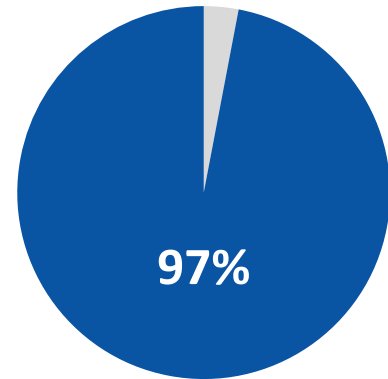


ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Pronounced “see me!” to acknowledge communities’ desire to be seen and considered, the **Community Economic Mobilization Initiative (CEMI)** partners with a growing list of grantees (**funded partners**) who aim to put communities first. A trailblazing nonprofit capacity-building effort, CEMI was developed to strengthen the ability of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and serving organizations¹, especially those rooted in communities that have been excluded or discriminated against in California, to secure and influence the use of public funds for economic and environmental benefit. Managed by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (**The Center**), CEMI is funded by a collaborative of philanthropic partners (**funding partners**), including Sierra Health Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, The California Endowment, and The California Wellness Foundation.



97% of funded partners define themselves as BIPOC-led and BIPOC-serving organizations

YEAR 1 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$14 million was granted through a Pooled Fund administered by The Center and a Donor-Designated Fund, guided by The James Irvine Foundation.
- By early 2024, nearly two-thirds of funded partners were actively pursuing public funding.
- 21 funded partners (47%) reported joining one of nine different California Jobs First Collaboratives.
- Funded partners are active in 42 different California counties. They are working in and on behalf of those California communities that face the greatest economic challenges and bear the heaviest environmental burdens.

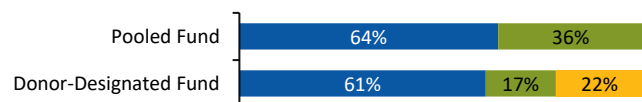
“We build power for those most impacted by inequality, racism, segregation, and poverty by centering the priorities and leadership of BIPOC workers and their communities in our strategies. We organize and advocate using a model of ‘radical inclusion,’ a practice ensuring that directly impacted communities, leaders, and organizations co-own our work and come together to debate, design, and determine the best path.”

– CEMI FUNDED PARTNER

“One of the things we’ve been able to move forward is policy advocacy; we’re hiring someone in DC to really champion the needs of our community. That wouldn’t be possible without the financial resources that we’re getting from CEMI.”

– CEMI FUNDED PARTNER

Funded Partners' Pursuit of Public Funding (n=45)



	Donor-Designated Fund	Pooled Fund
■ Pursuing	61%	64%
■ Exploring	17%	36%
■ Other	22%	0%

¹ This is defined as organizations in which people who identify as part of communities that experience discrimination based on race or ethnicity hold substantive decision-making positions and are at the heart of the organization’s mission.

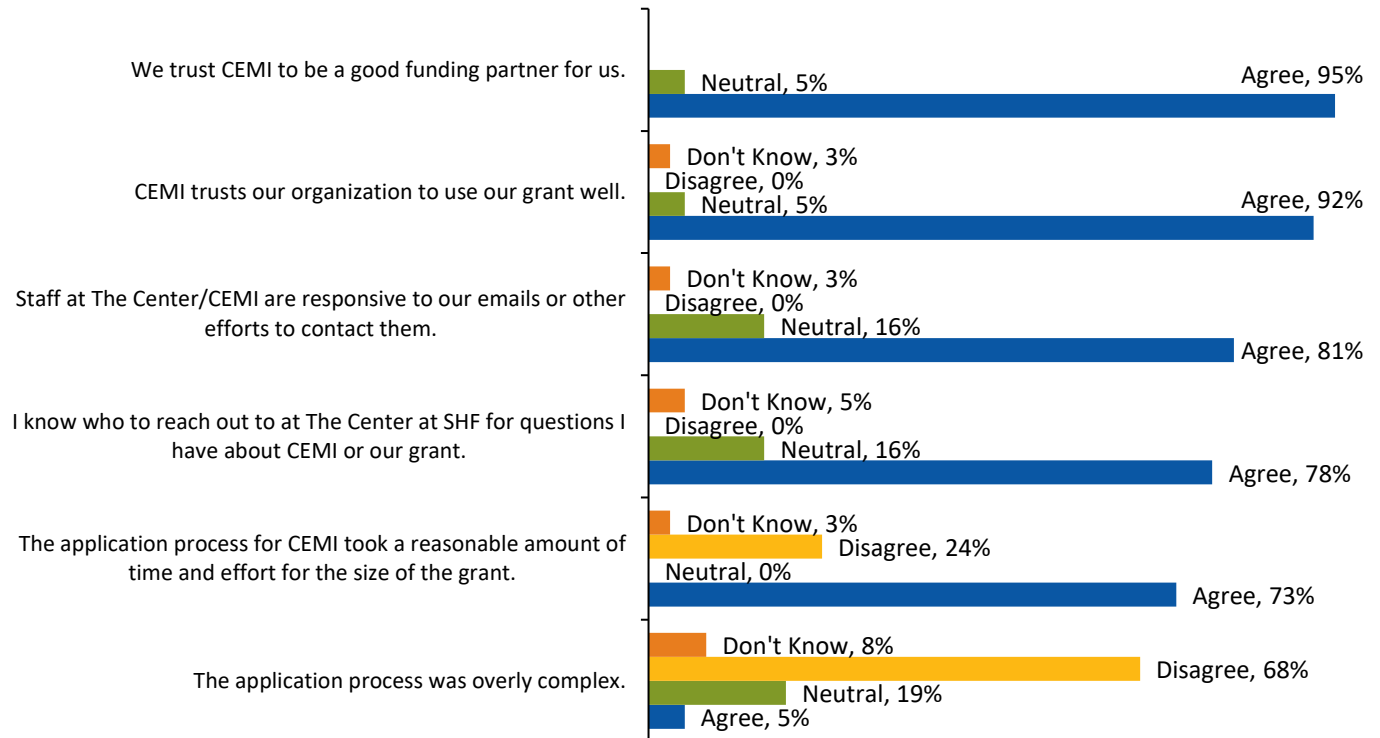
FUNDED PARTNER EXPERIENCE

- Funded partners believe CEMI’s implementation strongly aligns with The Center’s values.
- Two-thirds of funded partners surveyed did not mention any challenges working with The Center.
- A few partners want clearer expectations, more rapid communication, and less burdensome grant requirements on their time and capacity.

“The CEMI team is very supportive. They listen to learn, and it shows.”

– CEMI FUNDED PARTNER

Funded Partner Experience Survey
(n=37)



FUNDING PARTNER EXPERIENCE

- Funding partners (foundations) are aligned with CEMI’s values and approach. They appreciate its ambition and are excited to see its bold vision begin to pay off.
- Funding partners overwhelmingly trust The Center itself, which they view as a competent and high-quality organization with a strong history of good work.
- Some funding partners hope for more communication from The Center about CEMI.
- Funding partners wonder about CEMI’s role in the future as pandemic-era resources end. They look to CEMI to make the case for long-term investments in the social sector’s infrastructure and capacity related to state and federal funding.

“The Pooled Fund resources and the staff resources were critical to meeting an immediate need.”

“CEMI has been doing great work.”

“They did have a lot of groups working in a lot of the underserved parts of the state. They’ve done a good job getting applications and interest from outside the major metropolitan regions.”

– CEMI FUNDING PARTNERS