

Riverside City Council Presentation

May 4, 2021

Dr. Angelo Farooq
Chairman
California Workforce Development Board



1

Role of CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB)

- Statutorily established by congressional legislation: Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA) of 2014
- Govern all federal workforce funds and develop a common policy framework of overall \$6 billion system that serves 1.5 million annually. There are 45 regional workforce boards (including Riverside County that are locally led by stakeholders appointed by Board of Supervisors). Over 200 America Job Centers (Riverside location is on corner of Iowa/Spruce)
- CWDB members (representing business, labor, education and others) are appointed by the Governor (4 state legislators are appointed by Speaker/Pro Tempore). CWDB members advise the Governor on workforce vision, strategy, policy & program



2

High Road Vision

- Job Quality critical to advancing equity (some examples include: a living wage, family benefits, worker voice and agency on the job, a safe and just work environment, investment in skills and advancement)
 - Get people into good jobs- efficiently coordinate placement of people in sectors with projected growth and openings. Accomplished through strong industry partnerships and by starting with where the best jobs are.
 - Support existing good jobs- Working also in sectors with projected growth and openings but with employers interested in enhancing job quality in order to improve recruitment and retention of talent
 - Create more good jobs - Invest in growing good quality jobs. Emphasis on climate resiliency and the future of work



3

Impact of the Pandemic

- Sense of urgency as inequities in workforce have been exacerbated
 - Efficient job placement for low skilled workers without potential for livable wage pathways or training investments only perpetuate cycles of poverty
- The goal is not to return to 'normal' as the status quo itself is unacceptable
 - About 45% of all full time workers in the country were low wage earners and 46% of workers had no employee based health insurance **prior to the pandemic** (Federal Reserve Bank of Boston)
- Response
 - More cohesive & integrated workforce system
 - Regional economies and workforce
 - Deeper integration of equity in program investments and accountability in outcomes
 - Better resiliency and preparation for future economic disruptions



4

Emerging Sectors & Opportunities

- Regional strategies drive economic development statewide
- Inland Empire (Riverside)
 - Health Care, Clean Energy/Environmental Science (CARB), advanced manufacturing, transportation, construction
- Importance of insulating economy from automation (higher skilled workforce) and impacts of climate change (advancing sustainability)



5

Challenges

- Accountability for equity across the entire workforce system
- Sustainable pipeline of good jobs to meet massive demand of deserving workers
- Climate resiliency
- Our approach:
 - That limited public resources target the best quality jobs in sectors that are driving our region's jobs and employment
 - That our workforce programs connect those who most need our services jobs to those quality jobs (equity)
 - Focus on companies and sectors that are on the front lines of transitioning our economy to a carbon neutral future (Riverside is well situated with CA Air Resources Board)



6

Next Steps for City of Riverside

- Alignment of high road vision between State/County/City which can influence land use and economic development strategies
- Collaborate with Riverside County Workforce Development Board as significant funding is local control
- CA Workforce Development Board recent local job training investments include (opportunity for outreach to populations of greatest need in Riverside):
 - High Road Construction Careers – partnership with Building Trades for apprenticeship pathways for infrastructure related jobs
 - High Road Training Partnership – partnership with Inland Empire Labor Institute for transportation careers
- CA Workforce Development Board can be a partner with regional businesses, labor, civic and community leaders to help attract quality employers/jobs

