social issues.

3. **Accessible and culturally competent services:** Solutions that aim to ensure that social services are available and accessible to everyone, regardless of income, ability, or status, and where cultural competency is valued and practiced in all services.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Equitable Social Services Access Program (2)*
- ii. *Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive Practices in the Inland Empire (1)*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. African American Family Wellness Advisory Group
- ii. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire - *Big Brothers Big Sisters mission and programs advance upward social and economic mobility through mentorship to create more caring and connected communities where young people thrive. Through mentorship and our workforce development initiative, we empower youth to graduate high school, build social capital, find a post secondary path, and guide their families on a path towards self-sufficiency so they can move up the economic ladder.*

- iii. TODEC Legal Center
- iv. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- v. Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
- vi. Molina Healthcare
- vii. Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association
- viii. The Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR)
- ix. Sahaba Initiative
- x. Sigma Beta Xi
- xi. TruEvolution
- xii. Youth Mentoring Action Network (YMAN)
- xiii. Parkview Legacy Foundation's Integrated Anti-Poverty Platform
- xiv. Riverside County Nonprofit Roundtable

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Grant opportunities from the California Department of Social Services: The California Department of Social Services offers various grant programs that focus on improving the accessibility and cultural competence of social services in the state, including the Community Services Block Grant and the Emergency Solutions Grant.
- ii. Partnership opportunities with local community-based organizations: Collaborating with local community-based organizations, such as the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective or the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, can provide funding and resources to improve the accessibility and cultural competence of social services.
- iii. Investment in training and professional development: Investing in training and professional development for social service providers can improve their ability to provide accessible and culturally competent services. This can include providing language training, cultural sensitivity training, and disability awareness training.
- iv. Public-private partnerships: Public-private partnerships between social service agencies and private companies can provide funding and resources to improve the accessibility and cultural competence of social services. For example, a private company could fund the development of a new service that addresses the needs of a specific cultural community, or provide resources to help social service agencies hire bilingual staff.
- v. Policies that prioritize accessibility and cultural competence: Policies at the local and state levels that prioritize the accessibility and cultural competence of social services can drive investment and funding towards these initiatives. This can include policies that require social service agencies to provide services in multiple languages or that provide funding specifically for culturally competent services.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaborating with community-based organizations: Social service providers can partner with community-based organizations that have



established relationships with underserved populations to provide accessible and culturally competent services. These organizations can help with outreach, language translation, and cultural understanding, among other things.

- ii. Partnering with universities and research institutions: Social service providers can partner with universities and research institutions to develop evidence-based interventions and train staff on best practices for serving diverse populations. These partnerships can also involve research on community needs and evaluation of program effectiveness.
- iii. Working with faith-based organizations: Social service providers can partner with local faith-based organizations to reach underserved populations and provide culturally competent services. These partnerships can involve training faith leaders on social service resources and collaborating on community events.
- iv. Collaborating with local government agencies: Social service providers can partner with local government agencies to ensure that services are accessible and culturally competent. This can involve providing input on policy development and working together on initiatives to address community needs.
- v. Partnering with healthcare providers: Social service providers can partner with healthcare providers to ensure that patients have access to social services that address the social determinants of health. These partnerships can involve co-locating services and developing joint programs to address community health needs.

Social Services - Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to social services.

1. **Advocate for increased funding and resources for community-based organizations and social service providers, with a particular focus on supporting nonprofits and community organizations in under-resourced areas, including rural and unincorporated communities of the region.** Our commitment extends to actively supporting and promoting advocacy efforts to secure more state dollars specifically allocated to the Inland Empire, aiming to address systemic issues and enhance the provision of essential services. In this endeavor, we emphasize the importance of evolving funding mechanisms to include multiyear funding cycles with upfront payments that do not strain social service organizations' cash flow. Additionally, we advocate for contracts with social service agencies that allow flexibility to meet the diverse needs of participants and accommodate year-over-year increases to cover the cost of living adjustments for staff and inflationary increases for program operations. By adopting

these measures, we seek to strengthen the financial resilience and sustainability of these organizations, enabling them to make a more profound and lasting impact, improve access to critical services, and uplift under-resourced communities throughout the region.

- a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. **Advocate for increased funding:** We can advocate for increased funding and resources for community-based organizations and social service providers in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting efforts to secure additional funding from government agencies, foundations, and private donors to strengthen the capacity of these organizations and expand their reach in under-resourced areas.
 - ii. **Support nonprofits and community organizations:** We can actively support and promote initiatives that prioritize funding and resources for nonprofits and community organizations operating in under-resourced areas of the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for equitable distribution of funding and resources, providing technical assistance and capacity-building support, and facilitating partnerships between organizations to enhance collaboration and maximize impact.
 - iii. **Promote advocacy efforts for state funding:** We can actively support and engage in advocacy efforts to secure more state dollars specifically allocated to the Inland Empire. This involves working with local elected officials, community leaders, and grassroots organizations to advocate for the region's unique needs and priorities, aiming to address systemic issues and enhance the provision of essential services in the Inland Empire.
 - iv. **Foster collaboration and resource sharing:** We can create platforms and networks that facilitate collaboration and resource sharing among community-based organizations and social service providers in the Inland Empire. This includes organizing forums, workshops, and conferences to promote knowledge exchange, best practices, and joint advocacy efforts, ultimately strengthening the collective impact of these organizations.
 - v. **Raise awareness and mobilize community support:** We can raise awareness about the importance of supporting community-based organizations and social service providers in the Inland Empire by engaging the community, media, and key stakeholders. This includes organizing awareness campaigns, community events, and public forums to highlight the vital role these organizations play in addressing community needs and advocating for sustainable funding.
2. **Promote the development of new and innovative models that enhance access to and delivery of social services**, taking into account emerging digital solutions and fostering collaborations through public-private partnerships. These models should prioritize equitable access to services, address barriers to accessibility, and leverage

technological advancements to reach underserved populations. By embracing digital solutions and forging strategic partnerships between public and private sectors, we can optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery, expand the reach of social programs, and ensure that individuals and communities have the support they need to thrive.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support for innovation in social service delivery: We can support and promote the development of new and innovative models that enhance access to and delivery of social services in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for funding and resources to support pilot projects and demonstration programs that test and implement emerging digital solutions and service delivery models.
 - ii. Advocate for equitable access: We can advocate for equitable access to social services, ensuring that underserved populations in the Inland Empire have equal opportunities to benefit from innovative models. This includes raising awareness about the importance of equitable access and collaborating with stakeholders to address barriers such as language barriers, technological literacy, and lack of internet connectivity.
 - iii. Foster public-private partnerships: We can create an environment that fosters collaborations between public and private sectors to enhance the development and implementation of innovative models in social service delivery. This involves advocating for policies and incentives that encourage partnerships, facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange between sectors, and supporting initiatives that leverage the expertise and resources of both sectors.
 - iv. Encourage technological advancements: We can support initiatives that promote and leverage technological advancements to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social service delivery. This includes advocating for investments in digital infrastructure, supporting the training and capacity-building of service providers to utilize digital tools, and promoting the adoption of user-friendly and accessible technologies that meet the diverse needs of the Inland Empire's population.
 - v. Promote evaluation and knowledge sharing: We can support efforts to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of new models in social service delivery and share knowledge and best practices with stakeholders in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for funding for research and evaluation studies, facilitating platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration, and promoting continuous learning and improvement in the field.
3. **Expand access to comprehensive and high-quality mental health services, including prevention, intervention, and treatment programs, to address the diverse needs of individuals and communities, especially in underserved areas of**

the Inland Empire. This includes ensuring timely access to evidence-based practices, promoting integrated care models that address both mental health and substance abuse, and fostering collaboration among healthcare providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders. By prioritizing access to mental health services in underserved regions and actively addressing the stigma surrounding seeking help, we can proactively address mental health challenges, reduce the risk of substance abuse, and provide essential support to individuals, particularly youth and other underserved populations, promoting their overall well-being and resilience.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support for comprehensive mental health services: We can support and advocate for increased funding and resources for comprehensive mental health services in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting the expansion of mental health programs, prevention initiatives, and early intervention services that address the diverse needs of individuals and communities.
- ii. Advocate for integrated care models: We can advocate for the implementation of integrated care models that address both mental health and substance abuse. This includes promoting collaboration among healthcare providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure seamless coordination and delivery of services, and advocating for policies that incentivize and support integrated care approaches.
- iii. Reduce stigma and promote help-seeking behavior: We can actively work to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and promote help-seeking behavior. This includes advocating for public awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and community dialogues that challenge misconceptions and promote understanding, empathy, and acceptance.
- iv. Enhance provider networks and accessibility: We can advocate for the expansion of mental health provider networks and improve accessibility to mental health services in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting efforts to recruit and retain mental health professionals, especially in underserved areas, and advocating for policies that increase reimbursement rates and incentivize mental health professionals to practice in the region.
- v. Collaborate with community organizations: We can create partnerships and collaborations with community organizations to enhance mental health services. This includes supporting initiatives that provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health care, collaborating with schools to implement mental health programs for youth, and leveraging the expertise and resources of community organizations to increase access to mental health services.



4. **Advocate for strengthening and expanding social safety net programs to ensure access to vital resources for individuals and families in need.** This includes advocating for increased funding and support for food assistance programs to address food insecurity, advocating for the development of affordable housing initiatives to provide stable and affordable housing options, advocating for comprehensive solutions to address homelessness, including supportive services and housing programs, and advocating for improved healthcare access to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for all. By advocating for these important social safety net programs, we can help alleviate poverty, improve well-being, and create a more equitable and resilient community.
 - a. **WE COMMIT TO...**
 - i. Advocate for increased funding for food assistance programs: We can advocate for increased funding and support for programs that address food insecurity, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school meal programs, and community food banks. This includes actively engaging with local, state, and federal policymakers to prioritize funding for these programs and raise awareness about the importance of addressing food insecurity.
 - ii. Support affordable housing initiatives: We can support and advocate for the development of affordable housing initiatives in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for policies that promote affordable housing development, such as inclusionary zoning and housing trust funds, as well as supporting the allocation of resources and incentives for the construction of affordable housing units.
 - iii. Advocate for comprehensive homelessness solutions: We can advocate for comprehensive solutions to address homelessness in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for increased funding for supportive services, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as advocating for the development of affordable and supportive housing programs specifically targeted towards individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - iv. Advocate for improved healthcare access: We can advocate for improved healthcare access to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for all residents of the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for policies that expand access to healthcare coverage, such as Medicaid expansion, and supporting initiatives that increase the availability of primary care providers and specialized services in underserved areas.
 - v. Support community organizations and nonprofits: We can support and advocate for community organizations and nonprofits that provide vital resources and services to individuals and families in need. This includes actively engaging with these organizations, amplifying their voices, and supporting their efforts through volunteering, donations, and collaboration.

5. **Promote comprehensive policies that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality, recognizing that addressing wages and income alone is not sufficient.**

This includes advocating for measures like raising the minimum wage to ensure fair compensation for workers, as well as supporting sustainable education and job training programs that equip individuals with the skills needed for meaningful employment and career advancement. By taking a holistic approach to poverty alleviation, we can address multiple interconnected issues and unlock opportunities for individuals and communities, fostering upward mobility, economic resilience, and social well-being.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocate for raising the minimum wage: We can advocate for policies that raise the minimum wage to ensure fair compensation for workers. This includes engaging with local and state policymakers, joining advocacy campaigns, and raising public awareness about the importance of fair wages in reducing poverty and inequality.
- ii. Support sustainable education and job training programs: We can support and advocate for sustainable education and job training programs that equip individuals with the skills needed for meaningful employment and career advancement. This includes advocating for increased funding for vocational training programs, apprenticeships, and workforce development initiatives that align with the needs of local industries.
- iii. Create partnerships between educational institutions and employers: We can create partnerships between educational institutions and employers to ensure that education and training programs are responsive to the needs of the job market. This can involve advocating for collaboration between schools, colleges, and businesses to develop curricula, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities that provide practical skills and pathways to employment.
- iv. Promote entrepreneurship and small business development: We can support and advocate for programs that promote entrepreneurship and small business development, particularly in under-resourced communities. This includes providing access to resources, mentorship, and financing options for aspiring entrepreneurs, as well as advocating for policies that reduce barriers to starting and growing small businesses.
- v. Advocate for equitable economic policies: We can advocate for policies that promote economic equity and address systemic barriers to upward mobility. This includes advocating for affordable housing initiatives, affordable healthcare access, and equitable tax policies that reduce income inequality and provide a foundation for economic stability.

6. **Advocate for increasing resources for and access to programs that support vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.** This entails not only expanding existing social safety net programs but also fostering the growth of social enterprises that address

specific needs within these populations. For example, supporting social enterprises focused on organic or food systems can create employment opportunities while also promoting sustainable practices and improving access to nutritious food. By investing in innovative and inclusive solutions, we can uplift vulnerable populations, enhance their quality of life, and build a more equitable and resilient society.

- a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Advocate for increased resources for social safety net programs: We can advocate for increased funding and resources for programs that support vulnerable populations, such as seniors, children, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. This includes engaging with policymakers, community leaders, and advocacy groups to highlight the importance of these programs and the need for expanded support.
 - ii. Expand access to social safety net programs: We can advocate for policies that improve access to social safety net programs for vulnerable populations. This includes reducing barriers to enrollment, streamlining application processes, and increasing outreach efforts to ensure that eligible individuals and families can access the resources and support they need.
 - iii. Support the growth of social enterprises: We can support and advocate for the growth of social enterprises that address specific needs within vulnerable populations. This includes providing resources, mentorship, and financial support to social enterprises focused on areas such as affordable housing, employment opportunities, healthcare access, and food systems.
 - iv. Promote sustainable practices in social enterprises: We can advocate for social enterprises that prioritize sustainable practices, such as organic farming or renewable energy initiatives. By supporting these enterprises, we can create employment opportunities while also promoting environmentally friendly practices and improving access to essential resources like nutritious food.
 - v. Foster collaboration between organizations and stakeholders: We can facilitate collaboration between social service organizations, government agencies, businesses, and community members to address the needs of vulnerable populations comprehensively. This includes advocating for coordinated efforts, sharing resources and expertise, and creating partnerships that amplify the impact of support programs and initiatives.
7. **Support policies that address structural injustices and promote equity in the provision of social services**, with a specific focus on populations experiencing homelessness, adults with severe mental illness transitioning from incarceration, youth enrolled in child care services, youth involved in the child welfare system, and adults and seniors with multiple comorbidities. By prioritizing the needs of these populations, we can promote social services that are accessible, tailored, and responsive to unique

circumstances, ultimately promoting greater equity and improving outcomes for those who are most vulnerable in our community.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support policy changes: We can support and advocate for policy changes that address structural injustices and promote equity in the provision of social services. This includes engaging with policymakers, community organizations, and advocacy groups to raise awareness of the specific needs of populations experiencing homelessness, adults with severe mental illness transitioning from incarceration, youth enrolled in child care services, youth involved in the child welfare system, and adults and seniors with multiple comorbidities. We can advocate for policies that allocate resources and develop programs specifically tailored to meet their needs.
- ii. Advocate for increased funding: We can advocate for increased funding for social services targeting these populations. By highlighting the importance of adequate resources, we can ensure that organizations and agencies have the necessary funding to provide accessible and responsive services. This can include advocating for increased government funding, seeking partnerships with philanthropic organizations, and mobilizing community support for fundraising efforts.
- iii. Create collaborative partnerships: We can support the creation of collaborative partnerships among community organizations, social service providers, and government agencies to better serve these populations. By fostering collaboration, we can leverage collective expertise and resources to develop comprehensive and coordinated approaches to address their unique circumstances. This can include facilitating regular meetings, sharing best practices, and encouraging information exchange to improve service delivery.
- iv. Promote community awareness and education: We can support efforts to raise community awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by these populations. This can involve organizing educational events, workshops, and awareness campaigns to dispel misconceptions, reduce stigma, and foster empathy and support for those in need. By promoting understanding and empathy, we can create a more inclusive and supportive community environment.
- v. Evaluate and improve service delivery: We can support initiatives to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of social services targeting these populations. This includes monitoring outcomes, conducting research, and implementing evidence-based practices to ensure that services are tailored, responsive, and produce positive outcomes. By actively seeking feedback from service recipients and continuously improving service delivery, we can enhance equity and promote better outcomes for those in need.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. **Integrated Service Delivery:** By integrating and coordinating social services across different agencies and organizations, multisolver opportunities arise. This approach ensures that individuals and families receive comprehensive support addressing their various needs, such as healthcare, housing, employment, mental health, and substance abuse. Integrated service delivery improves efficiency, reduces duplication of efforts, and enhances overall outcomes.
2. **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Investing in prevention and early intervention programs, with a particular emphasis on mentorship, can have multisolver benefits. By addressing issues at their early stages, such as providing early childhood education, parenting support, and family counseling, as well as fostering mentorship programs for youth, the social services sector can help prevent long-term challenges and improve overall well-being. This approach contributes to better educational outcomes, reduced involvement in the justice system, improved mental health, and strengthened family stability.
3. **Wraparound Services:** Implementing wraparound services that provide comprehensive support to individuals and families can address multiple challenges simultaneously. These services combine various resources, including case management, counseling, healthcare, education, and employment assistance. By taking a holistic approach, wraparound services can improve outcomes in multiple areas and promote overall well-being.
4. **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Collaboration between the social services sector and other sectors, such as healthcare, education, housing, and workforce development, can create multisolver opportunities. By working together, these sectors can address interconnected challenges more effectively and provide comprehensive support to individuals and communities. For example, collaboration between social services and healthcare can improve health outcomes and access to care for underserved populations.
5. **Community-Based Partnerships:** Engaging community-based organizations, nonprofits, and grassroots initiatives in the delivery of social services can lead to multisolver outcomes. These partnerships bring together local knowledge, resources, and community networks to address challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, and inequality. By leveraging community strengths, social services can have a broader impact and empower communities to drive their own solutions.
6. **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Utilizing data to inform decision-making processes in the social services sector can lead to multisolver opportunities. By analyzing comprehensive data, identifying patterns, and understanding community needs, service providers can design targeted interventions and allocate resources more efficiently. This data-driven approach enables evidence-based practices and improves outcomes across multiple areas.

Transportation

Transportation refers to the movement of people, goods, and services from one place to another. It encompasses a wide range of modes of transportation, including automobiles, public transit, bicycles, and walking.

Transportation is an essential component of modern society, facilitating economic and social activity, and enabling individuals and communities to access employment, education, healthcare, and other services. It is critical to promoting economic growth and development, and to fostering sustainable and livable communities.

However, transportation is also subject to a range of challenges and threats, including traffic congestion, air pollution, and the negative effects of climate change. These challenges can limit the accessibility and affordability of transportation, and can have significant social, economic, and environmental impacts.

A sustainable approach to transportation is one that promotes the use of alternative modes of transportation, such as public transit, bicycles, and walking, and that supports the development of transportation systems that are efficient, affordable, and environmentally friendly. It also involves the adoption of policies and practices that promote sustainable land use patterns, such as compact and mixed-use development, and that encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation.

Transportation in the Inland Empire

Transportation is a critical issue in the Inland Empire, with traffic congestion on the major highways and limited public transportation coverage and frequency in some areas. The region has two major airports which provide access to domestic and international destinations, but biking and walking as a means of transportation are limited due to the lack of bike lanes and sidewalks.

- **Roadways:** The Inland Empire has a number of major highways, including Interstates 10 and 15, that provide access to the rest of Southern California and beyond. However, traffic congestion is a significant problem, particularly during peak travel times.
- **Public Transportation:** The Inland Empire has a number of public transportation options, including buses and trains operated by the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) and Omnitrans. However, public transportation coverage and frequency is limited in some areas, making it difficult for some residents to access jobs, services, and other destinations.

- **Airports:** The Inland Empire has two major airports, Ontario International Airport and Riverside Municipal Airport, which provide access to domestic and international destinations.
- **Biking and Walking:** The Inland Empire has a limited network of bike lanes and sidewalks, which can make it difficult for residents to bike or walk as a means of transportation.

Equity in Transportation

Transportation equity in the Inland Empire refers to the fair and equal access to transportation options for all residents, regardless of race, income, or geography. The Inland Empire, like many regions in the United States, has historically experienced transportation inequities, with low-income communities and communities of color being disproportionately impacted by a lack of reliable and affordable transportation options. Improving transportation equity in the Inland Empire can help to address these disparities and improve access to opportunities such as employment, education, and healthcare. This can be done through a variety of measures, including increasing public transportation options, improving access to transportation for people with disabilities, and reducing the cost of transportation for low-income households. Additionally, community-based organizations can play an important role in advocating for transportation equity and working with government and private sector partners to develop and implement transportation solutions that meet the needs of the entire community.

IE Transportation Snapshot: Key Facts & Highlights

1. The Inland Empire is one of the fastest-growing regions in California, and transportation infrastructure has struggled to keep up with the population growth. As of 2020, the region's population was over 4.6 million people.
2. The Inland Empire is a major hub for goods movement, with several major ports and distribution centers located in the region.
3. The region is home to several major highways, including the 10, 15, 210, and 215 freeways, as well as several major surface streets and public transportation options.
4. Despite its size, the Inland Empire has limited public transportation options. The Riverside Transit Agency and Omnitrans provide bus service throughout the region, while Metrolink offers commuter rail service to Los Angeles and other parts of Southern California.
5. The Inland Empire embraces electric vehicles, boasting a notable EV presence, and it engages in various infrastructure projects, such as the expansion of the 91 freeway and the Redlands Passenger Rail Project.
6. The region is also home to several major transportation projects currently under construction, including the expansion of the 91 freeway and the construction of the Redlands Passenger Rail Project.
7. Air quality issues persist in the Inland Empire, attributed to automobile reliance and goods transportation.

8. The region is exploring alternative transportation options, including bike-sharing and microtransit, as a way to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.
9. The Inland Empire Transportation Management Center (IETMC) plays a pivotal role in highway and street traffic management and incident response.
10. The Inland Empire is home to several major airports, including Ontario International Airport and March Air Reserve Base, which support both passenger and cargo traffic.

Sector Challenges

The following section provides an overview of the challenges faced by the transportation sector in the Inland Empire, categorizing them into both immediate and long-term challenges. Making this distinction allows us to differentiate and prioritize between pressing issues that require immediate attention and those that require sustained efforts and long-term solutions. By recognizing and understanding the specific nature of these challenges, we can effectively prioritize the needs of the sector and allocate resources, support, and advocacy efforts accordingly. This approach enables us to address the immediate needs and tackle the root causes of long-term challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

1. **Congestion and Traffic:** The Inland Empire experiences significant congestion and traffic issues, particularly during peak commuting hours. High traffic volumes can lead to longer travel times, increased fuel consumption, and air pollution, affecting the overall efficiency and sustainability of transportation systems.
2. **Limited Public Transit Options:** The region faces limitations in terms of public transit infrastructure and services. The availability and accessibility of public transportation options are often inadequate, making it challenging for residents to rely on alternative modes of transportation, such as buses or trains.
3. **Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgrades:** Aging infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and transit systems, require ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure safe and efficient transportation. Insufficient funding for infrastructure improvements can result in deteriorating conditions and impact the overall quality of transportation networks.

Long-Term Challenges:

1. **Sustainable Transportation:** Encouraging sustainable transportation modes, such as walking, cycling, and public transit, is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The promotion of sustainable transportation options requires investments in infrastructure, policy support, and public awareness.
2. **Transportation Equity:** Ensuring equitable access to transportation is a long-term challenge in the Inland Empire. Disparities in transportation access disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities. Overcoming transportation equity challenges requires targeted investments, improved connectivity, and inclusive planning processes.

3. **Future Mobility Solutions:** As technology advances, the transportation sector faces the challenge of adapting to emerging mobility solutions, such as electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and shared mobility services. Embracing these advancements while addressing concerns related to safety, equity, and infrastructure requirements presents long-term challenges.
4. **Land Use and Transportation Integration:** The Inland Empire's transportation challenges are closely tied to land use patterns. Ensuring coordination between land use planning and transportation infrastructure development is crucial for creating sustainable, walkable, and transit-oriented communities. Integrated approaches that promote compact development and reduce dependence on private vehicles can enhance the region's transportation system.
5. **Funding and Financing:** Securing adequate funding for transportation projects and maintenance is an ongoing challenge. Long-term investments are necessary to support infrastructure upgrades, transit expansion, and the implementation of innovative transportation solutions. Exploring alternative financing mechanisms and pursuing partnerships with public and private stakeholders are essential for addressing funding challenges.

Transportation - Vision Statements

1. Our vision for transportation in the Inland Empire is a future where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation options that connect our communities, promote economic prosperity, and protect our environment.
2. We envision an Inland Empire where transportation policies and programs are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles, and where our communities are empowered to shape their own transportation future.
3. Our vision is to promote a future where active transportation, such as biking and walking, is prioritized and integrated into our transportation system, and where public transit is accessible, affordable, and efficient.
4. We envision an Inland Empire where transportation planning and investment takes into account the diverse needs and priorities of our region's communities, and where transportation infrastructure is designed to promote safety, health, and environmental sustainability.
5. Our vision for transportation is one where the Inland Empire is recognized as a leader in innovative and equitable approaches to transportation, where our communities are connected, vibrant, and accessible to all, and where transportation supports a thriving and sustainable economy.

Transportation- Solutions

This section includes an overview of the solutions that the community proposed for the topic of transportation in the Inland Empire. These solutions have been organized into broad categories and themes. Some solutions fall under several categories, which are noted numerically next to

the solution title. Additionally, this section highlights existing efforts in the region and promising areas for investment, funding, and partnership opportunities. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive and interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the IE 2030 Team if they would like to add their program/initiative to the list.

To view the full community proposed solutions in detail please see:

1. **Safe, Affordable, and Sustainable Transportation Options:** These solutions aim to provide everyone with access to transportation options that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. These solutions focus on promoting economic prosperity while protecting the environment.
 - a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Equitable Transportation Access Program (1)*
 - ii. *Expand and Enhance Public Transit Services (1)*
 - iii. *Smart Transportation Management System (1)*
 - iv. *Inland Empire Quarterly Free Public Transportation Days (1)*
 - v. *Promote Clean and Alternative Transportation Technologies (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) - The RTA provides public transportation services throughout western Riverside County, with a focus on improving accessibility, affordability, and sustainability..
 - ii. Metrolink - Metrolink provides commuter rail service throughout Southern California, including the Inland Empire
 - iii. Bike-friendly communities - Several cities in the Inland Empire have implemented programs and initiatives to encourage cycling and promote bike-friendly infrastructure. For example, the city of Riverside has implemented a "Bike Riverside" program that includes bike education, events, and infrastructure improvements. The city of Redlands has also implemented a "Bike Friendly Community" program that includes bike education and infrastructure improvements.
 - iv. Active transportation planning - The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has developed an Active Transportation Program to improve the region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The program includes a focus on equity and prioritizes projects in underserved communities.
 - v. Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure - The Inland Empire has seen an increase in EV adoption in recent years, leading to a need for more charging infrastructure. Several organizations, such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Energy Commission, offer funding opportunities for EV charging infrastructure projects. Additionally, cities and businesses in the Inland Empire have partnered with EV charging companies to install charging stations in public areas and at workplaces.

vi. San Bernardino Transportation Authority (SBCTA)

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Active Transportation Program (ATP): The ATP is a state-funded program that provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects, such as bike lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks. The program is administered by the California Transportation Commission, and local agencies can apply for funding to support their active transportation goals.
- ii. Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP): The LCTOP is a state-funded program that provides funding to transit agencies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transit operations. The program provides funding for a range of projects, such as transit service improvements, fare reductions, and the purchase of zero-emission buses.
- iii. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ): The CMAQ is a federal program that provides funding for transportation projects that help improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. The program funds a range of projects, such as transit service improvements, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and traffic flow improvements.
- iv. Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program: The TCC Program is a state-funded program that provides grants to support community-led projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. Projects can include a range of transportation-related initiatives, such as improving access to safe and affordable transportation options.
- v. Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Incentives Program (SCPGIP): The SCPGIP is a state-funded program that provides grants to support planning efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development. The program supports a range of planning activities, including transportation planning that focuses on safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation options.
- vi. California Climate Investments: The California Climate Investments program is a statewide initiative that invests billions of dollars in projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment. The program funds a wide range of projects, including transportation projects that focus on safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation options.
- vii. Private Sector Investment: Private sector investment in transportation infrastructure can also support safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation options. This can include investments in public transit systems, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and bike-share programs, among other initiatives.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration between transportation agencies and community organizations: Transportation agencies can partner with community organizations to gather input on transportation needs and priorities, as well as to develop and implement transportation programs and initiatives that address community needs.
 - ii. Partnerships between local governments and private transportation providers: Local governments can partner with private transportation providers, such as ride-sharing companies or bike-share programs, to expand transportation options and improve access to affordable and sustainable transportation. These partnerships can also help to promote the use of public transportation and reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road.
 - iii. Collaboration between employers and transportation providers: Employers can partner with transportation providers to offer their employees access to affordable and sustainable transportation options, such as transit passes or bike-share programs. This can help to reduce employee commuting costs and improve access to jobs for people who may not have reliable transportation.
 - iv. Partnerships between schools and transportation providers: Schools can partner with transportation providers to improve access to safe and sustainable transportation options for students. This can include initiatives such as safe walking and biking routes, school bus programs, and bike-share programs.
 - v. Collaboration between healthcare providers and transportation providers: Healthcare providers can partner with transportation providers to improve access to medical appointments and healthcare services for underserved populations. This can include initiatives such as free or reduced-cost transportation options for patients, or partnerships with transportation providers to expand access to healthcare in underserved areas.
2. **Equity, Justice, and Sustainability Principles:** Transportation policies and programs that are guided by equity, justice, and sustainability principles. These solutions aim to empower communities to shape their transportation future.
- a. **Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)**
 - i. *Equitable Transportation Access Program (2)*
 - ii. *Inland Empire Quarterly Free Public Transportation Days (2)*
 - iii. *Higher Density Land Use Plans (1)*
 - b. **Existing Efforts**
 - i. Dynamic Mobility Management Systems Consortium (DyMMS) - CE CERT at UC Riverside
 - ii. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) has a commitment to equity and inclusion, and has implemented several programs and initiatives to increase access to transportation options for underserved communities. This includes the development of a Low-

- Income Fare Assistance Program (LIFeline) that provides discounted fares on public transit for low-income individuals and families.
- iii. The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) has a focus on sustainable transportation options, such as expanding bus and rail service, and implementing bike and pedestrian infrastructure. They have also implemented several programs to improve mobility for underserved communities, such as the Go Human campaign that promotes active transportation options like walking and biking.
 - iv. The Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) has implemented a Transportation Access Program that provides transportation assistance to eligible members who have no other means of getting to their medical appointments. This program is designed to improve access to healthcare services for low-income individuals and families.
 - v. The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) is a grassroots organization that advocates for sustainable transportation options that prioritize equity and justice. They work with community members and local organizations to identify transportation needs and develop solutions that meet the needs of underserved communities.
 - vi. The Inland Empire Bicycle Alliance (IEBA) is a non-profit organization that advocates for bike-friendly policies and infrastructure in the Inland Empire. They work with local governments, businesses, and community groups to promote safe and accessible biking options.

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP): This program provides grants to fund transformative capital improvements to the state's intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit systems. The program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand public transportation access, and improve transit service.
- ii. The Active Transportation Program (ATP): The ATP provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects that help create safe, active transportation options. The program prioritizes projects that serve disadvantaged communities and promote equity and public health.
- iii. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP): This program provides operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a particular focus on serving disadvantaged communities.
- iv. The Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program: This program provides vouchers for low-income residents to access zero-emission vehicles and mobility options, including public transit, ride-hailing, bike-share, and car-share services.
- v. The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program: This program provides funding to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance public health, and promote economic and

environmental sustainability in California communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change.

- vi. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Sustainable Communities Program: This program provides technical assistance and funding to help cities and counties in the region develop sustainable transportation and land use plans that promote equity, health, and environmental sustainability.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Collaboration with local community organizations and advocacy groups to ensure that transportation projects and policies reflect the needs and priorities of historically marginalized communities.
- ii. Partnership with local transit agencies and private transportation providers to increase access to safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation options in underserved areas.
- iii. Cooperation with local government and planning departments to promote mixed-use, transit-oriented development that prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and reduces dependence on cars.
- iv. Joint efforts with local schools, universities, and employers to promote sustainable transportation options such as carpooling, bike-sharing, and telecommuting.
- v. Collaboration with local utilities and energy providers to promote the use of low-emission vehicles and to invest in renewable energy sources to power transportation infrastructure.

- 3. **Active Transportation and Public Transit:** These solutions prioritize active transportation, such as biking and walking, and make public transit accessible, affordable, and efficient.

a. Proposed Solutions from Community (Solution Details in Appendix)

- i. *Expand and Enhance Public Transit Services (2)*
- ii. *Promote Clean and Alternative Transportation Technologies (2)*

b. Existing Efforts

- i. **Omnitrans:** Omnitrans is the public transit agency serving the San Bernardino Valley in the Inland Empire. They operate local and express bus routes, as well as a bus rapid transit line, sbX. Omnitrans is committed to providing safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options that connect residents to jobs, schools, and other destinations.
- ii. **Riverside Transit Agency:** The Riverside Transit Agency operates public transit in western Riverside County and provides bus service to adjacent counties. They offer local, express, and commuter bus routes, as well as Dial-A-Ride and paratransit services. The agency is committed to improving transportation options for all residents of the region.
- iii. **Active Transportation Program:** The California Active Transportation Program provides funding for projects that promote active transportation, such as walking and biking. The program aims to increase the use of

active transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

- iv. Inland Empire Biking Alliance: The Inland Empire Biking Alliance is a nonprofit organization that promotes bicycling as a means of transportation, recreation, and fitness in the Inland Empire. They advocate for bike-friendly policies and infrastructure, offer education and training programs, and organize community events.
- v. Complete Streets policies: Several cities in the Inland Empire, including Riverside and San Bernardino, have adopted Complete Streets policies. These policies require transportation projects to consider the needs of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit riders, in addition to drivers.
- vi. Metrolink: Metrolink is a regional commuter rail system that serves the Los Angeles metropolitan area, including the Inland Empire. They offer several lines that connect the Inland Empire to other parts of Southern California. Metrolink is committed to providing safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options for commuters.
- vii. San Bernardino Transportation Authority (SBCTA)

c. Promising Areas for Investment & Funding

- i. Cal Trans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants
- ii. SCAG Active Transportation grants
- iii. Active Transportation Program (ATP): The ATP is a state-funded program that provides grants for projects that encourage walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation. The program aims to increase mobility options and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting infrastructure improvements and education and encouragement programs.
- iv. Low or No-Emission (Low-No) Grant Program: The Federal Transit Administration's Low-No program provides funding for the purchase or lease of low- or zero-emission buses and related infrastructure. This program can help transit agencies in the Inland Empire transition to cleaner and more sustainable transportation options.

d. Promising Areas for Partnership Opportunities

- i. Partnerships between transportation agencies and community organizations: Transportation agencies such as the Riverside Transit Agency and Omnitrans have formed partnerships with community organizations to increase access to public transit and promote active transportation options such as walking and biking. These partnerships can help to identify and address transportation barriers faced by underserved communities and promote more equitable access to transportation options.
- ii. Partnerships between employers and transportation providers: Employers can partner with transportation providers to offer subsidized or free transit

passes to their employees, reducing the financial burden of commuting and promoting the use of public transit. This can also help to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

- iii. Partnerships between local governments and advocacy groups: Local governments can partner with advocacy groups to promote and implement policies and programs that support active transportation and public transit. These partnerships can help to ensure that community voices are heard in transportation planning processes and that policies are implemented in a way that prioritizes equity, justice, and sustainability.

Transportation- Recommended Strategies & Commitments

The following strategies have been co-developed through community sessions and extensive research, with the objective of fostering greater innovation, community resilience, inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the Inland Empire with respect to transportation.

1. **Support and advocate for the improvement and modernization of public transit systems across the region** to enhance access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable transportation options for all residents, with a particular focus on underserved communities. By investing in infrastructure upgrades, expanding service coverage, and incorporating innovative technologies, we can create a more efficient and interconnected public transit network. This will not only improve mobility but also reduce congestion, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and promote social equity. Additionally, the policy proposal aims to prioritize transit-oriented development and enhance first- and last-mile connections to ensure seamless and convenient travel experiences. By making public transit more accessible and attractive, we can enhance the quality of life for residents, support economic growth, and contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.
 - a. WE COMMIT TO...
 - i. Support funding and investment: We can support and advocate for increased funding and investment in public transit systems across the region. This includes engaging with local government officials, transportation authorities, and advocacy groups to prioritize public transit funding in budget allocations and seek additional funding from state and federal sources. By advocating for adequate resources, we can ensure the improvement and modernization of public transit infrastructure and services.
 - ii. Advocate for equitable access: We can advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize equitable access to public transit, particularly in underserved communities. This includes advocating for the expansion of service coverage to areas with limited transportation options and advocating for the implementation of fare policies that consider the



- affordability needs of low-income residents. By advocating for equitable access, we can address transportation disparities and ensure that all residents have access to reliable and affordable transportation options.
- iii. Promote sustainable practices: We can support and advocate for the incorporation of sustainable practices in public transit systems. This includes promoting the use of clean energy sources, such as electric buses, and advocating for the integration of technology to improve operational efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By advocating for sustainable practices, we can contribute to a greener and more environmentally friendly transportation system.
 - iv. Encourage transit-oriented development: We can support and advocate for policies that promote transit-oriented development, which focuses on creating mixed-use, walkable communities centered around public transit hubs. This includes advocating for zoning and land use policies that encourage dense and diverse development near transit stations, as well as supporting incentives for developers to build affordable housing near transit corridors. By encouraging transit-oriented development, we can enhance the convenience and attractiveness of public transit options and reduce dependence on private vehicles.
 - v. Support community education and outreach: We can support and participate in community education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of public transit and promote its usage. This includes collaborating with local organizations, schools, and community groups to organize events, workshops, and informational campaigns that highlight the advantages of public transit, provide guidance on navigating the transit system, and address any concerns or misconceptions. By increasing public awareness and understanding, we can encourage greater utilization of public transit options.

2. **Promote local and regional planning in the Inland Empire that fundamentally transforms the scale and design of communities, making them less car-centric and more conducive to sustainable transportation.** By embracing compact, walkable, and transit-oriented development, the Inland Empire can create vibrant neighborhoods that prioritize human-scale infrastructure and encourage active transportation. This includes the development of mixed-use zoning, which integrates residential, commercial, and recreational spaces within close proximity, reducing the need for long commutes and fostering local economic vitality. Investing in the creation of complete streets that prioritize pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users will ensure safe and accessible transportation options throughout the Inland Empire. Furthermore, enhancing public spaces, greenways, and parks will improve the quality of life, promote physical activity, and encourage social interactions within the local communities. By integrating sustainable transportation planning with local and regional planning efforts, the Inland

Empire can create more livable, equitable, and sustainable communities that enhance the well-being of its residents.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support compact and walkable development: We can support and advocate for local and regional planning policies that prioritize compact, walkable, and transit-oriented development. This includes advocating for the adoption of zoning regulations that promote mixed-use development, encourage higher residential densities near transit hubs, and incentivize the creation of pedestrian-friendly streetscapes. By supporting these policies, we can create communities that are designed for human-scale mobility and reduce the reliance on cars.
- ii. Advocate for sustainable transportation infrastructure: We can advocate for the creation of sustainable transportation infrastructure that prioritizes active transportation modes such as walking, cycling, and public transit. This includes advocating for the allocation of funding to build and improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, including sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails. Additionally, we can advocate for the expansion and improvement of public transit systems, including increased service frequency, enhanced connectivity, and improved accessibility for all residents.
- iii. Encourage mixed-use zoning: We can support and advocate for mixed-use zoning that integrates residential, commercial, and recreational spaces within close proximity. This includes promoting policies that encourage the development of vibrant neighborhood centers with a mix of housing, retail, offices, and public spaces. By creating diverse and dynamic neighborhoods, we can reduce the need for long commutes and support local economic vitality.
- iv. Create complete streets: We can advocate for the creation of complete streets that prioritize the safety and accessibility of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users. This includes advocating for the implementation of traffic calming measures, the installation of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and the improvement of public transit facilities. By creating streets that accommodate a variety of transportation modes, we can create safer and more inclusive transportation networks.
- v. Enhance public spaces and greenways: We can support and advocate for the enhancement of public spaces, greenways, and parks throughout the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for the creation of new parks and green spaces, improving the connectivity of existing parks, and incorporating green infrastructure elements into urban design. By enhancing public spaces and greenways, we can improve the quality of life, promote physical activity, and encourage social interactions within local communities.

3. **Support increased investment in electric and other zero-emission vehicles, as well as in the development of more efficient batteries**, to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon transportation system and reduce harmful air pollution. By expanding charging infrastructure and providing incentives for electric vehicle adoption, the Inland Empire can encourage residents and businesses to make the switch to cleaner transportation options. In addition, investing in research and development of advanced battery technologies will help overcome existing limitations and improve the performance, range, and affordability of electric vehicles. This investment in efficient batteries will not only benefit the transportation sector but also have broader applications in renewable energy storage and grid resilience. By prioritizing investment in zero-emission vehicles and supporting the development of efficient batteries, the Inland Empire can lead the way in sustainable transportation and contribute to the region's environmental and public health goals.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support the expansion of charging infrastructure: We can support and advocate for increased investment in charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the Inland Empire. This includes advocating for the installation of charging stations in residential areas, workplaces, public parking lots, and along major transportation corridors. By expanding the availability of charging infrastructure, we can alleviate range anxiety and promote EV adoption.
- ii. Advocate for incentives and rebates: We can advocate for financial incentives and rebates for the purchase of electric and other zero-emission vehicles. This includes supporting state and local programs that provide incentives such as tax credits, rebates, or grants to make electric vehicles more affordable for residents and businesses. By advocating for these incentives, we can encourage the adoption of cleaner transportation options.
- iii. Promote public and private fleet electrification: We can advocate for the electrification of public and private fleets in the Inland Empire. This includes supporting initiatives that encourage government agencies, public transportation providers, and private businesses to transition their fleets to electric or other zero-emission vehicles. By promoting fleet electrification, we can accelerate the adoption of clean transportation technologies and reduce emissions at a larger scale.
- iv. Support research and development: We can support and advocate for increased investment in research and development of advanced battery technologies. This includes promoting partnerships between academic institutions, research organizations, and private companies to drive innovation in battery technology. By supporting research and development, we can improve the performance, range, and affordability of



electric vehicles, making them more accessible to residents of the Inland Empire.

- v. Collaborate with local utilities: We can collaborate with local utilities to support the expansion of clean energy sources and grid infrastructure to meet the increased demand from electric vehicles. This includes advocating for the integration of renewable energy sources and the development of smart grid technologies to ensure a reliable and sustainable electricity supply for charging infrastructure.

4. **Support expanding access to affordable and reliable transportation options, such as carpooling and ride-sharing services**, to reduce the burden of transportation costs on low-income households in the Inland Empire. This can be achieved through the promotion of carpooling programs, the development of ride-sharing platforms tailored to the region's needs, and partnerships with transportation providers to offer discounted fares for low-income residents. By improving access to shared transportation services, individuals and families with limited financial resources can benefit from more affordable commuting options, reduced fuel expenses, and decreased reliance on car ownership. Additionally, integrating these services with existing public transit networks can enhance connectivity and provide seamless travel experiences for residents. The expansion of affordable and reliable transportation options will not only alleviate financial strain but also contribute to the region's sustainability goals by reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Support carpooling programs: We can support and advocate for the expansion of carpooling programs in the Inland Empire. This includes partnering with local organizations, employers, and transportation agencies to promote carpooling as a convenient and cost-effective transportation option. By raising awareness, providing incentives, and facilitating carpool matching services, we can encourage residents to share rides and reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road.
- ii. Advocate for ride-sharing platforms: We can advocate for the development and availability of ride-sharing platforms tailored to the needs of the Inland Empire. This includes working with transportation companies and technology providers to ensure that ride-sharing services are accessible, affordable, and convenient for residents throughout the region. By advocating for these platforms, we can increase transportation options and reduce the financial burden on low-income households.
- iii. Partner with transportation providers: We can partner with transportation providers to offer discounted fares and subsidies for low-income residents. This includes advocating for discounted transit passes or fares for individuals and families with limited financial resources. By collaborating with transportation providers, we can make public transit



- more affordable and accessible, reducing the reliance on private car ownership and easing the financial burden of transportation costs.
- iv. Integrate shared transportation services with public transit: We can support the integration of shared transportation services, such as ride-sharing and carpooling, with existing public transit networks in the Inland Empire. This includes coordinating schedules, improving connectivity, and providing seamless travel experiences for residents. By integrating these services, we can enhance accessibility and convenience, making it easier for residents to choose sustainable transportation options.
 - v. Raise awareness and promote education: We can support public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives that highlight the benefits of shared transportation options and inform residents about the available resources. By partnering with local organizations, schools, and community centers, we can disseminate information, conduct workshops, and provide resources to help individuals and communities make informed choices about affordable and reliable transportation.

5. Encourage the adoption of telecommuting and remote work policies in the Inland Empire to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road. This can be achieved through a multi-faceted approach that includes collaboration with employers, educational institutions, and government agencies. The promotion of telecommuting can involve offering incentives for employers to implement remote work options, providing resources and training to facilitate seamless remote work arrangements, and advocating for policies that support flexible work arrangements. Additionally, public awareness campaigns can be launched to highlight the benefits of telecommuting, such as reduced commuting time, cost savings, and improved work-life balance. By embracing telecommuting and remote work, individuals in the Inland Empire can enjoy the convenience and flexibility of working from home or remote locations, resulting in reduced traffic congestion, decreased fuel consumption, and improved air quality.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocate for telecommuting policies: We can advocate for the adoption of telecommuting policies by engaging with local employers, educational institutions, and government agencies. This involves promoting the benefits of telecommuting, such as reduced traffic congestion and improved work-life balance, and encouraging employers to implement remote work options. By advocating for these policies, we can create a supportive environment for telecommuting and remote work arrangements.
- ii. Provide resources and training: We can support the development and provision of resources and training programs that help employers and employees successfully implement telecommuting and remote work arrangements. This can include workshops, webinars, and guidelines on best practices for remote work. By providing the necessary tools and

knowledge, we can facilitate a smooth transition to telecommuting and remote work.

- iii. Offer incentives for employers: We can support and advocate for incentives for employers to implement telecommuting policies. This may include tax credits, grants, or other financial incentives to encourage employers to provide remote work options to their employees. By offering incentives, we can encourage more employers to adopt telecommuting policies, leading to a reduction in single-occupancy vehicles on the road.
- iv. Collaborate with educational institutions: We can collaborate with local educational institutions to promote telecommuting and remote work among students, faculty, and staff. This can involve partnering with universities and colleges to integrate remote learning and telecommuting opportunities into their programs and curricula. By incorporating telecommuting practices into education, we can prepare students for the future of work and promote the adoption of remote work arrangements.
- v. Launch public awareness campaigns: We can initiate public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the benefits of telecommuting and remote work. These campaigns can highlight the positive impacts on traffic congestion, air quality, and work-life balance. By raising awareness and changing perceptions about remote work, we can foster a culture that embraces telecommuting as a viable option for reducing commuting and enhancing productivity.

6. Develop and implement transportation plans that prioritize equitable access for all residents, regardless of income, race, or geographic location. This includes expanding public transit networks, improving connectivity between underserved areas and economic centers, enhancing active transportation infrastructure, and promoting innovative transportation solutions. The goal is to ensure reliable, affordable, and convenient transportation options that connect communities, promote social equity, and provide equal opportunities for all.

a. WE COMMIT TO...

- i. Advocate for equitable transportation funding: We can advocate for equitable allocation of transportation funding to ensure that underserved communities receive their fair share of resources. This includes supporting policies and initiatives that prioritize funding for public transit expansion, active transportation infrastructure, and transportation options in underserved areas. By advocating for equitable funding, we can address transportation disparities and promote equitable access for all residents.
- ii. Support the expansion of public transit networks: We can support and advocate for the expansion of public transit networks, including bus and rail systems, to improve connectivity within the Inland Empire. This involves advocating for increased investment in public transit



- infrastructure, supporting the development of new transit routes, and promoting initiatives that enhance the frequency and reliability of public transit services. By expanding public transit networks, we can provide residents with reliable and affordable transportation options, reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and improving access to economic centers.
- iii. Improve connectivity in underserved areas: We can advocate for initiatives that improve connectivity between underserved areas and economic centers within the Inland Empire. This includes supporting the development of transportation corridors, bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure that connects these communities to employment, education, and essential services. By improving connectivity, we can ensure that all residents have access to economic opportunities and essential resources.
 - iv. Promote active transportation infrastructure: We can advocate for the development of active transportation infrastructure, such as bike lanes, walking paths, and multi-use trails, to encourage walking and cycling as viable transportation options. This involves supporting the integration of active transportation infrastructure into transportation planning and development projects, promoting safe and accessible routes, and advocating for policies that prioritize active transportation. By promoting active transportation, we can improve health outcomes, reduce congestion, and enhance the livability of communities.
 - v. Encourage innovative transportation solutions: We can support and advocate for innovative transportation solutions, such as micro-transit services, on-demand ride-sharing, and shared mobility options. This includes collaborating with transportation providers, local governments, and community organizations to pilot and implement innovative transportation models that address the unique needs of different communities within the Inland Empire. By embracing innovative solutions, we can enhance transportation options and improve access for residents, particularly in underserved areas.

Multisolver Opportunities

1. Integrated Transit Systems: Developing and expanding integrated transit systems that connect different modes of transportation, such as buses, trains, and bike-sharing programs, can provide residents with seamless and convenient travel options. This approach promotes sustainable transportation, reduces congestion, and enhances overall mobility.
2. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): Encouraging transit-oriented development around existing and planned transit hubs can create vibrant, walkable communities where residents have easy access to public transportation, amenities, and employment

- opportunities. TOD promotes compact and mixed-use development, reduces reliance on cars, and supports economic growth and housing affordability.
3. **Active Transportation Infrastructure:** Investing in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, including sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails, promotes active transportation options. By creating a safe and connected network of active transportation infrastructure, the Inland Empire can encourage walking and cycling, improve public health, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance the overall livability of communities.
 4. **Smart Transportation Systems:** Embracing smart transportation systems, such as intelligent traffic management, real-time information systems, and smart parking solutions, can optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and improve overall transportation efficiency. These technologies also enable data collection and analysis to support evidence-based decision-making for transportation planning and operations.
 5. **Electrification of Transportation:** Promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and supporting the development of charging infrastructure can contribute to both transportation decarbonization and improved air quality. Electrifying public transportation fleets and incentivizing private EV ownership can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy independence, and improve public health.
 6. **Equity in Transportation Access:** Ensuring equitable access to transportation is a multisolver opportunity that addresses social, economic, and environmental challenges. By prioritizing underserved communities and improving transportation connectivity, the Inland Empire can reduce disparities in transportation access, enhance mobility for disadvantaged populations, and promote social equity.
 7. **Green Infrastructure and Climate Resilience:** Integrating green infrastructure elements, such as tree canopies, bioswales, and permeable pavements, into transportation projects can help manage stormwater, reduce heat island effects, and improve air quality. This approach supports climate resilience, enhances the urban environment, and creates more pleasant and sustainable transportation corridors

Ikp[The Roadmap

The aim of the following "Roadmap" section of this document is to provide a clear and actionable path towards realizing our vision for the future of the Inland Empire. Building upon the comprehensive understanding of the 12 topic areas presented in "The Vision" section, this roadmap outlines specific action items and investments that can guide our collective efforts in the immediate term, as well as over the next 5-10 years, the next 10-20 years, and the year 2050 and beyond. With a focus on prioritization and multisolving—the ability to address multiple challenges simultaneously—we aim to drive transformative change, pursuing a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for the Inland Empire and its residents. By following this roadmap, we can navigate the complexities of our region's challenges and effectively allocate resources to achieve our collective vision.

Arts & Culture

Recommended Strategies:

1. Proactively promote cultural diversity and inclusion by supporting funding programs for arts and culture institutions and creatives to create innovative projects that uplift our communities.
2. Support existing K-16 arts education programs and after-school arts and culture programs that provide support and opportunities for local talent to develop and thrive.
3. Foster a collaborative arts community by co-facilitating partnerships and funding existing networks and initiatives among creatives, arts and culture organizations, other business sectors, local government agencies, and community members.
4. Invest in arts and culture anchor institutions and incubator or live-work space for artists and culture bearers to sustain and strengthen the arts ecosystem in the Inland Empire.
5. Promote transit-oriented creative hubs and sustainable art practices, projects, and investments that prioritize environmental stewardship and social responsibility.
6. Center arts and culture in economic and workforce development initiatives and identify funding opportunities to support and expand existing creative professional development, training, and mentoring and deliver technology support.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Arts & Culture	The Next 5-10 Years in Arts & Culture	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Greater Support & Funding for Existing Arts and Culture Grants: Build off the recent success of local grants and support by organizations like Arts Connection, Riverside Arts Council, Inland Empire Community Foundation, and the California Desert Arts Council to provide more funding for artists, cultural organizations, and community projects that promote innovative, inclusive, and sustainable arts and cultural practices. Prioritize projects that engage diverse communities and amplify underrepresented voices.</p> <p>Multisolver Opportunities: Community Collaboration, Arts Education and Outreach, Cultural Infrastructure Development, Cross-Sector Collaboration, Economic Development</p> <p>Related Vital Conditions: Meaningful Work & Wealth, Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>Establish Cultural Districts: Identify and designate specific areas as cultural districts, providing incentives and support for artists and creative industries to thrive. Develop policies that protect and preserve cultural heritage sites and foster sustainable economic growth. For example, The Pittsburgh Cultural District</p>	<p>Develop Arts and Innovation Incubators: Establish arts and innovation incubators that provide resources, mentorship, and workspace for artists and creatives to collaborate, experiment, and launch creative ventures. Support the development of art collectives and creative cooperatives. For example, The San Diego Incubator</p>	<p>Universal Arts Access: Work towards ensuring universal access to arts and culture, removing barriers related to socioeconomic status, disabilities, and geographical location. Develop inclusive policies, technologies, and programs to make arts experiences accessible to all residents. Exemplified in the State of New Jersey.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Arts & Culture	The Next 5-10 Years in Arts & Culture	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Related Community Strategies: 1, 3, 4, 6</p>			
<p>Enhance Cultural Infrastructure through investments like Creative Corps Inland Social: Invest in the development and improvement of cultural infrastructure, including the construction and renovation of art galleries, performance venues, and community spaces. Provide accessible and inclusive facilities that support a wide range of artistic expressions.</p> <p>Multisolver Opportunities: Economic Development, Community Engagement and Social Cohesion, Education and Learning, Creative Economy and Innovation, Health and Well-being, Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Related Vital Conditions: Meaningful Work & Wealth, Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>Expand Arts Entrepreneurship Programs: Develop programs and resources to support artists and creatives in building sustainable careers in the arts. Offer training in business skills, marketing, and financial management to empower artists as entrepreneurs. For example, Student Art Programs (START) Entrepreneurship Program</p>	<p>Expand Art Therapy Programs: Increase access to art therapy programs in healthcare and community settings to promote mental health, well-being, and healing. Collaborate with healthcare providers and insurance companies to integrate art therapy into holistic healthcare practices. For example, efforts like The CBU Art Therapy Program</p>	<p>Further Cultivate and Support Creative Industries: Support the growth of creative industries and the creative economy by providing resources, incubation programs, and infrastructure for startups, entrepreneurs, and cultural enterprises. Foster a thriving ecosystem that nurtures the economic potential of the arts. For example, efforts like Creative Economy Programme</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Arts & Culture	The Next 5-10 Years in Arts & Culture	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Related Community Strategies: 1,2,3,4,5,6</p>			
<p>Expand Arts Education Programs: Increase access to arts education in schools by partnering with local arts organizations and artists to provide comprehensive and diverse arts programs. Offer professional development opportunities for teachers to integrate arts across the curriculum. For example, investments in work by organizations like Arts Connection’s Teaching Artist Training Series, Riverside Arts Academy, and the Inland Conservatory For The Performing Arts (ICPA).</p> <p>Multisolver Opportunities: Education and Learning, Workforce Development, Equity and Inclusion, Health and Well-being, Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Related Vital Conditions: Meaningful Work & Wealth, Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>Foster Cross-Sector Collaborations: Encourage collaborations between the arts and other sectors, such as technology, science, and healthcare, to foster innovation and interdisciplinary approaches. Support initiatives that integrate arts and culture into community development, urban planning, and social services. For example, efforts like Center for Arts in Medicine</p>	<p>Promote Sustainable Arts Practices: Encourage sustainable practices in the arts, such as using environmentally friendly materials, adopting renewable energy sources in art studios and venues, and promoting eco-conscious exhibitions and performances. For example, efforts like The Centre for Sustainable Practices in the Arts</p>	<p>Integrate Arts in Sustainable Development: Integrate arts and culture into sustainable development initiatives, urban planning, and infrastructure projects. Embed artistic and cultural elements in the design and implementation of sustainable communities, public spaces, and transportation systems. For example, efforts like Grand Palais Éphémère</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Arts & Culture	The Next 5-10 Years in Arts & Culture	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Related Community Strategies: 1,2,3,4</p>			
<p>Promote Cultural Festivals and Events: Support and promote cultural festivals, events, and public art installations that showcase the region's diverse cultural heritage. Encourage collaboration between artists, community organizations, and local businesses to enhance cultural vibrancy for events such as Artlands, Fontana Arts Festival and Jazz Fest</p> <p>Multisolver Opportunities: Tourism and Economic Development, Education and Learning, Community Engagement and Social Cohesion</p> <p>Related Vital Conditions: Meaningful Work & Wealth, Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Related Community Strategies: 1,3,4,6</p>	<p>Invest in Public Art and Cultural Landscapes: Allocate resources for the creation of public art installations, murals, and sculptures that reflect the diversity and cultural heritage of the Inland Empire. Enhance the aesthetic appeal and cultural identity of public spaces to foster community pride and engagement. For example, efforts like Downton Riverside ART</p>	<p>Establish Arts and Cultural Exchanges: Foster international arts and cultural exchanges to promote cross-cultural understanding, artistic collaborations, and global perspectives. Create opportunities for local artists to showcase their work and engage with artists from around the world. For example, efforts like Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs - Exchange Programs</p>	<p>Strengthen Arts Education: Advocate for the integration of arts education into the core curriculum at all educational levels. Ensure that every student has access to high-quality arts education that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and cultural understanding. For example, efforts like CREATE CA</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Arts & Culture	The Next 5-10 Years in Arts & Culture	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture in “2050” and Beyond!
	<p>Preserve and Digitize Cultural Heritage: Invest in the preservation and digitization of cultural artifacts, historical documents, and traditional knowledge to ensure their accessibility and longevity. Collaborate with local communities, tribal nations, and cultural institutions to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage. For example, efforts like California Revealed</p>	<p>Invest in Arts Research and Innovation: Allocate funding for arts research and innovation initiatives, supporting projects that explore creative needs, technological advancements, and social impact through the arts. Encourage interdisciplinary research collaborations between artists, scientists, and scholars. For example, efforts like Center for Cultural Innovation</p>	

Economic Development

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support local small businesses, especially those owned by marginalized groups, through funding, mentorship, and business development programs, while fostering youth entrepreneurship and innovation for local economic growth.
2. Foster community engagement and partnerships to promote equitable economic growth, increase affordable housing options, and prioritize mixed-use developments.
3. Promote the development of clean energy industries and green infrastructure, such as renewable energy projects, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable transportation systems.
4. Invest in comprehensive workforce development programs aligned with industry needs, providing training opportunities for high-quality employment.
5. Encourage cooperative and community-owned businesses that prioritize community needs and operate under democratic ownership structures.

6. Advocate for expanded public transportation infrastructure, including bus routes, light rail systems, and on-demand shuttles or ridesharing services.
7. Support comprehensive policies and programs that uphold labor standards and prioritize worker protections for a fair and equitable work environment.
8. Increase investment in affordable broadband access to expand digital job opportunities, remote work options, and access to educational resources.
9. Develop local innovation hubs and incubators to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the region.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Economic Development	The Next 5-10 Years in Economic Development	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Economic Development	Economic Development in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Expand Access to Capital: Facilitate access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs through grants, loans, and investment programs. Partner with financial institutions and venture capital firms to provide financial resources and support the growth of innovative ventures. For example, efforts like Riverside County Innovation</p>	<p>Develop Innovation Hubs: Establish innovation hubs that bring together industry, academia, and government agencies to promote collaboration, research, and development in key sectors. Provide resources, infrastructure, and support for startups, research projects, and technology commercialization. For example, efforts like iHub2</p>	<p>Develop Advanced Manufacturing Centers: Establish advanced manufacturing centers equipped with cutting-edge technologies and machinery. Offer resources, training programs, and research support to facilitate the growth of advanced manufacturing industries. For example, efforts like MBDA Advanced Manufacturing Centers</p>	<p>Foster Technological Innovation: Invest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and advanced materials to drive innovation and competitiveness. Support research, development, and adoption of transformative technologies that shape future industries. For example, efforts like iMAKE Innovation Center</p>
<p>Enhance Local Procurement Initiatives: Implement policies and programs that prioritize local procurement by public and private entities. Encourage the purchase of goods and services from local businesses, creating a</p>	<p>Support Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems: Create programs and initiatives to support entrepreneurship and nurture startup ecosystems. Offer mentorship, access to specialized resources, and</p>	<p>Foster Research and Development Facilities: Invest in research and development facilities that support innovation, product development, and commercialization. Collaborate with universities, research</p>	<p>Promote Circular Economy: Transition towards a circular economy model by encouraging resource efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling. Develop policies and initiatives that incentivize businesses to adopt</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Economic Development	The Next 5-10 Years in Economic Development	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Economic Development	Economic Development in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>multiplier effect and stimulating the regional economy. For example, efforts like Source Diverse Source Local</p>	<p>funding opportunities to encourage the growth of innovative startups. For example, efforts like ExCite</p>	<p>institutions, and private enterprises to create a vibrant R&D ecosystem. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Women’s Business Center</p>	<p>sustainable production and consumption practices. For example, efforts like WBCSD’s Circular Economy Program</p>
<p>Foster Industry-University Collaboration: Promote collaboration between local industries and universities to foster research and development, technology transfer, and innovation. Create partnerships that leverage academic expertise to address industry challenges and drive economic growth. For example, efforts like The UC Discovery Grant (UCDG)</p>	<p>Promote Sustainable Industries: Encourage the growth of sustainable industries such as renewable energy, clean technology, and eco-tourism. Provide incentives, grants, and regulatory support to attract sustainable businesses and promote green economic practices. For example, efforts like Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)</p>	<p>Promote Export and Trade Initiatives: Facilitate access to global markets for local businesses through export assistance programs, trade missions, and international partnerships. Provide resources and guidance on export regulations, market research, and international business development. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship /IECE International Business Development</p>	<p>Create Innovation Districts: Establish innovation districts that serve as hubs for knowledge-intensive industries, research institutions, and technology-driven businesses. Foster collaboration, creativity, and cross-sectoral innovation within these districts. For example, efforts like Riverside Innovation District</p>
<p>Foster Regional Collaboration for Inclusive Economic Development: Support cross-sectoral and diverse collaboration in the Inland Empire to drive economic growth and create high-quality, accessible jobs</p>	<p>Strengthen Industry Clusters: Identify and strengthen industry clusters in the Inland Empire to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and economies of scale. Support networking events, industry associations,</p>	<p>Strengthen Supply Chain Resilience: Enhance supply chain resilience by supporting local sourcing, diversifying suppliers, and investing in logistics and distribution infrastructure. Promote regional collaboration to</p>	<p>Invest in Infrastructure for Future Industries: Anticipate the infrastructure needs of future industries such as autonomous vehicles, renewable energy, and advanced telecommunications. Develop robust infrastructure</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Economic Development	The Next 5-10 Years in Economic Development	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Economic Development	Economic Development in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>through partnerships like The IE High Road Collaborative. Strengthen partnerships with government agencies, industry representatives, philanthropic organizations, community-based organizations, labor unions, and educational institutions. Advocate for policies that support inclusive economic development. Leverage funding opportunities like the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) to secure additional resources.</p>	<p>and cluster-specific initiatives to drive sectoral growth. For example, efforts like The City of Riverside Innovation Corridor</p>	<p>ensure the availability of critical goods and services during disruptions. For example, efforts like ASCM Inland Empire Chapter</p>	<p>systems to support the growth of these For example, efforts like industries. Rebuild SoCal Partnership (RSCP)</p>
	<p>Enhance Broadband Infrastructure: Invest in high-speed broadband infrastructure to ensure universal access to reliable and high-quality internet connectivity. Enable digital innovation, remote work opportunities, and e-commerce growth in the region. For example, efforts like Broadband Infrastructure</p>	<p>Support Social Enterprise Development: Encourage the growth of social enterprises that prioritize social and environmental impact alongside financial sustainability. Provide funding, mentorship, and capacity-building support to social entrepreneurs addressing local challenges.</p>	<p>Foster Global Collaboration: Forge international partnerships and collaborations to promote knowledge exchange, global market access, and talent mobility. Position the Inland Empire as a global player in innovative industries and foster international competitiveness.</p>

Education

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support and advocate for increased investment in high-quality early childhood education programs that focus on building strong foundations for future academic and personal success, particularly for low-income families and families of color.
2. Support and advocacy for expanding access to affordable and effective post-secondary education and job training programs, with an emphasis on serving historically underserved and systemically excluded underrepresented populations.
3. Support and advocate for increased funding for K-12 education and ensure that all schools have the necessary resources, technology, and support to provide high-quality instruction, including arts and music education.
4. Promote and support the hiring and retention of a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce that reflects the communities it serves, including addressing the specific workforce needs for clinical counselors to deliver school-based mental health services.
5. Support increased investment in wraparound services, such as mental health counseling, after-school programs, and peer and community counseling, to support the holistic needs of students and families..
6. Encourage and support the creation and expansion of robust community partnerships between schools, businesses, and community-based organizations to provide comprehensive and tailored resources and support to students and families.
7. Support the implementation of restorative justice practices and eliminate punitive discipline policies that disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities.
8. Promote inclusion and equity in education by increasing access to and support for bilingual and multicultural education programs, including initiatives that specifically cater to the needs and cultural heritage of native communities.
9. Support the implementation and expansion of programs and policies that provide equitable access to technology, digital literacy skills, and broadband connectivity, particularly in low-income, underserved, and rural communities.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Education	The Next 5-10 Years in Education	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Education	Education in “2050” and Beyond!
Expand Access to Quality Early Childhood Education: Increase investments in early childhood education programs,	Expand STEAM Education Programs: Increase investments in science, technology, engineering, arts,	Establish Research and Innovation Institutes: Create research and innovation institutes in collaboration with	Foster Lifelong Learning and Continuous Skill Development: Create a culture of lifelong learning by

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Education	The Next 5-10 Years in Education	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Education	Education in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>including preschools and early intervention services, to ensure that all children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities. For example, efforts like Quality Start</p>	<p>and mathematics (STEAM) education. Develop specialized STEAM schools, integrate STEAM education across the curriculum, and provide robust STEAM resources and enrichment opportunities. For example, efforts like The Riverside County Office of Education</p>	<p>universities, research institutions, and industry partners. Conduct research on educational practices, policies, and innovations to inform evidence-based decision-making and drive educational advancement. For example, efforts like California Institutes for Science & Innovation</p>	<p>promoting continuous skill development and upskilling opportunities for individuals of all ages. Offer flexible learning pathways, micro-credentialing, and online learning platforms to adapt to changing workforce needs. For example, efforts like Lifelong Learner</p>
<p>Enhance Digital Infrastructure and Technology Integration: Invest in digital infrastructure and provide schools with the necessary technology and resources for effective digital learning. Ensure equitable access to internet connectivity and devices for all students. For example, efforts like Safari Montage</p>	<p>Strengthen College and Career Readiness Programs: Enhance college and career readiness programs by offering comprehensive counseling, guidance, and resources to help students navigate post-secondary education and career pathways. Foster partnerships with colleges, universities, and industries to facilitate seamless transitions. For example, efforts like Growing Inland Achievement</p>	<p>Develop Community Learning Centers: Establish community learning centers that serve as hubs for lifelong learning, providing educational opportunities for all age groups. Offer adult education programs, vocational training, and community-based learning initiatives to meet the diverse learning needs of residents. For example, efforts like Inland Career Education Center</p>	<p>Leverage Emerging Technologies: Embrace emerging technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence to enhance learning experiences. Invest in research and development to explore innovative educational technologies and their applications in diverse learning environments. For example, efforts like California Statewide Emerging Technologies Program (ETP)</p>
<p>Strengthen Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs: Enhance and expand CTE programs in high schools and community</p>	<p>Develop Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centers: Establish innovation and entrepreneurship centers in schools and colleges to foster</p>	<p>Strengthen Teacher Recruitment and Retention Efforts: Invest in robust teacher recruitment and retention strategies to attract</p>	<p>Strengthen Global Partnerships and Exchanges: Establish international partnerships and exchange programs to</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Education	The Next 5-10 Years in Education	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Education	Education in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>colleges to provide students with skills and knowledge aligned with emerging industries. Forge partnerships with local businesses to offer real-world learning experiences and apprenticeship opportunities. For example, efforts like Riverside County - Career Technical Education Unit</p>	<p>creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurial skills. Provide students with resources, mentorship, and incubation support for developing and launching their innovative ideas. For example, efforts like Entrepreneurial Resource Center (ERC)</p>	<p>and retain highly qualified educators. Provide competitive salaries, professional growth opportunities, and supportive working environments to foster a talented and dedicated teaching workforce. For example, efforts like CCSESA Recruitment and Retention Efforts</p>	<p>promote global perspectives, cultural exchange, and collaborative learning opportunities. Foster cross-cultural understanding, global citizenship, and connections with educational institutions worldwide. For example, efforts like CSUSB Academic Exchange Program</p>
<p>Increase Support for Teachers and Professional Development: Invest in professional development programs for teachers to enhance their instructional skills, promote innovative teaching methods, and support their ongoing learning and growth. Provide resources for mentorship programs and collaboration among educators. For example, efforts like UofR Inland Empire Educators for Social Justice</p>	<p>Promote Culturally Responsive Education: Invest in culturally responsive education programs that honor and incorporate the diverse cultures, histories, and perspectives of the Inland Empire's communities. Ensure that curriculum, instructional materials, and teaching practices reflect the region's rich cultural heritage. For example, efforts like BlueEd Foundation - Black Education Agenda</p>	<p>Promote Environmental and Sustainability Education: Integrate environmental and sustainability education into the curriculum to raise awareness about environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices. Develop outdoor learning spaces and partnerships with environmental organizations to enhance environmental literacy. For example, efforts like California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI)</p>	<p>Address Equity Gaps and Bridging the Digital Divide: Continue efforts to address equity gaps in education, ensuring that all students have equitable access to high-quality education and resources. Invest in closing the digital divide by providing internet connectivity and devices to underserved communities. For example, efforts like Riverside County's Digital Inclusion Program</p>
<p>Foster Community Engagement and Parental Involvement: Create avenues for meaningful community</p>	<p>Enhance Special Education Services: Strengthen special education services by expanding resources,</p>	<p>Expand Access to Higher Education: Increase access to affordable higher education by expanding scholarship</p>	<p>Promote Research-Based Practices and Evidence-Informed Policies: Invest in educational research to inform</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Education	The Next 5-10 Years in Education	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Education	Education in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>engagement and parental involvement in education. Establish partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and parents to promote school-family-community collaboration and support student success. For example, efforts like Binational Parent Leadership Institute</p>	<p>personnel, and support systems. Foster inclusive practices that provide individualized support for students with special needs, promote accessibility, and ensure their success in educational settings. For example, efforts like Autism Society Inland Empire</p>	<p>programs, financial aid options, and partnerships with colleges and universities. Establish satellite campuses or regional educational centers to provide convenient access to higher education for underserved areas. For example, efforts like Inland Empire College Resource Directory</p>	<p>evidence-based practices and policies. Foster collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to promote continuous improvement and innovation in education. For example, efforts like Southern California Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC)</p>
<p>Enhancing College and Career Access for Underserved Groups: By making strategic investments in college and career access programs, particularly those focused on underserved groups like the BLU Educational Foundation, we can empower students from marginalized communities to pursue higher education, access meaningful careers, and ultimately contribute to a more equitable and prosperous Inland Empire. For example, support for programs like College Exodus Project, and Exodus to Health Professions that focus on local Black students.</p>			

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Education	The Next 5-10 Years in Education	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Education	Education in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>For example, efforts like Inland Empire - California College Guidance Initiative</p>			
<p>Promote & Teach BIPOC History in Local Schools: Infuse the study of BIPOC history into the Pre-K-12 curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a BIPOC Studies college and career pathway ● Mandate Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement ● Establish campus BIPOC Student Unions to celebrate Black culture, lifestyle and history and foster student growth and development through community service and outreach <p>For example, efforts like Retaining Teachers of Color</p>			

Energy & Environment

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support and encourage investment in renewable energy technologies and promote their adoption in both the public and private sectors to reduce the region's dependence on fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and work towards sustainability at a global scale.
2. Support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs to promote energy efficiency and conservation in buildings and homes throughout the region, aiming to significantly reduce energy consumption and lower energy costs.
3. Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs and initiatives to support the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and other low-emission transportation options, with the aim of significantly reducing transportation-related emissions and improving air quality throughout the region.
4. Support increased investment in and prioritize the implementation of green infrastructure projects that enhance the environmental quality and resilience of communities, particularly those with immature landscaping and those located near freeways.
5. Support and encourage the implementation of policies and programs that promote comprehensive water conservation and management practices, encompassing a range of strategies to address the challenges of water scarcity and promote sustainable water use.
6. Support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs that protect and restore natural habitats and wildlife in the region, with a specific focus on preserving the unique ecosystem of the Santa Ana Riverbed.
7. Promote and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation.
8. Support and encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive waste management strategies that prioritize waste reduction, recycling, and composting. Increase public awareness and education about the importance of waste reduction and recycling, promoting behavior change and responsible consumer practices.
9. Support increased investment in research and development to drive innovation in environmental technologies that address pressing environmental challenges and contribute to the growth of a thriving green economy in the region.
10. Support and amplify existing regional environmental and energy-related efforts in the Inland Empire, including the implementation of the Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting and the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Energy & Environment	The Next 5-10 Years in Energy & Environment	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Energy & Environment	Energy & Environment in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Support the implementation of the Regional Emissions Demand Management Strategy as part of the SoCal Connect 2024 Regional transportation plan, led by SCAG</p>	<p>Smart Grid and Energy Storage Infrastructure: Develop and expand smart grid systems that enable efficient energy distribution and management. Invest in energy storage technologies, such as advanced batteries and pumped hydro storage, to enhance grid stability, enable renewable energy integration, and provide backup power during peak demand or emergencies. For example, efforts like the Irvine Smart Grid Demonstration.</p>	<p>Renewable Energy Expansion: Continue the rapid expansion of renewable energy generation, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, to transition the Inland Empire to a clean energy economy. Invest in large-scale renewable energy projects, including utility-scale solar and wind farms, to meet the region's growing energy demand while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, efforts like GRID Alternatives</p>	<p>Net-Zero Carbon Economy: Achieve a net-zero carbon economy by 2050 through a comprehensive decarbonization strategy. Invest in advanced renewable energy technologies, such as next-generation solar panels, advanced wind turbines, and innovative energy storage solutions. Explore emerging technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture to further reduce carbon emissions across sectors like transportation, industry, and agriculture. For example, efforts like Scoping Plan</p>
<p>Support the implementation of the Inland Empire Regional Good Neighbor Policy for Warehouse Siting (AB 1000)</p>	<p>Electrification of Transportation: Accelerate the electrification of transportation by expanding the charging infrastructure and providing incentives for electric vehicle adoption. Support the deployment of electric buses and trucks for public transportation and logistics. Encourage the use of renewable energy sources for</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency and Building Retrofits: Implement comprehensive energy efficiency programs and policies, including building retrofits and upgrades, to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency across residential, commercial, and public buildings. Encourage the adoption of advanced building</p>	<p>Sustainable Infrastructure Development: Build sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure that can withstand the challenges of the future. Prioritize the construction of energy-efficient buildings, resilient transportation systems, and green urban spaces. Incorporate nature-based solutions, such as green roofs,</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Energy & Environment	The Next 5-10 Years in Energy & Environment	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Energy & Environment	Energy & Environment in “2050” and Beyond!
	<p>charging infrastructure to ensure a clean and sustainable transportation system. For example, efforts like SB 350 TE Programs.</p>	<p>technologies and standards that promote energy conservation, such as smart thermostats, efficient appliances, and green building certifications. For example, efforts like Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN)</p>	<p>urban forests, and stormwater management systems, to enhance biodiversity, mitigate heat island effects, and promote climate adaptation. For example, efforts like Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program</p>
<p>Support the implementation of AB 1748 (Ramos): Requires specified local agencies to impose a 300-foot setback requirement on parcels that are adjacent to sensitive receptors and include a warehouse that is larger than 400,000 square feet unless the local agency adopts specified alternative policies</p>	<p>Resilient Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation: Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Upgrade and retrofit existing infrastructure to enhance resilience, including stormwater management systems, flood control measures, and sustainable drainage systems. Integrate climate change considerations into urban planning and infrastructure development processes. For example, efforts like the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Federal Leaders Working Group.</p>	<p>Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure: Build a robust and sustainable transportation infrastructure that supports electric vehicles, public transit, biking, and walking. Expand electric vehicle charging networks, develop multi-modal transportation systems, and invest in infrastructure for active transportation, including bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly streets, and interconnected trail networks. Promote transit-oriented development and prioritize public transportation investments to reduce reliance on private vehicles. For example, efforts like San Bernardino County - Planning and Sustainability</p>	<p>Circular Economy and Zero Waste: Establish a circular economy that maximizes resource efficiency and minimizes waste generation. Implement advanced recycling and waste management systems that promote closed-loop material flows, recycling innovations, and waste-to-energy technologies. Encourage the adoption of sustainable production and consumption practices, including product design for durability, repairability, and recyclability. For example, efforts like Let's Go Zero Waste</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Energy & Environment	The Next 5-10 Years in Energy & Environment	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Energy & Environment	Energy & Environment in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Energy Efficiency Upgrades: Support energy efficiency programs and initiatives to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Provide incentives and funding for energy-efficient building retrofits, appliance upgrades, and the use of smart technologies that optimize energy use. For example, efforts like Energy Upgrade California</p>	<p>Green Jobs and Workforce Development: Support the growth of the green economy by investing in workforce development programs that provide training and education for green jobs in the energy and environment sector. Create partnerships between educational institutions, industry stakeholders, and community organizations to ensure the availability of skilled workers for emerging green technologies and practices. For example, The Energy Skills Collaborative.</p>	<p>Circular Economy and Waste Management: Transition to a circular economy model by promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling. Invest in waste management infrastructure, including advanced recycling facilities and composting systems, to minimize landfill waste and promote the reuse and recycling of materials. Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices, such as eco-design, product stewardship, and extended producer responsibility. For example, efforts like AB 341</p>	<p>Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Prioritize climate resilience and adaptation strategies to address the impacts of climate change. Invest in nature-based infrastructure, such as coastal protection, watershed restoration, and ecosystem conservation, to enhance climate resilience. Develop comprehensive climate action plans that incorporate risk assessment, community engagement, and equitable distribution of resources to protect vulnerable communities. For example, efforts like Resilient Inland Empire - Regional Climate Adaptation Toolkit</p>
<p>Environmental Education and Community Engagement: Invest in environmental education programs that raise awareness and foster a sense of stewardship for the natural environment. Support community engagement</p>	<p>Environmental Justice and Equity: Prioritize environmental justice and equity in decision-making processes and policy development. Ensure that underserved communities have equitable access to clean energy, green spaces, and</p>	<p>Environmental Education and Community Engagement: Prioritize environmental education and community engagement to raise awareness about sustainability, climate change, and environmental stewardship. Invest in</p>	<p>Environmental Justice and Equity: Integrate environmental justice and equity principles into all aspects of the energy and environment sector. Ensure that underserved communities have equitable access to clean energy, green spaces, and</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Energy & Environment	The Next 5-10 Years in Energy & Environment	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Energy & Environment	Energy & Environment in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>initiatives that empower residents to participate in environmental decision-making processes, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices. Foster partnerships between educational institutions, community organizations, and local government to promote environmental literacy and action. For example, efforts like CCA EJ</p>	<p>environmental benefits. Invest in programs that address environmental disparities and provide resources for community-led initiatives focused on sustainability, health, and well-being. For example, efforts like CCA EJ.</p>	<p>educational programs and initiatives that promote sustainable practices, renewable energy literacy, and climate resilience. Foster partnerships between schools, community organizations, and local businesses to create hands-on learning opportunities and empower residents to take part in sustainable actions.</p>	<p>environmental resources. Foster community-led initiatives, participatory decision-making processes, and inclusive partnerships to address historical injustices, reduce disparities, and empower marginalized communities.</p>
<p>Sustainable Transportation: Promote sustainable transportation options to reduce reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Invest in the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, expand public transportation networks, and support active transportation modes like biking and walking. Encourage carpooling and ridesharing programs to reduce congestion and emissions. For example, efforts like Sustainable Transportation Equity Project</p>			

Food Systems

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support the development and expansion of local food systems, including community gardens, farmers markets, and food cooperatives, to increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities.
2. Encourage and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, including regenerative agriculture techniques such as cover cropping, composting, and rotational grazing, soil conservation measures like erosion control and water management, and crop diversification strategies to promote soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience.
3. Promote food waste reduction and recycling by implementing comprehensive composting and food recovery programs that address all stages of the food supply chain.
4. Promote and support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and programs to promote equitable access to nutritious food, with a focus on promoting health and wellness in our communities.
5. Support the development and expansion of regional food hubs and processing facilities as critical infrastructure to enhance the local food system.
6. Increase public education and awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of local and sustainable food systems, including nutrition, environmental sustainability, and economic development.
7. Encourage and support research and development of new, innovative food technologies and practices through strategic partnerships with research universities, community-led organizations, local farmers and producers, and other industry stakeholders.
8. Promote social justice and equity in the food system by supporting the growth of food justice initiatives, including community-led food access programs and programs that increase access to land for farmers from diverse backgrounds.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Food Systems	The Next 5-10 Years in Food Systems	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Food Systems	Food Systems in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Food System Policy: Develop and implement a comprehensive food system policy that outlines specific strategies. For example, efforts like Grow</p>	<p>Expand Local Food Processing and Distribution: Invest in local food processing facilities and distribution networks to support the growth of regional food systems.</p>	<p>Establish Regional Food Cooperatives: Support the formation of regional food cooperatives that connect farmers, producers, and consumers across the Inland</p>	<p>Foster Regenerative Food Systems: Transition towards regenerative food systems that regenerate ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and sequester carbon. Support</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Food Systems	The Next 5-10 Years in Food Systems	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Food Systems	Food Systems in “2050” and Beyond!
Riverside	Develop infrastructure and logistics solutions that enable farmers and food producers to connect with local markets and consumers. For example, efforts like the USDA Foods Processing Program .	Empire. These cooperatives can promote collective decision-making, fair pricing, and shared resources, strengthening the local food economy. For example, efforts like Regional Produce Cooperatives	research, education, and policies that promote regenerative practices at all levels of the food system. For example, efforts like Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
<p>Establish a Food Policy Council or other similar body to provide ongoing guidance and oversight: Establish a regional food policy council to coordinate and advocate for food policy initiatives across the Inland Empire. Bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including government, agriculture, education, health, and community organizations, to develop and implement policies that support a resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. This council can also serve as a platform for community engagement, public input, and collaboration on food-related issues.</p>	<p>Foster Food Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Create incubators and business development programs that support food entrepreneurs in launching sustainable and socially responsible food businesses. Provide access to financing, mentorship, and shared kitchen spaces to facilitate their success. For example, efforts like Santa Clara University - The Center for Food Innovation and Entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>Promote Agroecology and Permaculture Practices: Encourage the adoption of agroecology and permaculture practices in agriculture, emphasizing biodiversity, soil health, and ecological sustainability. Provide training and resources to farmers and landowners interested in transitioning to these practices. For example, efforts like The World Permaculture Association</p>	<p>Promote Food Sovereignty and Community Ownership: Empower communities to have greater control over their food systems by supporting community-led initiatives, land trusts, and cooperative ownership models. Promote inclusive decision-making and equitable access to resources and opportunities. For example, efforts like Equitable Food Access Initiative (EFAI)</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Food Systems	The Next 5-10 Years in Food Systems	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Food Systems	Food Systems in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>For example, efforts like Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC)</p>			
<p>Support Local Food Production: Invest in programs and incentives that promote local food production, such as urban farming, community gardens, and farmer's markets. Provide resources and technical assistance to individuals and organizations interested in starting or expanding local food initiatives. For example, efforts like Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino ("FARSB")</p>	<p>Establish Food Hubs and Aggregation Centers: Develop food hubs and aggregation centers that serve as central points for processing, storage, and distribution of locally sourced food. These hubs can strengthen the local food economy and facilitate connections between farmers, retailers, and institutions. For example, efforts like Food Roots.</p>	<p>Invest in Food Innovation Districts: Create designated food innovation districts that serve as hubs for food-related businesses, research, and education. These districts can foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurship in the food systems sector. For example, efforts like The Riverside Unified School District Food Hub</p>	<p>Embrace Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Invest in climate-resilient agriculture practices and technologies to adapt to changing climate conditions. Support research on climate-smart farming methods, drought-resistant crops, and innovative water management strategies. For example, efforts like Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program</p>
<p>Enhance Food Access and Affordability: Establish partnerships with local retailers and farmers to increase access to affordable, nutritious food in underserved communities. Support initiatives like food cooperatives, mobile markets, and community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs.</p>	<p>Encourage Farm-to-Institution Programs: Collaborate with educational institutions, hospitals, and government agencies to establish farm-to-institution programs that prioritize sourcing local, sustainable, and healthy food for cafeterias and dining facilities. Create procurement policies that support local food producers.</p>	<p>Strengthen Food Safety and Quality Standards: Establish robust food safety and quality standards that ensure the integrity and safety of the local food supply. Support programs and certifications that promote transparency, traceability, and adherence to sustainable and ethical practices. For example, efforts like Riverside County's</p>	<p>Foster Sustainable Food Tourism: Develop sustainable food tourism initiatives that highlight the Inland Empire's local food culture, traditions, and sustainable food practices. Promote farm-to-table experiences, culinary festivals, and agritourism to attract visitors and boost the local economy. For example, efforts like Amy's</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Food Systems	The Next 5-10 Years in Food Systems	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Food Systems	Food Systems in “2050” and Beyond!
For example, efforts like Called to Care	For example, efforts like Farm to School .	Department of Environmental Health	Farm
<p>Strengthen Food Education and Nutrition Programs: Implement comprehensive food education programs in schools and community centers to promote healthy eating habits and food literacy. Collaborate with local organizations to offer cooking classes, nutrition workshops, and food-based entrepreneurship training. For example, efforts like Food Education and Nutrition Programs</p>	<p>Invest in Food Research and Development: Allocate resources for research and development in sustainable agriculture, food technology, and alternative protein sources. Support research institutions and startups working on innovative solutions for improving food production, distribution, and nutrition. For example, efforts like the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program.</p>	<p>Develop Sustainable Urban Food Systems: Foster the development of sustainable urban food systems, including rooftop gardens, vertical farming, and hydroponics. Promote policies that encourage urban agriculture and integrate food production into urban planning and design. For example, efforts like Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA)</p>	<p>Encourage Food Justice and Equity: Address systemic inequities in the food system by promoting food justice initiatives. Support community-led efforts to ensure equitable access to nutritious food, address food apartheid, and empower marginalized communities in decision-making processes. For example, efforts like Food Accessibility & Inequality in the Inland Empire</p>

Health & Wellbeing

Recommended Strategies:

1. Increase access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including primary care, mental health services, and preventive care.
2. Promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles, including physical activity, healthy eating, community engagement and connection, substance abuse prevention, and addiction prevention and treatment.
3. Develop and implement comprehensive policies and programs that address health disparities and social determinants of health in the Inland Empire, taking into account the vital conditions framework and the urgent need to address systemic racism in healthcare and medicine.

4. Support the development and expansion of community-based healthcare and wellness programs and infrastructure that are tailored to meet the unique needs of underserved and marginalized populations in the Inland Empire.
5. Build upon the State of California's historic investments by fostering robust collaboration and partnership among healthcare providers, community organizations, higher education institutions, and other key actors in the Inland Empire.
6. Advocate for increased investment in research and innovation in healthcare and public health, with a specific focus on addressing health disparities and mitigating environmental health hazards in the Inland Empire.
7. Increase investment in workforce development programs to ensure a robust, skilled, and healthy healthcare and behavioral healthcare workforce that can effectively meet the region's current and future healthcare needs.
8. Promote comprehensive health literacy and education, including a focus on mental health, to empower individuals, particularly vulnerable populations, with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage their health.
9. Develop a comprehensive health and well-being strategy that addresses the social determinants of health and adopts a proactive approach to prevention.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Develop a regional Health Policy Coalition to identify and advocate for local and statewide legislation that improves population health and health equity. The coalition is responsible for developing an annual legislative agenda, monitoring legislation, and educating member organizations on how they can help advocate for legislation and educate/engage lawmakers. For example, efforts like Riverside County Health</p>	<p>Expand Healthcare Infrastructure: Increase investment in healthcare infrastructure by building new medical facilities, expanding existing hospitals and clinics, and recruiting healthcare professionals to meet growing demand. Ensure equitable distribution of healthcare services across the Inland Empire. For example, efforts like the Inland Empire Community Health Initiative.</p>	<p>Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure: Invest in public health infrastructure, including disease surveillance systems, public health laboratories, and emergency preparedness capabilities. Enhance the capacity to respond to public health emergencies and mitigate health risks. For example, efforts like Public Health Infrastructure Center</p> <p>Related Community Strategies: -ask community for its vision</p>	<p>Achieve Universal Healthcare: Work towards a comprehensive and equitable healthcare system that provides universal access to healthcare services for all residents of the Inland Empire. Advocate for healthcare reforms that prioritize affordability, quality, and equity. For example, efforts like Canada's Health Care System</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Coalition</p> <p>Multisolver: -Strengthen Community Health Worker infrastructure and support, and make the Inland Region a leader in the state for CHW training and healthcare integration.</p> <p>-Create strong regional collaborative healthcareer pipelines and pathways.</p> <p>-Support and expand access to our region’s green spaces (community gardens/urban agriculture; natural resources).</p> <p>Related Vital Conditions: -CHWs can support any of the vital conditions but directly address <i>basic needs for health and safety, meaningful work & wealth, and belonging & civic muscle</i>.</p> <p>-Healthcare pipelines and pathways directly address <i>basic needs for health and safety, meaningful work &</i></p>	<p>Related Community Strategies: -integrate three strategies from previous column into k-12 education; and local policies (city planning, workforce development</p> <p>-ask community for its vision on how it would like to expand the foundational strategies (which come from previous Community Health Needs Assessments).</p>	<p>on how it would like to expand the foundational strategies (which come from previous Community Health Needs Assessments).</p>	

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p><i>wealth, lifelong learning.</i></p> <p>-green spaces will directly address: <i>Thriving natural world; basic needs for health and safety.</i></p> <p>Related Community Strategies:</p> <p>-Take a “health in all policies” approach. Where we recognize the link between workforce and health, housing and health, education and health, safety and health, etc.</p> <p>-Create a regional plan for mentoring and shadowing our future healthcare workforce.</p> <p>-protected green spaces for families, and increase access</p>			
<p>Create a Health Funding Task Force with the goal of increasing public and private (e.g. state, federal and foundation) health funding investments in the Inland Empire (E.g. grants, research, etc).</p>	<p>Foster Integrated Care Systems: Promote integrated care models that enhance coordination among healthcare providers, social services, and community organizations. Support initiatives that address social determinants of health and provide comprehensive</p>	<p>Promote Healthy Aging: Develop age-friendly communities that support healthy aging and enable older adults to live independently and actively participate in society. Invest in senior centers, caregiver support programs, and initiatives that</p>	<p>Embrace Precision Medicine and Personalized Healthcare: Emphasize precision medicine approaches that leverage individual genetic and environmental data to tailor healthcare interventions. Support advancements in genomic medicine, precision</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>For example, efforts like California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force</p>	<p>care for vulnerable populations. For example, efforts like the Integrated Care Communities.</p>	<p>promote healthy aging lifestyles. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Fall Prevention Collaborative (IEFPC)</p>	<p>diagnostics, and targeted therapies. For example, efforts like Precision Medicine and Personalized Healthcare</p>
<p>Support CalAIM: Encourage and support regional entities to apply for the CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health(PATH) Initiative funding</p>	<p>Improve Health Equity: Implement strategies to reduce health disparities and promote health equity. Allocate resources to address social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, and access to healthy food, with a focus on historically marginalized communities. For example, efforts like the CSUSB Center for Health Equity.</p>	<p>Advance Health Workforce Development: Enhance health workforce development programs to meet evolving healthcare needs. Increase the number of healthcare professionals, expand training programs, and support initiatives that improve cultural competency and diversity in the healthcare workforce. For example, efforts like Health Workforce Initiative</p>	<p>Foster Health Innovation Hubs: Establish health innovation hubs that bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, and healthcare professionals to collaborate on groundbreaking healthcare solutions. Create an ecosystem that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and research in healthcare. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Health Information Organization (IEHIO)</p>
<p>Promote and Support the Riverside University Health System-Public Health (RUHS-PH) - Blue Zones Activate Initiative</p> <p>More Information: https://rivco.org/news/ruhs-public-health-launches-blue-zones-activate-improve-well-being-riverside-county</p>	<p>Invest in Digital Health Technologies: Embrace digital health technologies, including telehealth, remote monitoring, and health information systems. Expand broadband access to ensure equitable access to digital health services across the region. For example, efforts like the eConsult platform.</p>	<p>Promote Health Technology Innovation: Encourage local innovation in health technology and digital health solutions. Support startups, research institutions, and entrepreneurs working on cutting-edge health technologies, wearables, and personalized medicine.</p>	<p>Enhance Data-driven Public Health Strategies: Utilize big data, predictive analytics, and artificial intelligence to inform public health strategies and interventions. Improve data collection, analysis, and sharing across healthcare systems and public health agencies.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Strengthen Community Partnerships: Foster partnerships between healthcare providers, community organizations, schools, and local government agencies to address health needs collectively. Collaborate on initiatives such as health fairs, community wellness programs, and health screenings. For example, efforts like Community Health Association Inland Southern Region</p>	<p>Support Research and Innovation: Allocate funding for health research and innovation to drive advancements in medical treatments, preventive care, and public health interventions. Foster collaborations between academic institutions, healthcare providers, and technology companies to spur innovation. For example, efforts like the Columbia University - Center for Healthcare Delivery Research and Innovations.</p>	<p>Address Environmental Health Challenges: Implement strategies to address environmental health challenges, including air pollution, water quality, and climate change. Advocate for policies that promote environmental justice and reduce environmental health risks in vulnerable communities. For example, efforts like Environmental Health Department or Division</p>	<p>Prioritize Health and Well-being in Urban Planning: Integrate health considerations into urban planning and design processes. Create walkable and bike-friendly communities, prioritize green spaces and parks, and promote mixed-use development to support active lifestyles and enhance community well-being.</p>
<p>Support Mental Health and Well-being: Increase mental health resources and services, including counseling, therapy, and support programs. Address stigma surrounding mental health and promote community-based mental health initiatives to improve overall well-being. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Mental Health</p>			

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 5-10 Years in Health & Wellbeing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in “2050” and Beyond!
Resources			

Housing

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support increased funding for affordable housing development and preservation, with a particular focus on meeting the housing needs of low-income households.
2. Support the development and implementation of inclusionary zoning policies, based on best practices, that require developers to include a percentage of affordable housing units in new developments.
3. Promote and support the adoption of comprehensive policies and regulations that protect renters from unjust evictions and ensure housing stability.
4. Support increased investment in public housing to address the growing demand and improve the quality of living conditions for residents.
5. Support the development and implement programs to assist homeowners with home repairs, weatherization, and replacements to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and enhance overall housing quality.
6. Support the development and implementation of strategies that promote the creation of mixed-income neighborhoods, fostering inclusive and vibrant communities in the Inland Empire.
7. Support the increased funding for homeless services and affordable housing in the Inland Empire, recognizing the urgent need to address homelessness and its underlying causes.
8. Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs to promote and protect local home ownership, with a focus on assisting low- and moderate-income households.
9. Support the development and implementation of comprehensive programs that foster collaboration and coordination between sectors to promote sustainable and environmentally-friendly housing.
10. Support and advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive set of solutions to accelerate the construction of diverse housing typologies at various cost levels, including the promotion of missing middle housing options.

11. Promote increased housing density, particularly in areas well-served by high-quality transit, to maximize the efficient use of land and transportation infrastructure.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Housing	The Next 5-10 Years in Housing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Housing	Housing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Regional Support for the Community Solutions Built for Zero Initiative Community Solutions - Built for Zero</p>	<p>Transit-Oriented Development: Focus on transit-oriented development (TOD) around existing and planned transportation hubs, such as major transit stations and corridors. This approach integrates housing, employment, and amenities within walking distance of public transportation, promoting accessibility, reducing reliance on private vehicles, and supporting sustainable, compact communities. For example, efforts like the Transit-Oriented Communities Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Transit-Oriented Development Expansion: Continue to prioritize transit-oriented development (TOD) and expand it to new areas within the Inland Empire. This includes establishing new transit corridors, improving existing transit infrastructure, and integrating affordable housing, commercial spaces, and community amenities within walking distance of transit stations. This long-term investment will support sustainable and connected neighborhoods while reducing dependence on private vehicles. For example, efforts like National Community Renaissance (National CORE)</p>	<p>Regenerative and Net-Zero Housing: Advance regenerative housing designs that go beyond sustainability, actively contributing to the environment and community well-being. Promote net-zero energy buildings that produce as much energy as they consume, reducing the housing sector's carbon footprint. For example, efforts like Housing Rehabilitation Program</p>
<p>Support and advocate for the READY-TO-GO projects highlighted by the San Bernardino Investment Playbook including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carousel Mall 	<p>Housing Rehabilitation and Retrofitting: Invest in the rehabilitation and retrofitting of existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency, safety, and livability. Provide</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Preservation: Implement policies and programs to preserve existing affordable housing units and prevent their conversion into market-rate</p>	<p>Resilient and Climate-Adaptive Design: Integrate resilient and climate-adaptive design principles into housing development to mitigate the impacts of climate change.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Housing	The Next 5-10 Years in Housing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Housing	Housing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Redevelopment (\$37M)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heart of Mobility (\$22M–30M) - Homelessness Initiative (\$52.5M–72.5M) - Homeownership Initiative (\$15M) - Downtown Habitat for Humanity Project (\$750K) <p>More Information: https://www.sbinvestmentpl aybook.com/copy-of-vivienda</p>	<p>financial incentives and resources for homeowners and landlords to upgrade their properties, including energy-efficient appliances, insulation, solar panels, and water-saving fixtures. This improves housing quality, reduces utility costs, and contributes to environmental sustainability. For example, efforts like the Housing Rehabilitation Program.</p>	<p>housing. This can include providing financial incentives to property owners, supporting nonprofit organizations in acquiring and rehabilitating affordable housing properties, and implementing regulations to protect vulnerable tenants from displacement. Preserving affordable housing stock ensures housing stability for low-income individuals and families in the long run. For example, efforts like Neighborhood Partnerships Housing Services, Inc.</p>	<p>Incorporate features like flood-resistant design, green roofs, and sustainable stormwater management systems. For example, efforts like Southern California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide</p>
<p>Community Land Trusts: Support the establishment of community land trusts (CLTs) to preserve affordable housing in perpetuity. CLTs acquire and hold land to provide long-term affordable housing opportunities. Encourage partnerships between nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders to create CLTs that protect housing affordability and prevent displacement. For example, efforts like Inland</p>	<p>Supportive Housing Programs: Increase funding for supportive housing programs that combine affordable housing with on-site supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness or facing significant challenges. This includes mental health services, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, and case management. By addressing both housing and supportive needs, these programs help</p>	<p>Green Building Standards: Strengthen and expand green building standards to ensure that new residential and commercial developments incorporate sustainable design principles, energy efficiency, and environmentally friendly practices. This can include adopting rigorous green building codes, incentivizing developers to exceed minimum sustainability requirements, and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. By prioritizing</p>	<p>Universal Design and Accessibility: Emphasize universal design principles to ensure housing is accessible and adaptable for people of all ages and abilities. Incorporate features such as zero-step entrances, wider doorways, and accessible technology to support independent living. For example, efforts like HCD Model Universal Design Local Ordinance (AB 2787)</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Housing	The Next 5-10 Years in Housing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Housing	Housing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Empire Community Land Trust</p>	<p>individuals stabilize their lives and achieve long-term housing stability. For example, efforts like the Step Up’s Inland Empire Housing First Programs.</p>	<p>sustainability in construction, the region can mitigate its environmental impact and create healthier living environments. For example, efforts like San Diego County - The Green Building Program</p>	
<p>Increase Affordable Housing Stock: Invest in the development of affordable housing units through public-private partnerships, incentives, and funding programs. Implement inclusionary zoning policies to ensure affordable housing is integrated into new developments.</p>	<p>Inclusionary Housing Policies: Implement inclusionary housing policies that require developers to include a percentage of affordable units in new residential developments. These policies can be accompanied by incentives, such as density bonuses or streamlined approval processes, to encourage compliance. Inclusionary housing promotes economic diversity, prevents segregation, and ensures that new housing construction contributes to affordable housing stock. For example, efforts like the Inclusionary Housing Policy.</p>	<p>Equitable Housing Policies: Implement policies and strategies that address housing inequities and promote equitable access to affordable and quality housing. This includes targeted investment in underserved communities, addressing discriminatory practices in housing, and promoting social inclusion through mixed-income neighborhoods. Equitable housing policies aim to reduce disparities, create opportunities for upward mobility, and foster inclusive and diverse communities. Environmental & Housing Justice Policy Platform For example, efforts like Environmental & Housing Justice Policy Platform</p>	<p>Community-Led Housing Initiatives: Support community-led housing initiatives, such as cooperative ownership and community land trusts, to empower residents in decision-making and ownership of their housing. Provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in developing and managing their own housing projects.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Housing	The Next 5-10 Years in Housing	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Housing	Housing in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Strengthen Tenant Protections: Enact and enforce stronger tenant protection measures, including rent stabilization, eviction prevention programs, and tenant rights education. Establish a tenant support hotline and expand legal assistance programs for low-income renters. For example, efforts like E.R.A.S.E. Project</p>	<p>Community Land Banking: Establish community land banks to acquire, hold, and repurpose vacant or underutilized properties for affordable housing development. Collaborate with community organizations, local governments, and private entities to identify suitable properties, streamline the acquisition process, and support the redevelopment of these sites into affordable housing options for the community. For example, efforts like the Inland Equity Community Land Trust ~ Plan Adelanto.</p>	<p>Housing Innovation and Technology: Embrace innovative housing solutions and emerging technologies to address housing challenges in the region. This includes exploring alternative construction methods, such as modular and 3D-printed housing, and leveraging technology to improve housing affordability, energy efficiency, and livability. Investing in housing innovation can revolutionize the construction industry, accelerate the delivery of housing units, and make homeownership more attainable for residents.</p>	<p>Collaborative Regional Planning: Foster collaboration among cities and counties in the Inland Empire to develop a comprehensive regional housing plan that addresses housing needs, promotes equitable distribution, and coordinates infrastructure and services. Implement cross-jurisdictional strategies for sustainable and equitable housing development.</p>
<p>Revitalize Underutilized Properties: Identify underutilized or vacant properties for redevelopment and repurpose them for affordable housing. Provide incentives for developers to rehabilitate and convert vacant commercial buildings or unused land into mixed-income housing developments.</p>			

Labor & Workforce

Recommended Strategies:

1. Promoting equitable workforce training and education for inclusive economic growth.
2. Develop and implement comprehensive workforce policies that promote equity, inclusion, and fairness, including living wage ordinances, equal pay, non-discrimination policies, pathways to advancement, and gig economy worker protections.
3. Promote and incentivize the development of local, sustainable, high-quality, high road jobs that contribute to the region's economic growth and vitality.
4. Strengthen collaboration between local high-road employers and education providers to establish a robust talent pipeline that aligns with the demands of the local job market and enhances the overall quality of jobs in the region.
5. Support and encourage the development of worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses, while also fostering an environment that nurtures local entrepreneurs and innovators.
6. Prioritize and take proactive measures to support and enhance work-life balance and flexibility for employees in the Inland Empire.
7. Develop and implement policies and programs that support the needs of historically marginalized and underserved communities.
8. Investment and support for wrap-around services for individuals in the labor/workforce is crucial to ensure their success and well-being.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Labor & Workforce	The Next 5-10 Years in Labor & Workforce	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Labor & Workforce	Labor & Workforce in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Support and advocate for the proposed “Cybersecurity Workforce Tech Hub” in San Bernardino.</p> <p>More Information: https://www.sbinvestmentpl aybook.com/copy-of-community</p>	<p>Establish Workforce Development Hubs: Create regional workforce development hubs that serve as centralized resources for training, job placement, and career advancement. These hubs can bring together educational institutions,</p>	<p>Foster Lifelong Learning and Upskilling: Establish lifelong learning programs that provide ongoing education and upskilling opportunities for workers throughout their careers. Encourage continuous professional development and create</p>	<p>Embrace AI and Automation: Prepare for the future of work by investing in research and education related to artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. Develop strategies to ensure a smooth transition for workers, reskilling and upskilling them to adapt to</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Labor & Workforce	The Next 5-10 Years in Labor & Workforce	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Labor & Workforce	Labor & Workforce in “2050” and Beyond!
	employers, and community organizations to streamline access to workforce development services. For example, efforts like the Riverside County Workforce Development .	pathways for career progression and specialization. For example, efforts like RCCD Extended Learning	changing technology and employment trends. For example, efforts like Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for California
<p>Promote Apprenticeship Programs: Encourage the establishment of apprenticeship programs that provide on-the-job training and education, creating pathways to well-paying and sustainable careers. Collaborate with businesses and educational institutions to develop apprenticeship opportunities in key sectors. For example, efforts like LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network</p>	<p>Expand Industry-Specific Training Centers: Invest in the development of industry-specific training centers that provide hands-on training and simulation environments for sectors such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, logistics, and green technologies. These centers can equip workers with the specialized skills needed for emerging industries. For example, efforts like the Industrial and Technical Learning Center of the Inland Empire (InTech Center).</p>	<p>Promote Remote Work and Telecommuting: Invest in infrastructure and technology to support remote work and telecommuting options, enabling flexible work arrangements and reducing commuting and carbon emissions. Provide training and resources to support remote work productivity and collaboration. For example, efforts like County Telework Program</p>	<p>Embrace AI and Automation: Prepare for the future of work by investing in research and education. Foster Global Workforce Collaboration: Embrace global workforce collaboration by promoting international partnerships, exchange programs, and talent mobility. Cultivate a diverse and globally connected workforce that can contribute to regional competitiveness and innovation related to artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. Develop strategies to ensure a smooth transition for workers, reskilling and upskilling them to adapt to changing technology and employment trends.</p>
<p>Strengthen Workforce Support Services: Increase</p>	<p>Develop Career Pathways for High-Demand</p>	<p>Collaborate with Educational Institutions on Research and</p>	<p>Promote Green Jobs and Sustainability: Prioritize</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Labor & Workforce	The Next 5-10 Years in Labor & Workforce	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Labor & Workforce	Labor & Workforce in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>access to career counseling, job placement services, and supportive programs such as childcare, transportation assistance, and affordable housing to ensure individuals have the necessary support to enter and succeed in the workforce.</p> <p>For example, efforts like San Bernardino County Workforce Development</p>	<p>Occupations: Collaborate with industry partners to develop clear career pathways and certification programs for high-demand occupations. Focus on sectors with projected job growth, such as healthcare, clean energy, information technology, and skilled trades. For example, efforts like Here to Career.</p>	<p>Innovation: Foster closer collaboration between industries and educational institutions to drive research and innovation. Support the establishment of research centers, innovation labs, and industry-academic partnerships that focus on developing new technologies and solutions.</p>	<p>investments in green industries, renewable energy, and sustainable practices. Create a workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge to drive the transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy.</p> <p>For example, efforts like The Green Valley Initiative Sustainable Economic Development Plan</p>
<p>Foster Industry-Education Partnerships: Facilitate partnerships between educational institutions and industry leaders to align curricula with industry needs. Promote internships, externships, and work-study programs to provide students with real-world experiences and help them develop relevant skills.</p> <p>For example, efforts like Industry Partnerships - California College of the Arts (CCA)</p>	<p>Strengthen Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives: Implement initiatives to increase workforce diversity and ensure equitable access to employment opportunities. Develop programs that support underrepresented groups, promote inclusive hiring practices, and address barriers to workforce participation. For example, efforts like the Inland Futures Foundation (IFF).</p>	<p>Support Economic Resilience and Job Creation: Invest in initiatives that promote economic diversification and resilience, including support for startups, innovation clusters, and industry clusters. Encourage the growth of emerging industries and the attraction of high-quality jobs to the region. For example, efforts like Just San Bernardino Collaborative</p>	<p>Address Future Workforce Challenges: Anticipate and proactively address future workforce challenges, such as demographic shifts, changing skill requirements, and the gig economy. Develop policies and programs that support worker resiliency, social safety nets, and equitable access to economic opportunities. For example, efforts like Regional Workforce Development Plan</p>
<p>Encourage Entrepreneurship and Small Business</p>	<p>Enhance Job Quality and Benefits: Advocate for policies</p>	<p>Strengthen Regional Workforce Coordination:</p>	<p>Foster Continuous Innovation and Adaptation:</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Labor & Workforce	The Next 5-10 Years in Labor & Workforce	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Labor & Workforce	Labor & Workforce in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Development: Provide resources, mentorship, and financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. Foster an ecosystem that nurtures innovation, supports startups, and promotes economic growth through local entrepreneurship. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Small Business Development Center /IESBDC</p>	<p>and incentives that promote fair wages, benefits, and worker protections. Encourage employers to offer competitive compensation packages, promote work-life balance, and prioritize employee well-being.</p>	<p>Enhance regional coordination among employers, educational institutions, and workforce development agencies to align efforts, share resources, and address workforce needs holistically. Develop cross-sector partnerships to address complex challenges and leverage shared resources for maximum impact. For example, efforts like Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium</p>	<p>Create a culture of continuous innovation and adaptation to technological advancements and economic changes. Foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem that encourages experimentation, risk-taking, and the development of new business models and industries.</p>

Media & Democracy

Recommended Strategies:

1. Promote Local Media Investment and Engagement
2. Providing support and training for citizen journalism, community storytelling, and other forms of grassroots media, including ethnic media outlets and journalists, that can help amplify the voices of underrepresented communities and increase participation in local democracy.
3. Increasing transparency and accountability in local government through measures such as open data policies, participatory budgeting, and citizen advisory boards.
4. Providing funding and technical assistance to support civic engagement.

5. Encourage greater voter participation, combat voter suppression, and promote competitive elections in local offices by implementing a "top two" system for county and city offices, similar to what is available for state elected offices and federal legislative offices.
6. Encourage and facilitate greater participation in public meetings and hearings by implementing measures that promote inclusivity and provide diverse avenues for engagement.
7. Build Civic Muscle in the Inland Empire
8. Promote Media Literacy and Democracy for Youth in the Inland Empire

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Media & Democracy	The Next 5-10 Years in Media & Democracy	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Media & Democracy	Media & Democracy in "2050" and Beyond!
<p>Establish Media Incubators: Create dedicated spaces and resources for aspiring media entrepreneurs and content creators to develop innovative media projects. Provide mentorship, training, and funding opportunities to support their growth and success. For example, efforts like Amplify LA</p>	<p>Media Innovation Funds: Establish dedicated funding sources, such as grants or venture capital funds, to support media innovation and experimentation. These funds should prioritize projects that embrace emerging technologies, new storytelling formats, and audience engagement strategies. For example, efforts like the Global Innovation Fund.</p>	<p>Media Research and Innovation Centers: Create research and innovation centers focused on media studies, media technology development, and audience engagement research. These centers should drive industry advancements, cultivate thought leadership, and generate insights to inform media practices and policies. For example, efforts like Media Innovation Center at West Virginia University</p>	<p>Media Sustainability Models: Develop innovative and sustainable funding models for media organizations, including partnerships with philanthropic foundations, community ownership structures, and revenue-sharing initiatives. Support experiments with subscription models, micro-payments, and crowd-funding to ensure a resilient and independent media ecosystem.</p>
<p>Expand Media Literacy Programs: Collaborate with schools, community organizations, and media outlets to implement comprehensive media literacy programs. These programs should educate individuals</p>	<p>Digital Media Education Centers: Create educational centers that provide specialized training and resources in digital media production, data journalism, virtual reality, and other emerging media fields. These</p>	<p>Publicly Funded Media Initiatives: Establish publicly funded media initiatives to ensure sustainable and independent journalism. These initiatives can support investigative reporting, documentary filmmaking, and</p>	<p>Media Democracy Initiatives: Promote media literacy and civic engagement through digital platforms that foster deliberative democracy, participatory decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving. Leverage technology</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Media & Democracy	The Next 5-10 Years in Media & Democracy	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Media & Democracy	Media & Democracy in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>about critical thinking, digital literacy, and media consumption habits to promote informed engagement with media. For example, efforts like Media Literacy Now</p>	<p>centers can serve as hubs for skill development, collaboration, and innovation. For example, efforts like the RSCCD Digital Media Center.</p>	<p>community-driven media projects that prioritize public interest and serve the diverse needs of Inland Empire residents.</p>	<p>to create spaces for informed public discourse, democratic dialogue, and collective action.</p>
<p>Support Community Journalism: Invest in community journalism initiatives that prioritize hyperlocal news coverage, investigative reporting, and community engagement. Provide financial support and resources to sustain and expand independent local news outlets, ensuring access to reliable and diverse information for residents.</p>	<p>Civic Media Platforms: Develop online platforms that facilitate community-driven journalism, citizen reporting, and collaborative storytelling. These platforms should encourage public participation, transparency, and accountability, enhancing the connection between media outlets and their audiences. For example, efforts like KVCR.</p>	<p>Media Infrastructure Equity: Address the digital divide by investing in equitable media infrastructure across the region. Ensure that underserved communities have access to high-quality internet connectivity, media resources, and digital literacy training to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusivity.</p>	<p>Global Media Collaborations: Foster international collaborations between media organizations, journalists, and storytellers to amplify diverse voices, share best practices, and address global challenges. Create platforms for cross-cultural exchange, intercultural understanding, and the sharing of knowledge and resources on a global scale. For example, efforts like DW Global Media Forum</p>
<p>Foster Media Collaborations: Encourage partnerships between media organizations, community groups, and civic institutions to produce collaborative media projects. These initiatives should</p>	<p>Media Technology Infrastructure: Invest in robust and inclusive media technology infrastructure, including high-speed internet access, digital broadcasting systems, and data analytics</p>		<p>Augmented and Virtual Reality Experiences: Embrace emerging technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create immersive media experiences</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Media & Democracy	The Next 5-10 Years in Media & Democracy	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Media & Democracy	Media & Democracy in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>address local issues, promote dialogue, and amplify diverse voices to foster a sense of community and civic participation.</p>	<p>tools. This infrastructure will enable media organizations to effectively reach and engage with diverse audiences across the Inland Empire.</p>		<p>that promote empathy, understanding, and cross-cultural dialogue. Use these technologies to foster a deeper connection between media consumers and the stories they engage with. For example, efforts like XCITE Center for Teaching and Learning</p>
<p>Advocate for Media Policies: Engage in advocacy efforts to promote media policies that protect press freedom, support net neutrality, and ensure equitable access to media resources. Work with policymakers, industry leaders, and community stakeholders to influence legislation and regulations that advance an inclusive and democratic media ecosystem.</p>	<p>Media Mentorship Programs: Establish mentorship programs that connect experienced media professionals with aspiring talent from underrepresented communities. These programs should provide guidance, networking opportunities, and career support to foster diversity and inclusivity in the media sector. For example, efforts like the Media Mentors Program.</p>		<p>Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Journalism: Explore the potential of AI in journalism, including automated fact-checking, data analysis, and personalized news delivery. Invest in AI research and development that upholds ethical standards and safeguards against biases, ensuring responsible and accurate reporting.</p>
<p>Support and advocate for the proposed “Community Leadership Empowerment Workshop”- Designed to support deliberately inclusive community and economic</p>			

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Media & Democracy	The Next 5-10 Years in Media & Democracy	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Media & Democracy	Media & Democracy in "2050" and Beyond!
<p>development, this program will act as a safeguard against gentrification, displacement, and community disinvestment.</p> <p>More Information: https://www.sbinvestmentpl aybook.com/copy-of-community</p>			

Public Safety & Justice Reform

Recommended Strategies:

1. Invest in a range of community-based alternatives to policing that address both crisis intervention and proactive prevention.
2. Develop comprehensive reentry programs and services that support individuals transitioning back into society from the criminal justice system.
3. Promote community engagement and collaboration to identify and address systemic issues within the criminal justice system, including racial bias, socio-economic biases, disparities, and a lack of cultural humility. Work together to develop solutions that address these complex challenges and ensure fair and equitable treatment for all individuals involved in the criminal justice system.
4. Providing greater support for people impacted by crime and trauma, including access to trauma-informed care and support services.
5. Collaborate with community stakeholders and organizations to identify and address the root causes of crime and public safety concerns, leveraging data sharing initiatives to inform evidence-based solutions.
6. Promote public safety and justice reform by prioritizing and investing in traditions and training in "constructive nonviolence" as a foundational approach.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 5-10 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	Public Safety & Justice Reform in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Restorative Justice Programs: Expand restorative justice programs that focus on repairing harm, rehabilitating offenders, and promoting healing for victims and communities. Invest in training for justice system professionals, including judges and prosecutors, to embrace restorative justice practices and alternative dispute resolution methods. For example, efforts like Alianza Coachella Valley</p>	<p>Community-based Rehabilitation Centers: Establish community-based rehabilitation centers that provide comprehensive support services, including education, job training, substance abuse treatment, and mental health counseling. These centers should offer alternatives to incarceration and promote successful reentry into society. For example, efforts like the Community Care and Rehab Center.</p>	<p>Justice System Redesign: Engage in a comprehensive review and redesign of the justice system to address systemic inequities, reduce disparities, and promote fair and just outcomes. Implement reforms that emphasize rehabilitation, community restoration, and a focus on public safety rather than punitive measures.</p>	<p>Holistic Justice System: Establish a holistic justice system that integrates social services, mental health support, and community resources into the fabric of public safety. Emphasize prevention, early intervention, and community restoration to ensure a truly equitable and sustainable approach to public safety and justice.</p>
<p>Diversion Programs: Implement diversion programs that provide alternatives to incarceration for individuals involved in low-level offenses, focusing on rehabilitation, skill-building, and community reintegration. Support the expansion of pretrial diversion programs and restorative justice diversion models. For example, efforts like youth.gov</p>	<p>Collaborative Justice Initiatives: Foster collaboration between criminal justice agencies, social service providers, and community organizations to develop integrated systems that address the underlying causes of crime and support the holistic well-being of individuals. Implement joint initiatives to reduce recidivism rates and promote successful</p>	<p>Equity and Diversity in Justice Leadership: Promote diversity and inclusion within leadership positions in the justice system, including law enforcement agencies, courts, and correctional facilities. Establish programs to recruit and mentor individuals from underrepresented communities to ensure diverse perspectives and cultural competence in decision-making.</p>	<p>Restorative Communities: Create restorative communities where healing, accountability, and reconciliation are central to the justice system. Prioritize community-led interventions, restorative practices, and transformative justice models that focus on repairing harm, addressing root causes, and promoting long-term community well-being.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 5-10 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	Public Safety & Justice Reform in “2050” and Beyond!
	reintegration.		
<p>Data-driven Decision Making: Invest in data collection, analysis, and research to inform evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in the public safety and justice system. Improve data transparency and accountability to identify disparities, track progress, and guide targeted interventions.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice Reform: Invest in comprehensive juvenile justice reform that prioritizes diversion, rehabilitation, and youth development. Expand community-based programs, mentorship initiatives, and educational opportunities for at-risk youth, focusing on prevention and intervention rather than punitive measures. For example, efforts like the Redesigning Justice: Our Youth Action Agenda.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation-focused Prisons: Transform correctional facilities into rehabilitation-focused environments that prioritize education, vocational training, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. Foster a culture of accountability, personal growth, and reintegration into society to reduce recidivism and support successful reentry.</p>	<p>Human-Centered Justice: Shift the focus of the justice system from punishment to healing, rehabilitation, and transformative change. Prioritize human rights, dignity, and community well-being in all aspects of the justice process, ensuring that policies and practices reflect the values of inclusivity, equity, and social justice.</p>
<p>Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Services: Increase resources and funding for mental health services, crisis intervention teams, and specialized training for law enforcement officers to effectively respond to mental health crises. Develop collaborative partnerships between law enforcement, mental health providers, and community organizations to</p>	<p>Police Accountability Measures: Implement robust police accountability measures, including independent oversight bodies, civilian review boards, and transparency requirements. Invest in training to address implicit biases, promote cultural competency, and ensure equitable policing practices. For example, efforts like Transforming the System.</p>	<p>Community-led Safety Initiatives: Support community-led safety initiatives that empower residents to be active participants in creating safe neighborhoods. Invest in community-based organizations, grassroots initiatives, and restorative justice programs that engage community members in preventing crime and resolving</p>	<p>Alternative Dispute Resolution: Expand alternative dispute resolution methods, including mediation and community conferencing, to resolve conflicts and promote healing within communities. Invest in restorative justice circles, dialogue processes, and community-building initiatives that prioritize repairing relationships and fostering</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 5-10 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Public Safety & Justice Reform	Public Safety & Justice Reform in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>ensure appropriate care and support. For example, efforts like Senate Bill 11</p>		<p>conflicts.</p>	<p>understanding.</p>
	<p>Trauma-informed Justice Practices: Integrate trauma-informed approaches throughout the justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and correctional facilities. Provide training for justice professionals on recognizing and responding to trauma, and implement trauma-informed practices in all aspects of the justice process. For example, efforts like the California Center of Excellence for Trauma Informed Care (CCETIC).</p>	<p>Cross-sector Collaboration: Foster cross-sector collaboration between public safety agencies, education systems, healthcare providers, social services, and community organizations. Establish coordinated efforts to address the root causes of crime and promote community well-being, including initiatives focused on poverty reduction, affordable housing, and access to quality education.</p>	<p>Empowered Communities: Empower communities to take an active role in shaping their own safety and justice systems. Foster community-led initiatives, participatory budgeting, and democratic decision-making processes that ensure community voices are heard and integrated into the design and implementation of policies and programs.</p>

Social Services

Recommended Strategies:

1. Advocate for increased funding and resources for community-based organizations and social service providers, with a particular focus on supporting nonprofits and community organizations in under-resourced areas, including rural and unincorporated communities of the region.

2. Promote the development of new and innovative models that enhance access to and delivery of social services, taking into account emerging digital solutions and fostering collaborations through public-private partnerships.
3. Expand access to comprehensive and high-quality mental health services, including prevention, intervention, and treatment programs, to address the diverse needs of individuals and communities.
4. Advocate for strengthening and expanding social safety net programs to ensure access to vital resources for individuals and families in need.
5. Promote comprehensive policies that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality, recognizing that addressing wages and income alone is not sufficient.
6. Advocate for increasing resources for and access to programs that support vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.
7. Support policies that address structural injustices and promote equity in the provision of social services, with a specific focus on populations experiencing homelessness, adults with severe mental illness transitioning from incarceration, youth enrolled in child care services, youth involved in the child welfare system, and adults and seniors with multiple comorbidities.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Social Services	The Next 5-10 Years in Social Services	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Social Services	Social Services in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Support and advocate for the proposed “El Sol Holistic Campus” designed to provide culturally specific health education, basic health screenings, wellness classes, peer-to-peer counseling and educational services for vulnerable San Bernardino residents.</p> <p>More Information: https://www.sbinvestmentpl aybook.com/copy-of-community</p>	<p>Support the development of “The Institute for Child Development and Family Relations – Downtown (ICDFR – Downtown)” - The institute will serve as a community hub committed to the well-being of parents, children, and families in the San Bernardino community through a combination of education, direct services, and research.</p> <p>More Information:</p>	<p>Universal Basic Income (UBI) Pilots: Explore and pilot Universal Basic Income programs to address poverty and income inequality. Invest in research and evaluation to understand the impact of UBI on social well-being, economic stability, and community resilience.</p>	<p>Universal Healthcare: Advocate for a universal healthcare system that ensures access to quality healthcare for all residents. Invest in preventative care, mental health services, and holistic health approaches that prioritize well-being and promote equitable health outcomes.</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Social Services	The Next 5-10 Years in Social Services	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Social Services	Social Services in “2050” and Beyond!
	https://www.sbinvestmentpl aybook.com/copy-of-community		
<p>Expand Access to Social Services: Increase funding and resources for social service organizations to expand their capacity and reach, ensuring that individuals and families have access to essential services such as food assistance, housing support, healthcare, mental health counseling, and employment resources.</p>	<p>Strengthen Early Childhood Development: Expand access to high-quality early childhood education, including preschool programs and parental support services. Invest in early intervention programs that address developmental delays, promote school readiness, and support the social-emotional well-being of young children. For example, efforts like How Help Me Grow Works.</p>	<p>Holistic Case Management: Implement holistic case management approaches that address the interconnected needs of individuals and families. Develop integrated service models that combine social services, healthcare, mental health, and educational supports to provide comprehensive care and support. For example, efforts like IEHP Enhanced Care Management</p>	<p>Lifelong Learning Programs: Develop lifelong learning programs that provide educational opportunities and skill development for individuals of all ages. Establish community centers for continued education, vocational training, and personal growth, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and adaptability. For example, efforts like RCCD Extended Learning</p>
<p>Strengthen Community Partnerships: Foster collaboration and partnerships between social service organizations, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. Establish coordinated networks that facilitate information sharing, referrals, and joint service delivery to enhance support</p>	<p>Support Aging Population: Develop age-friendly initiatives that cater to the needs of the growing aging population. Enhance senior services, including healthcare, transportation, social engagement programs, and accessible housing options. Foster intergenerational programs to promote connection and mutual support. For example, efforts</p>	<p>Community-led Solutions: Empower communities to take an active role in identifying and addressing local social challenges. Invest in community-driven initiatives, participatory budgeting, and grassroots projects that promote self-sufficiency, community cohesion, and collective decision-making. For example, efforts like IOA Inland Empire Community</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building: Implement community wealth-building strategies, such as community land trusts, worker cooperatives, and community-owned enterprises. Promote economic democracy and asset building to reduce wealth disparities and create resilient, locally rooted economies. For example, efforts like Building Wealth Initiative - Inland Empire</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Social Services	The Next 5-10 Years in Social Services	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Social Services	Social Services in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>systems for individuals and communities. For example, efforts like Reach Out</p>	<p>like the California Department of Aging (CDA).</p>	<p>Living Solutions</p>	
<p>Address Homelessness: Develop comprehensive homelessness prevention and intervention programs, including affordable housing initiatives, rapid rehousing programs, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Invest in innovative solutions such as tiny home villages, transitional housing, and wraparound support to address the root causes of homelessness. For example, efforts like San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership (SBCHP)</p>	<p>Foster Youth Empowerment: Invest in programs and resources that empower vulnerable and at-risk youth, including mentoring programs, life skills training, and educational support. Establish transitional support services to ensure successful transitions into adulthood for foster youth and those aging out of the system. For example, efforts like the Foster Family Network – Inland Empire.</p>	<p>Sustainable Funding Models: Advocate for sustainable funding models for social services, including public-private partnerships, impact investing, and outcome-based funding mechanisms. Explore innovative financing options and leverage resources from philanthropic organizations, businesses, and government agencies.</p>	<p>Social Justice Advocacy: Continue advocating for systemic changes that address social inequalities and promote social justice. Support policy reforms, equitable funding allocations, and community-led initiatives that challenge systemic barriers and foster a more just and inclusive society. For example, efforts like IECF</p>
<p>Promote Mental Health and Well-being: Increase investment in mental health services, including early intervention programs, counseling services, and mental health education in schools and communities.</p>	<p>Promote Cultural Competence: Invest in cultural competency training for social service providers to ensure services are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of the community. Support culturally specific</p>	<p>Social Impact Investing: Promote social impact investing by attracting private capital to support social service initiatives and community development projects. Encourage investment in social</p>	<p>Global Collaboration: Engage in global collaborations and knowledge exchange to address global challenges such as climate change, migration, and social inequality. Foster partnerships with international</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Social Services	The Next 5-10 Years in Social Services	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Social Services	Social Services in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Develop culturally competent and trauma-informed approaches that prioritize the mental health and well-being of all residents. For example, efforts like Inland Empire Mental Health Services</p>	<p>organizations and initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by marginalized populations. For example, efforts like the Cultural Competency Reducing Disparities Committee (CCRD).</p>	<p>enterprises, affordable housing, community health centers, and other ventures that generate positive social outcomes alongside financial returns. For example, efforts like NPHS Community Investment Trust</p>	<p>organizations, governments, and communities to learn from best practices, share resources, and work towards global solidarity and equity.</p>
<p>Enhance Workforce Development: Invest in job training programs, apprenticeships, and vocational education that provide individuals with the skills and resources necessary to secure sustainable employment. Collaborate with employers to create pathways for career advancement and equitable job opportunities.</p>	<p>Strengthen Nonprofit Capacity: Provide capacity-building support to nonprofit organizations, including funding for staff development, technology upgrades, and infrastructure improvements. Foster collaboration among nonprofits and promote knowledge sharing to enhance service delivery and resource utilization.</p>		

Transportation

Recommended Strategies:

1. Support and advocate for the improvement and modernization of public transit systems across the region to enhance access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable transportation options for all residents, with a particular focus on underserved communities.

2. Promote local and regional planning in the Inland Empire that fundamentally transforms the scale and design of communities, making them less car-centric and more conducive to sustainable transportation.
3. Support increased investment in electric and other zero-emission vehicles, as well as in the development of more efficient batteries, to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon transportation system and reduce harmful air pollution.
4. Support expanding access to affordable and reliable transportation options, such as carpooling and ride-sharing services, to reduce the burden of transportation costs on low-income households in the Inland Empire.
5. Encourage the adoption of telecommuting and remote work policies in the Inland Empire to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road.
6. Develop and implement transportation plans that prioritize equitable access for all residents, regardless of income, race, or geographic location.

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Transportation	The Next 5-10 Years in Transportation	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Transportation	Transportation in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>Enhance Public Transit: Increase investment in public transit infrastructure, including bus fleets, light rail, and commuter trains. Improve service frequency, expand routes, and ensure accessibility for all residents, including those with disabilities.</p>	<p>Expand Rail Infrastructure: Invest in the expansion of commuter rail services to connect more communities within the Inland Empire and provide efficient transportation options for residents. Integrate rail systems with other modes of transit to enhance connectivity and accessibility. For example, efforts like the Short Range Transit Plan.</p>	<p>High-Speed Rail Connectivity: Advocate for high-speed rail connectivity that links the Inland Empire with major economic hubs in the state and beyond. Improve intercity rail connections to enhance regional mobility, reduce travel times, and promote economic growth. For example, efforts like Brightline West</p>	<p>Zero-Emission Transportation: Achieve a fully zero-emission transportation system by electrifying all public transit and private vehicles. Develop an extensive network of EV charging infrastructure and invest in renewable energy sources to power the transportation sector. For example, efforts like SunLine Transit Agency</p>
<p>Promote Active Transportation: Invest in infrastructure for walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation. Create</p>	<p>Develop Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): Encourage transit-oriented development around major transportation hubs, creating</p>	<p>Autonomous and Connected Vehicles: Embrace autonomous and connected vehicle technologies and invest in the necessary</p>	<p>Advanced Hyperloop and Maglev Systems: Establish advanced hyperloop and magnetic levitation systems that provide high-speed, low-</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Transportation	The Next 5-10 Years in Transportation	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Transportation	Transportation in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>safe and connected pedestrian and cycling networks, including dedicated bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails, to encourage active and sustainable modes of transportation.</p> <p>For example, efforts like The Western Riverside County Active Transportation Plan</p>	<p>mixed-use, walkable communities with a mix of housing, commercial, and recreational spaces. Prioritize affordable housing options near transit nodes to promote equitable access. For example, efforts like the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Housing Program.</p>	<p>infrastructure to support their deployment. Develop pilot programs and regulatory frameworks to ensure safe and efficient integration of autonomous and connected vehicles.</p>	<p>carbon transportation options within and beyond the region. Connect the Inland Empire with major metropolitan areas and facilitate rapid and sustainable long-distance travel.</p> <p>For example, efforts like China's new hyperloop train</p>
<p>Implement Smart Traffic Management: Deploy intelligent transportation systems and advanced traffic management technologies to optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and improve transportation efficiency. Utilize real-time data and analytics to inform traffic management strategies and enhance the overall transportation experience.</p>	<p>Integrate Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS): Develop a comprehensive Mobility-as-a-Service platform that integrates various modes of transportation, including public transit, ride-sharing, bike-sharing, and micro-mobility options. Provide a seamless and user-friendly interface for trip planning, ticketing, and payment. For example, efforts like Connect SoCal.</p>	<p>Sustainable Freight Solutions: Develop sustainable freight transportation solutions that reduce emissions and congestion. Promote the use of electric trucks, alternative fuels, and efficient logistics systems to enhance the sustainability of freight transportation within the region.</p> <p>For example, efforts like Greencarrier Freight Services</p>	<p>Smart and Sustainable Mobility: Embrace fully integrated smart mobility systems that optimize transportation efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance user experience. Implement advanced technologies such as autonomous vehicles, AI-powered traffic management, and predictive analytics for seamless mobility.</p> <p>For example, efforts like Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI) projects</p>
<p>Support Electric Vehicles (EVs): Expand the availability of EV charging stations throughout the region,</p>	<p>Support Last-Mile Solutions: Invest in last-mile solutions such as micro-transit services, shared mobility options, and</p>	<p>Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Invest in climate-resilient transportation infrastructure that can</p>	<p>Urban Air Mobility (UAM): Embrace emerging urban air mobility technologies, such as electric vertical takeoff and</p>

Immediate Action Items & Investments in Transportation	The Next 5-10 Years in Transportation	The Next 10 - 20 Years in Transportation	Transportation in “2050” and Beyond!
<p>including public spaces, parking lots, and residential areas. Incentivize the adoption of electric vehicles by offering rebates, tax incentives, and subsidies for EV purchases. For example, efforts like CA Inland Empire: EV Incentives</p>	<p>innovative delivery systems to bridge the gap between transportation hubs and final destinations. Enhance first-mile/last-mile connectivity to improve overall accessibility. For example, efforts like GOShare.</p>	<p>withstand the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and sea-level rise. Integrate climate adaptation measures into transportation planning and design to ensure long-term sustainability. For example, efforts like Resilient IE</p>	<p>landing (eVTOL) aircraft, to address congestion and provide efficient transportation solutions for urban areas. Develop necessary infrastructure and regulatory frameworks to support UAM operations. For example, efforts like FEV</p>
<p>Foster Carpooling and Ridesharing: Encourage carpooling and ridesharing programs by providing incentives and infrastructure support. Promote carpooling platforms, expand designated carpool lanes, and develop ride-matching services to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road. For example, efforts like IE Commuter</p>	<p>Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): Continue investing in advanced ITS technologies, including real-time traveler information, smart traffic signals, and predictive analytics, to improve traffic flow, reduce travel times, and enhance overall transportation efficiency. For example, efforts like Southern California Regional ITS Architecture.</p>	<p>Hyperloop and Next-Generation Technologies: Explore the potential of next-generation transportation technologies, such as hyperloop systems, magnetic levitation trains, and other innovative modes of transportation. Collaborate with industry leaders and research institutions to pilot and implement these technologies in the Inland Empire. For example, efforts like HyperloopTT</p>	<p>Regional and Global Connectivity: Establish high-speed rail connections that link the Inland Empire with other regions, both within California and neighboring states. Foster international connectivity through collaboration with neighboring regions and countries, enabling efficient and sustainable global transportation networks. For example, efforts like 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan</p>

Priority Multisolver Action Items & Recommendations

This section highlights the key focus areas that have emerged as the most crucial community priorities through our extensive research and community engagement. The following action items and recommendations, if addressed, have the potential to tackle multiple issues identified in the report. These priority areas reflect the collective aspirations and needs of the community, representing the most significant opportunities for transformative change and progress in the Inland Empire.

1. **Address Health Disparities:** Health disparities persist in the region, with communities of color disproportionately affected. Access to quality healthcare, mental health support, and addressing social determinants of health are critical focus areas.
2. **Address Housing Insecurity:** The Inland Empire faces significant housing challenges, including affordability, homelessness, and inadequate housing supply. A comprehensive approach is needed to address these issues and ensure stable and affordable housing options for all residents.
3. **Provide Equitable & Sustainable Economic Opportunities:** The region has immense economic potential, but equitable access to education, workforce development, and entrepreneurship opportunities must be prioritized to create sustainable economic growth and reduce income disparities.
4. **Promote Environmental Resilience:** Climate change impacts, air quality concerns, and limited access to green spaces necessitate sustainable environmental practices and the promotion of clean energy initiatives to protect public health and enhance quality of life.
6. **Invest in Integrated Solutions:** Encouraging multisolver approaches that address multiple topic areas simultaneously to maximize impact and foster synergies between sectors.
7. **Ensure Equitable Development:** Promoting policies and investments that advance equity, reduce disparities, and ensure access to essential services and opportunities for all residents.
8. **Enhance Community Engagement:** Enhancing community engagement and participation in decision-making processes, recognizing the expertise and lived experiences of diverse stakeholders.
9. **Build Sustainable Infrastructure:** Investing in sustainable transportation, energy, and environmental infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and enhance resilience to climate change.

Additional Resources

IE 2030 Resources, Briefing Books, and Reports

IE 2030 – Community Solutions Report

A comprehensive summary of the community-driven solutions identified during the IE 2030 project, providing insights into the challenges, opportunities, and proposed strategies for creating a more equitable and sustainable Inland Empire.

Strategies & Commitments Briefing Book – May 22 Session

A guidebook for participants of the May 22 session, featuring draft strategies and commitments to stimulate discussion and collaboration towards achieving the vision of the Inland Empire, with a focus on equity, sustainability, and community well-being.

IE 2030 Proposed Solutions Feasibility Rankings Reference Document

A reference document presenting the feasibility rankings of proposed solutions generated by the community, serving as a resource for understanding the viability and potential impact of different solutions.

Solutions Briefing Book

A compilation of proposed solutions and initiatives aimed at addressing key challenges in the Inland Empire, providing a detailed overview of each solution and its potential impact on various aspects of community development.

Solutions Impact Scoring Form

A form designed to assess the potential impact and feasibility of proposed solutions, allowing participants to provide structured feedback and ratings based on specific criteria.

IE 2030 Vision & Roadmap: First Session Briefing Packet

A comprehensive packet providing background information, goals, and guidelines for the initial visioning session of the IE 2030 project, guiding participants in shaping the long-term vision and goals for the Inland Empire.

Post-Event Recap & Data – Visioning Session #1 Feb. 2023 – IE 2030 Vision and Roadmap

A summary of the key discussions, insights, and data gathered during the first visioning session of the IE 2030 project, capturing the collective vision and aspirations of the participants for the future of the Inland Empire.

Regional Research & Data

State of the Inland Empire Series - Center for Social Innovation

The Center for Social Innovation provides a credible research voice that spurs civic leadership and policy innovation. Its reputation is built on the key pillars of social science, strategic policy awareness, innovation mindsets, and deep community partnerships. CSI conducts research on specific topics in the Inland Empire and produces data and reports as part of their “State of the Inland Empire” series.

Read the reports and learn more about the state of our region:

[State of Immigrants in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Work in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Women in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Nonprofits in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Education Equity in the Inland Empire](#)

[State of Innovation in the Inland Empire](#)

Other Inland Empire research:

[Aqui Estamos: A Data Profile of Latinos in the Inland Empire](#)

[Our Salton Sea Report](#)

[IE Black Education Agenda](#)

[Inland Empire Initiative Map](#)

[Good Jobs in the Inland Empire](#)

[Inland Empire Research Portal](#)

Visioning & Framework Resources

[Beyond Strategic Planning: A Foresight Toolkit for Decision Makers - California 100 Toolkit](#)

[Learn more about the *Vital Conditions Framework*](#)

[Learn more about the *FSG: The Water of Systems Change Framework*](#)

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The IE 2030 report is the result of the collaborative efforts of the IE 2030 Team and the IE 2030 Writer's Group, who have worked with our local community to develop a comprehensive vision and roadmap for the Inland Empire's future. Their collective expertise, commitment, and passion have shaped the content and direction of this report.

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