Jobs for the Future works to ensure that all young people and adults, especially those who are struggling, have the skills and credentials needed to succeed in our economy. In California, JFF is partnering with state agencies, community organizations, and private foundations to improve educational attainment and build a strong, sustainable pipeline of skilled workers who can fill the jobs that fuel the world's ninth largest economy.

Labor market experts predict that nearly 55 million new and replacement jobs will be created nationwide between 2010 and 2020, and the majority will require some sort of postsecondary credential. Unfortunately, these jobs are out of reach for millions of Californians, especially those who struggle to complete high school, continue their education, and succeed in postsecondary programs. In order to meet these challenges, the state is making unprecedented public and private investments in the development of proven strategies that combine rigorous academics and substantial career- and work-based learning in high-demand industries.

OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jobs for the Future brings over 30 years of experience and extensive expertise to this work, supporting California and some 40 other states in developing career pathways that fuel regional economies and expand opportunity for underrepresented youth and adults. Our newly established office in Oakland, CA, increases our capacity to assist key California and West Coast partners, in harnessing this renewed attention on solutions to help more people get the education they need, leading to a stronger workforce and vibrant economy.

JFF’s expert and experienced staff:

- Develop and manage multi-sector partnerships
- Conduct comprehensive asset mapping
- Provide consultation and resources on youth and adult pathway design
- Implement learner-centered approaches that increase motivation
- Build student support service models

- Lead employer engagement and intermediary development
- Design peer learning communities to help spread innovation
- Support policy development and advocacy that promote scale and sustainability.
KEY CAREER PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA

PREPARING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

- **Linked Learning**: JFF is a strategic advisor to organizations that are creating Linked Learning Hubs of Excellence. JFF is developing a dynamic Learning Community to support regional scale and sustainability and providing guidance on the development of new intermediary organizations formed to expand work-based learning opportunities for students.

- **California Career Pathways Trust**: JFF is developing and delivering technical assistance to Career Pathways Trust grantees through work with the California Department of Education. Offering both in-person and virtual resources, JFF is assisting regional grantees to meet their pathway goals and create systems for continuous improvement and sustainability.

- **The California Endowment**: JFF provides technical assistance to the Endowment’s 14 Building Healthy Communities sites to support implementation of their 21st Century Pathways to Health Careers in grades 7-16.

HELPING OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH AND UNDERPREPARED STUDENTS EARN POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS

- **Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund**: JFF and the Aspen Institute are supporting 21 communities (5 in California) to improve education and career outcomes for older youth. Through convenings, cities share pathway and policy innovations that are helping reconnect opportunity youth—young people ages 16-24 who are disconnected from education and work.

- **Social Innovation Fund**: JFF and the Aspen Institute’s Forum for Community Solutions have received funding to help 7 communities (2 in California) build career pathways for opportunity youth. The sites are developing pathways and designing rigorous evaluation plans that will increase evidence and produce replicable models while generating lessons for the broader social sector.

HELPING LOW-SKILLED WORKERS ADVANCE AND EMPLOYERS THRIVE

- **National Resource Network**: As part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s National Resource Network, JFF provides technical assistance to distressed communities, including asset mapping, career pathway analysis, and sustainability planning.

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Jobs for the Future works with our partners to design and drive the adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today’s economy. Across the country, we work to improve the pathways leading from high school to college to family-supporting careers. Our work aligns education and training to ensure that employers have access to a skilled workforce.