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# From the Desk of the CEO

Dear CALED Members,

It was energizing to see so many of you at this year’s annual conference in Santa Rosa!! We are grateful to teams from the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County for their support in making this a wonderful and engaging experience for so many of our members. You can check out some of the highlights on pages 2 & 3 of this Journal.

Conference excitement aside, this has been a very busy few months for legislation. From bills restricting public sector contracting, to Governor Newsom’s May Budget Revise and impacts to economic development programs, to tax increment financing bills, the CALED team has been focused on how to best serve our members. As part of that, we surveyed members on which State Programs and Resources mattered most to you, and here are some highlights:



- California Competes (Tax and Grant) Program ranked number one as top program most important for your work. Followed by Small Business Technical Assistance Program and the Employment Training Panel grants.
- GO-Biz was, by far, the State entity that respondents worked with most on economic development.
- Most respondents engaged with the Jobs First Program (formerly CERF) by participating in a sub-group or reading regular communications to keep up with their regional group’s progress.
- 63% felt that their regional table should include more professional economic developers.

If these statements do not resonate with your experience or opinion, please feel free to share that with CALED staff or leadership. This helps CALED’s staff and leadership better understand how to support you – especially as the State deals with a budget deficit. Armed with this feedback, we have engaged in supporting the preservation of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) funds in the State Budget, as we know many of you use and value that resource. In positive news on TAP, as of this writing, the Assembly and Senate have rejected the Governor’s May Revise proposal to reduce these funds by 50% for two years.

Additionally, I have provided testimony in support of SB 1140 (Caballero) which proposes streamlining the formation process for Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) making the tool available to more communities by reducing the cost and complexity in forming one of these districts.

These are just some of the activities that are keeping us busy going into the summer. Please keep an eye out for our economic development news alerts (ED-Lerts) and our social media posts for updates on these and other issues impacting local economic development in California. And, as always, feel free to reach out to any of the CALED team if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Gurbax

