



We Prosper Together  
Regional Plan  
**Executive  
Summary**



valley vision



# A Plan For Inclusive & Sustainable Economic Growth

The Capital Region—composed of Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties—is the beating heart of California. From the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains to the fertile soil of America's farm-to-fork Capital, the Capital Region has been a source of economic opportunity since the state's inception. Yet, with 38% of the region's residents belonging to families whose income does not meet basic needs, significant effort and collaboration are required to close these gaps.

This Regional Plan, informed by input from communities across the region—each with its own unique strengths, needs, and opportunities—provides a clear and cohesive framework for building a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy.

## Three Key Action Areas Of This Plan

1	Growing and creating <b>high-quality jobs</b> in priority tradable sectors.
2	Connecting <b>disinvested communities</b> to currently available quality jobs.
3	Driving <b>equitable outcomes</b> .

Developed through community feedback, stakeholder interviews, surveys, and comprehensive research conducted by Brookings Institute-affiliated Cities GPS, this blueprint embodies the collective vision of the region. The plan outlines shared strategies and a roadmap for economic progress, focusing on creating high-quality jobs, connecting disinvested communities to opportunities, and ensuring equitable outcomes. The key priorities and strategies outlined in this plan will shape future investments, fostering a prosperous and inclusive economy for generations to come.

### CAPITAL REGION ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

As a precursor to the Regional Plan, We Prosper Together released the [Capital Region Economic Assessment](#) in early 2024. The body of research provides an analysis of the region's key assets, opportunities, and challenges. It also captures the beginnings of a shared philosophy and framework for a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous economy.

# Target Sector Strategies: Our Greatest Opportunities for Job Growth

The Capital Region is home to a diverse range of industries, from natural resources to biotechnology and manufacturing, that have the potential to drive job growth and create a resilient local economy. By leveraging existing strengths, the region can boost business growth, generate more high-quality jobs, and increase access to these jobs. This plan hones in on four high-potential tradable sectors that, due to existing assets like talent, innovation, and infrastructure, present distinct opportunities for the local economy and workforce.



## WHAT IS A TRADABLE SECTOR?

A tradable sector generates wealth by selling goods and services outside the region.

## WHY ARE TRADABLE SECTORS IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON?

Prioritizing investment into tradable sectors not only drives growth within the sectors themselves but also stimulates local-serving industries, such as healthcare and construction. For every job created in a priority tradable sector, between 1.6 to 3.1 additional jobs are generated in the broader economy, fostering stronger and more sustainable economic growth.

These sectors were prioritized based on extensive community input and factors including job quality and access, job growth potential, talent demand, sustainability, and climate impact:

1. **Business Services Sector:** A key driver of the region's economy, Business Services includes a wide range of professional services such as technical support, legal and management consulting, advertising, and more.
2. **Precision Manufacturing Sector:** Linking the region's strength in talent, innovation, and firms, this sector involves the production of highly accurate and intricate components for industries such as medical devices, machinery, aerospace, and transportation.
3. **Working Lands Sector:** Working Lands includes industries that leverage the region's natural resources and encompasses activities like agriculture, forestry, mining, and related manufacturing. Prioritizing strategies like skills training and innovative business models in this sector can help generate higher-wage jobs and provide mid-skilled workers with more accessible pathways to achieve economic mobility.

4. **Research and Development Sector:** Spanning fields such as physical sciences, biotechnology, and social sciences, this sector capitalizes on the region's strength in research, particularly in agricultural and biological sciences, to drive economic growth.

By concentrating investments and efforts in these high-potential tradable sectors, we can accelerate economic progress and provide families across the region with access to the jobs they need to support their families.

In addition to offering a high share of quality jobs with above-average earnings and opportunities for economic advancement, these four priority tradable sectors make up:

**1 in 8**  
jobs in the Capital Region

**Nearly 50%**  
of the region's tradeable sector jobs

## Sector-Neutral and Economic Mobility Strategies: Bolstering Access to Opportunity

Growing tradable sectors and increasing the number of quality jobs is just one part of building a resilient and equitable economy. Equally important is ensuring that community members possess the skills, services, and infrastructure necessary to access and thrive in these quality jobs. Doing so requires centering the experiences and needs of disinvested communities, who are often excluded from decision-making processes and the benefits of economic growth.

To identify the most pressing needs in the region and establish priority economic mobility strategies, we analyzed input from in-language community outreach, the Capital Region Economic Assessment's Cost of Living Analysis, and the [Inclusive Economy Poll](#). The Economic Mobility Strategies outlined in this plan aim to connect disinvested communities with high-quality job opportunities while ensuring that growth in our tradable sectors leads to equitable outcomes for all residents of the Capital Region. These strategies are designed to work across our high-potential tradable sectors, leveraging regional assets and fostering collaboration to remove barriers and create pathways for individuals to reach their full potential.

Our work surfaced five priority economic mobility strategies for the region:

1. **Workforce Development:** Closing skills gaps and connecting disinvested communities to job opportunities by ensuring they possess the skills and resources needed to qualify for and access high-quality jobs.
2. **Outreach and Awareness:** Increasing outreach and awareness of training programs, high-quality jobs, and support systems to address the disconnect that can prevent people from accessing critical opportunities.
3. **Transportation:** Enhancing transportation to improve connectivity across the region and facilitate access to job opportunities.
4. **Childcare:** Removing barriers to affordable and accessible childcare, expanding our region's workforce through increasing the number of available workers.
5. **Housing:** Tackling the lack of affordable housing to reduce the burden of housing costs on families, shorten costly commutes, and open up access to employment opportunities.

These strategies reflect common challenges found across all five subregions. Driving progress across them is central to creating a regional economy where all can benefit.

## A Shared Path Forward

The Regional Plan serves as a clear and unified roadmap for cultivating a resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy that empowers families throughout the Capital Region. By aligning with existing strategic initiatives and regional assets, this plan will enhance ongoing subregional economic and community development efforts, maximizing the impact of our collective work.

As we transition from planning to implementation, we remain committed to collaborating closely with communities to identify high-impact projects, prioritize investments, and foster long-term partnerships. Input from across the region has shaped these strategies, and together we will advance initiatives that create quality jobs, strengthen career pathways, and promote economic inclusion.