REL West’s California Rural Partnerships Alliance (CRP) was formed to support data sharing, use, and capacity development in California’s rural cross-sector education and career pathways partnerships. The alliance includes rural and rural-serving partnerships that are comprised of K–12, higher education, and industry or labor force development representatives. These consortia are designed to support students as they prepare for college and/or jobs in their local regional economy. REL West is providing support for data sharing, data use, and capacity development to CRP Alliance members through coaching, technical assistance and research.

**Objectives**
The overarching goal of the CRP Alliance is to support and strengthen the ability of rural and rural-serving California cross-sector partnerships to gather, share, and use data to inform career pathway development. To accomplish this goal, the partners will:

- Increase their capacity to access and use cross-sector data for education and career pathways implementation, development, and progress monitoring.

- Develop a deeper understanding of the extent to which the supply of community college completers align with the labor market demand for middle-skill occupations and apply this knowledge to program development and improvement efforts.

- Partner with other rural California consortia in a learning community to build a shared understanding of the data use challenges and to identify strategies to overcome them.

**Projects**
*Coaching for data use.* Selected partnerships engage in local data analysis and planning, supported by REL West and other members of the learning community.

*Webinars to share resources.* Cross-sector pathway partnerships across the state are invited to participate in periodic, interactive webinars to gain an understanding of databases and resources for data use in California.

*Research on education pathways and workforce demands.* Analyses illuminate the alignment between education programs in K–12 and higher education and workforce opportunities in rural regions of California.

**Partners**
CRP Alliance membership includes staff from Jobs for the Future and the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research as well as cross-sector teams from rural and rural-serving partnerships that represent K–12, higher education, and industry or labor force development.

*Questions? Contact REL West Staff: Mara Lockowandt (mlockowandt@jff.org) or Alice Rice (arice@jff.org)*