



3600 M Street, Merced CA 95348-2898
(209) 384-6000
www.mccd.edu

October 17, 2025

North Valley THRIVE Support for Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategy Work Groups Request for Qualification #2025-14

A. BACKGROUND

California Jobs First is a statewide inclusive economic development initiative that has organized the state into thirteen regions. The counties of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus comprise the North San Joaquin Valley ("NSJV") region. To fulfil the goal of developing a regional economic plan under the California Jobs First initiative, the region formed a new collaborative, North Valley THRIVE. This collaborative is led by the Merced County Workforce Development Board and fiscally administered by Merced Community College District.

Central to the California Jobs First initiative is the development of a Strategic Plan identifying industry sectors of focus and additional strategies to enable economic growth. The North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan centers on the development of the following industry sectors: Bioeconomy; Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Energy. North Valley THRIVE's Strategic Plan can be found on its website, northvalleythrive.org. Each of the industry sectors is supported by an Activation Plan.

B. Overview

North Valley THRIVE seeks a qualified consultant or firm to provide comprehensive support to the seven Cross-Cutting Enabling Strategy Work Groups and their designated leads. This engagement will focus on facilitation, framework development, coalition-building, and final reporting to ensure the work groups advance shared goals and contribute to the regional implementation plan.

C. OBJECTIVE

The selected consultant/firm will:

1. Strengthen collaboration and alignment across seven Work Groups.
2. Provide structure, tools, and facilitation to support progress through the full near-year planning cycle.
3. Assist work group leads in developing strategic frameworks, deliverables, and actionable plans.
4. Build and sustain coalitions among regional partners and stakeholders.
5. Produce a comprehensive final report summarizing outcomes, recommendations, and next steps.

Superintendent/President
Chris Vitelli, Ed.D.

Board of Trustees
Carmen Ramirez, J.D., Board President

Sue Chappell, Vice President
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Key Tasks & Deliverables

1. Project Planning & Coordination
2. Facilitation of Work Groups
3. Framework Development
4. Coalition-Building & Stakeholder Engagement

Qualifications Sought

- Demonstrated experience in multi-sector facilitation and coalition-building.
- Familiarity with regional economic development, workforce, or community planning.
- Experience preparing strategic frameworks and stakeholder-driven reports.
- Cultural competency and ability to support diverse regional partners.

D. BUDGET

North Valley THRIVE will allocate \$45,000 to fund the proposed activities. Applicants should propose budgets that are inclusive of all travel (limited to in-state, as out-of-state travel is not covered), meeting expenses, production expenses, printing, subcontractor and partner costs (excluding management of the local community engagement partner), software, and related costs.

E. CONTRACT TERM:

The contract is expected to begin on **November 19, 2025**, and conclude by **September 30, 2026**.

F. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

Proposals should be no more than 5 pages and include the following:

- Approach and Qualifications: Describe how your team will collaborate with seven Work Groups, facilitate the planning cycle, develop strategic framework and deliverables, engage regional partners, and deliver a final report. Highlight your experience in multi-sector facilitation, coalition-building, regional planning, strategic framework development, and working with diverse stakeholders
- Budget: Provide a detailed breakdown of costs, including hourly rates (if applicable), estimated hours, travel (in-state only), materials, and any other fees. Ensure the total aligns with the \$45,000 allocation.

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- Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals by 10:00 A.M. October 22, 2025. Late submissions will not be considered. Email proposals to: Purchasingbids@mccd.edu.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Selected vendors will be required to meet all Merced Community College District vendor and insurance requirements. The insurance requirements are as follows:

Coverage Required Limits per Occurrence –

General Liability \$1,000,000

Automobile Liability \$1,000,000

Workers' Comp/Employers' Liability \$1,000,000

- Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to receiving your proposals and working together to strengthen community-industry collaboration through North Valley THRIVE

Sincerely,

Merced Community College District
Andre Urquidez, Acting Director, Purchasing & Risk Management
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209-384-6300

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Chris Vitelli, Ed.D.

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