



CALIFORNIA

e|d|g|e
coalition

Education, Diversity, and Growth in the Economy

2022 Annual Report

A Message From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

California has a staggering number of unfilled good jobs and an incredible pool of talent living in poverty or below a living wage. It just does not make sense!

Access to economic mobility is one of the most critical social justice issues facing us today. Many of the negative outcomes leaders and decision makers work to address through policy change and investments could be avoided if we remove the barriers Californians face in accessing education and training. Californians want to secure good jobs with family supporting wages and benefits. When individuals have the financial means to take care of themselves and their families, acts of desperation taken simply to survive would no longer be pervasive.

I'm so thankful to have the opportunity to work with the amazing EDGE Board and staff to address these issues and advance our goals to ensure employers have the workforce they need, and Californians have quality jobs available to them.

In the past year there have been historical changes in California - some to the benefit and others to the detriment of Californians. The EDGE team is proud of our success, many of them shared in this Annual Report, but I'm more excited about the opportunities the next 12 months will present.

Please enjoy our 2022 Annual Report, a reflection of the past 12 months and a testament to the strength and dedication of the incredible EDGE team.

All of us here at EDGE look forward to the opportunity to partner with you to advance our shared goals.

Sincerely,



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Mission

EDGE's mission is to advance state policy and investments that create and sustain pathways into the middle class for all Californians, including those facing barriers to social and economic mobility.



“ I look forward to our continued collaboration as we work towards a brighter future and ways to ensure all Californians are able to access our state’s prosperity.”

~ Natalie Palugyai, California Secretary of Labor

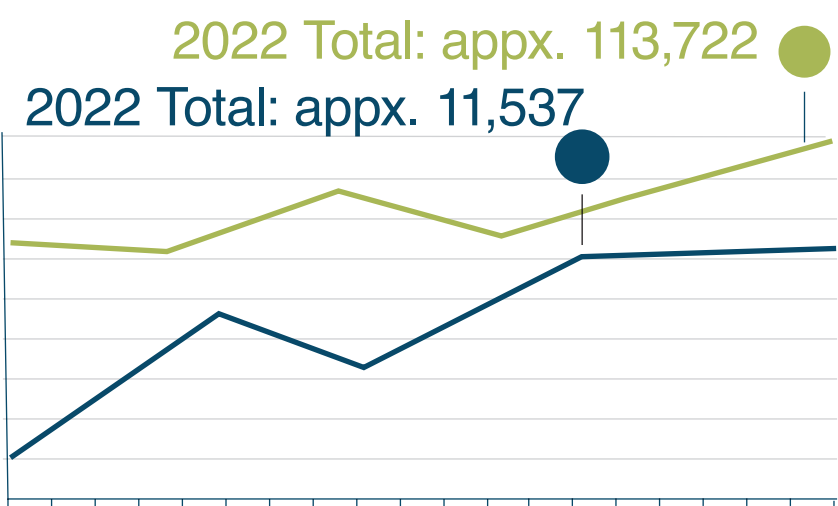
How We Coalesce for Shared Prosperity

Influencer Engagement and Partner Collaboration



125 statewide summits, meetings, webinars, Capitol briefings, and influencer videos to engage legislators, staff, and allies in the fight to improve education, training and employment opportunities for Californians paid lower wages.

Communications and Advocacy



Reach
Represents the number of people who saw content shared by EDGE

Engagement
This represents the number of times someone liked retweeted, commented, or shared an EDGE post



How We Work

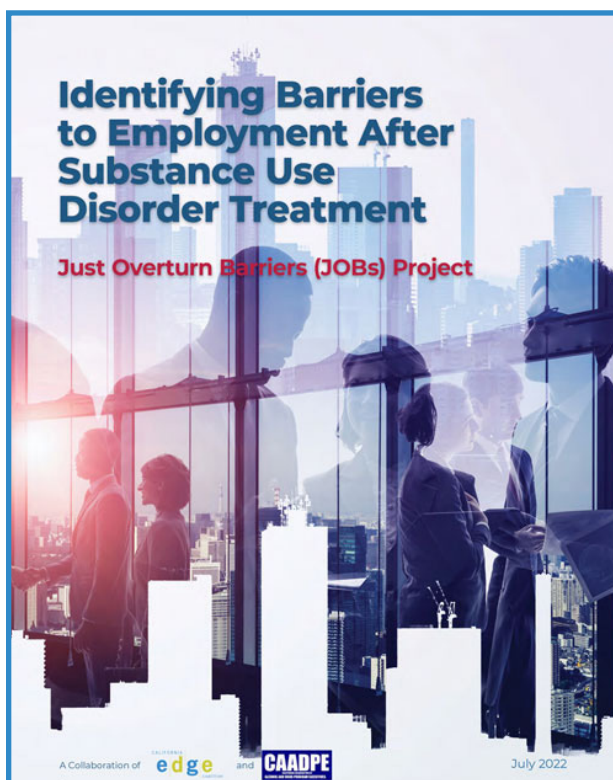
The California EDGE Coalition unites business, labor, social justice, education and workforce organizations and we work collaboratively with our partners to build a broadly shared prosperity. Our partners over the last year include, but are not limited to, Education Trust-West, National Skills Coalition, ReWork the Bay, The Institute for College Access & Success, New Ways to Work, California Opportunity Youth Network, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives.

Who We Represent

EDGE is widely recognized for the depth and diversity of our coalition along with the expertise we offer policymakers on improving career technical education, adult education, basic skills education, job training, and other issues related to closing California's skills gap. The EDGE Coalition includes the California Hospital Association, California Labor Federation - AFL-CIO, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, California Workforce Association, Career Ladders Project for the CA Community Colleges, PolicyLink, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), Small Business Majority, and the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California.



New Publications and Collaborations



EDGE partnered with the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE) to publish a new report, Identifying Barriers to Employment After Substance Abuse Treatment.

[Click on the graphic to view the report](#)

EDGE served as advisors on the Dual Enrollment in CA Adult Education & Community Colleges: Lessons & Opportunities report released by the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) and the High Road Alliance.



[Click on the graphic to view the report](#)

Impact

\$300 billion was approved in the 2022-23 State Budget Act which will invest in education, workforce training, and economic recovery strategies that respond to the rising inflation crisis and other socioeconomic barriers continuing to impact Californians across the state. The budget strengthens health care career pathways, dual enrollment opportunities, advances a social safety net for underserved Californians, and for the first time commits to transform and provide ongoing funding for Cal Grant – the largest student financial aid program in California.

\$300 billion was approved in the
2022-23 State Budget



“*I look forward to working together to embrace the hopes and aspirations of our opportunity youth.*”

~ Assemblymember Mike Fong, AD 49

Meet Our Board



Linda Collins

EDGE Board President;

Executive Director,
Career Ladders Project



John Brauer

EDGE Board Vice President;

Executive Director, Workforce and
Economic Development Program
California Labor Federation



Peggy Wheeler

EDGE Board Secretary;

Vice President,
Rural Health and
Governance, California
Hospital Association



Lawrence Gayden

Policy Director,
California Manufacturers
and Technology
Association

Meet Our Board



Mark Herbert

Chief Strategy Officer and
Managing Director, California
Small Business Majority



Bob Lanter

Executive Director,
California Workforce
Association



Rita Medina

Deputy Director of State Policy
and Advocacy, Coalition for
Humane Immigrant Rights
(CHIRLA)



Jeremy Smith

Deputy Legislative
Director, State Building
and Construction Trades
Council

Meet Our Staff



Zima Creason
Executive Director



Anna Alvarado
Policy Director



Lexi Lopez
Program Director



Marinez Ruiz
Operations and Policy Coordinator

Top 10 from the Capitol

Below are the top 10 legislative and budget victories that EDGE supported and advocated for throughout the 2022 legislative session. Full highlights of EDGE's accomplishments can be found [here](#).

1

Remedial Education Reform: AB 1705 and AB 1187 by Assemblymember Irwin will remove barriers to certificate and degree completion by ending remedial education while also increasing supervised tutoring for community college students.

2

Dual Enrollment Opportunities: \$200 million investment through the state budget and AB 102 by Assemblymember Holden will support increased access to dual enrollment opportunities coupled with student support services.

3

Empowering Opportunity Youth: \$150 million investment to support foster youth attending community colleges, establish the Youth Empowerment Commission, and expand earn and learn training opportunities for OY experiencing poverty and barriers to education and employment.

4

Strengthening Student Financial Aid: A commitment from the Governor to implement Cal Grant Reform, AB 288 by Assemblymember Calderon to prohibit the displacement of financial aid awards for students, and provide emergency financial aid assistance for undocumented students.

5

Advancing Career Tech Education: \$655 million to establish the K-12 Golden State Pathways, and strengthen and expand High Road Training Partnerships and English-language learner programs intended to help bolster the health care and human services workforce and other high-demand occupations.

6

Supporting Small Businesses: \$29 million to permanently support the Small Business Technical Assistance Programs, in addition to \$150 million in COVID-19 Relief Grants to continue supporting small business recovery.

7

Social Safety Net Access - \$113 million to address food insecurity, and \$2.6 billion for health care coverage - both intended to provide critical food and health care access for undocumented immigrants.

8

Investments for Community Colleges & Adult Education - \$492 million ongoing investment to support community colleges, in addition to \$130 million for the Adult Education Program to support healthcare-focused vocational pathways.

9

Supporting the Immigrant Workforce - \$11 million to support statewide coordination for immigrant integration through enhanced services for immigrant communities such as training programs and curriculum aimed at underserved business owners, including immigrant entrepreneurs.

10

Advancements in Economic Mobility - \$40 million to support women in the skilled trades sector, and empower employment social enterprises to provide specialized employment and workforce training to accelerate economic mobility for individuals that experience employment barriers.

Lending our Expertise to Connect Work and Postsecondary Learning

Cradle-to-Career Community Engagement Advisory Board:

This year, the Cradle-to-Career Governing Board appointed EDGE Policy Director, Anna Alvarado, to the Community Engagement Advisory Board. Anna joins 31 other highly respected researchers, advocates and educators to serve on the two new advisory boards, the Data & Tools Advisory Board and the Community Engagement Advisory Board. Advisory board members are critical in shaping a successful Cradle-to-Career System, helping to ensure that the data tools provide actionable information and that the public can use these tools to support evidence-based decision making.

Advanced Economic Mobility in Immigrant and Refugee Communities:

EDGE led a panel discussion that highlighted ways California can foster a more inclusive economy and increase upward mobility for the nearly 11 million immigrants and refugees across the state.

Opening Doors for CA's Opportunity Youth:

EDGE led a panel discussion centered on California's youth and young adults, the socio-economic and systemic barriers that often leave them disconnected from education and workforce training opportunities, and discussed policy recommendations to improve outcomes for young people in CA.

National Impact:

EDGE provided expertise in a panel discussion hosted by the National Skills Coalition titled "Coalition-Based Advocacy: Organizing and Mobilizing a Coalition for Policy Wins". The discussion included strategies to successfully build and organize a coalition with equity and inclusion at the forefront and highlighted how EDGE's work mobilized to push our policy priorities over the finish line.

Thank You!

Special thanks to our 2021 - 2022 investors!

ReWork the Bay

brings together values-aligned system leaders, economic justice advocates, education and training providers, employers and funders in the nine-county region to advance collective solutions for a diverse and equitable Bay Area.

National Skills Coalition (NSC)

In partnership with NSC, EDGE leads Skills for CA, a statewide network of organizations advancing workforce development policies that remove systemic barriers and promote an inclusive economy for all Californians.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

provides support to EDGE with advocacy related to the Career-to-Cradle statewide longitudinal data system, development education reform, and dual enrollment implementation.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

supports EDGE's expanded efforts to include opportunity youth and uplift their unique barriers in our workforce development, education and training advocacy.

The James Irvine Foundation

supports EDGE's goal of advancing economic mobility and shared prosperity for all Californians through statewide advocacy and policy-maker education focused on workforce development and training.

The Cutting EDGE

Follow [The Cutting EDGE](#), the interview series hosted by EDGE's Executive Director, Zima Creason. The Cutting EDGE features Board Members, Coalition partners, legislators, and other special guests to get their perspectives and expertise on labor, business, social justice, education and the workforce. This year the series featured leaders such as CA Office of Cradle-to-Career Data Executive Director, Mary Ann Bates, and California Hospital Association's President and CEO, Carmela Coyle. [Subscribe](#) to our YouTube channel so you don't miss an episode!



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November 2022