



# California EDGE Coalition 2026 Policy Priorities – Overview

**The California EDGE Coalition (EDGE) is a nonpartisan alliance of business, labor, workforce, education, and social justice organizations working together to expand access to high-quality jobs and economic mobility for all Californians.**

We believe California thrives when its diverse talent is fully supported to learn, train, and work in family-sustaining careers that meet the needs of employers and communities alike. Our mission is to advocate for education and workforce investments and to advance systems change that builds a more inclusive and resilient economy.

Our 2026 Policy Priorities reflect our shared vision of a socially just and economically thriving California where equitable access to education and skills training prepares adult learners, opportunity youth, people of color, immigrants, refugees, justice-involved individuals, and others earning low incomes to achieve lasting economic security and contribute to our collective prosperity.



## Advance Equitable Pathways to Quality Jobs

- » Create coordinated, accessible pathways that connect Californians to education, training, and credentials leading to in-demand, family-sustaining careers.
- » Strengthen career education, including technical education, apprenticeships, and adult learning opportunities that align with industry needs.



## Invest in the Social Determinants of Work

- » Empower every Californian to succeed in education and employment by addressing the conditions that make participation possible, such as affordable childcare, housing, transportation, health care, digital access, and financial aid.
- » Promote policies that uphold stability and dignity for all workers and learners.



## Strengthen Data and Policy Alignment for Economic Mobility

- » Use integrated data and cross-agency collaboration to inform effective, equity-centered policies and investments across education, workforce, and human services systems.
- » Advance the implementation of the Cradle-to-Career Data System and the Master Plan for Career Education to ensure coordination and accountability statewide.



## Protect and Sustain California's Workforce Infrastructure

- » Defend and strengthen California's education and workforce funding to ensure program stability and long-term impact amid fiscal pressures.
- » Support innovative, sustainable strategies that foster job creation, small business success, and economic resilience for workers and employers alike.