Sierra Jobs First Collaborative

Transition Planning Process Overview

Background

For nearly five years, Sierra Jobs First has brought together partners from across the Sierra Nevada to spark community-led, climate-forward, and economically resilient initiatives. By funding projects, aligning industry sectors, and strengthening partnerships, the collaborative has built real momentum for a thriving Sierra region.

With state funding scheduled to sunset in 2026, now is the time to decide what comes next. Sierra Business Council (SBC), with support from Agnew::Beck Consulting, is leading a Transition Planning process to chart the Collaborative's future.

This 10-month process centers on you, our partners and leaders across the region. Through interviews, conversations, and shared discussions, we'll explore how Sierra Jobs First should continue: whether in its current form, an evolved structure, or something entirely new.

About Agnew::Beck

At Agnew::Beck, we believe good planning starts with good listening. We're a small firm that works together with communities to figure out what's next—whether that means shaping a regional strategy, building a coalition, or planning for the future of local programs.

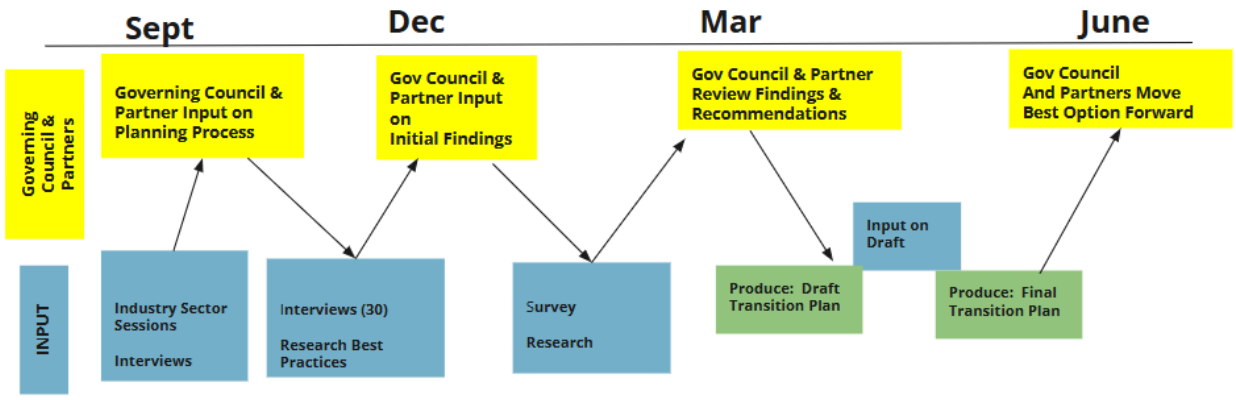
We've spent years working across the Sierra, and we care deeply about the people and places here. Our role is to bring folks together, make sense of complex ideas, and help turn them into clear, doable plans. We keep things practical, grounded, and collaborative because we know lasting change only happens when everyone has a voice and a seat at the table.

Approach & Planning Process

We're blending listening and research into a structured, transparent 10-month process that:

- Elevates local voices and experiences
- Looks at best practices from across the region (and beyond)
- Builds on the progress, lessons learned from Sierra Jobs First to-date
- Results in a clear, actionable Transition Plan for the future.

Sierra Jobs First, DRAFT Transition Planning Process (Sept 2025-June 2026)



While the outcome is still to be shaped by your input, four starting points for discussion are starting to emerge:

1. **Continuation** – Keep Sierra Jobs First going as a formal, regional collaborative.
2. **Integration** – Fold specific projects or functions into existing regional entities (e.g., Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), Central Sierra Economic Development District (CSEDD), Mother Lode Workforce Development Board, MLTPA Foundation).
3. **Sunset** – Wind down Sierra Jobs First as a collaborative, while preserving its most valuable work and relationships.
4. **Hybrid or New Options** – Explore new structures or models based on stakeholder ideas and best practices.

Key Deliverables

By the end of this process, we will deliver:

- A summary of what we heard: stakeholder input, survey results, and lessons from best practices from other CA Jobs First collaboratives, and other national, rural coalition examples.
- A Transition Plan that lays out clear options and recommendations
- A Business & Operational Plan with practical details on governance, funding, staffing, sustainability, and timeline

Your Role

Your voice is essential. Through interviews, surveys, and conversations, we'll work together to shape the next chapter for Sierra Jobs First—and the future of collaboration across the Sierra.

Contact

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