

Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO): 2020 and Beyond

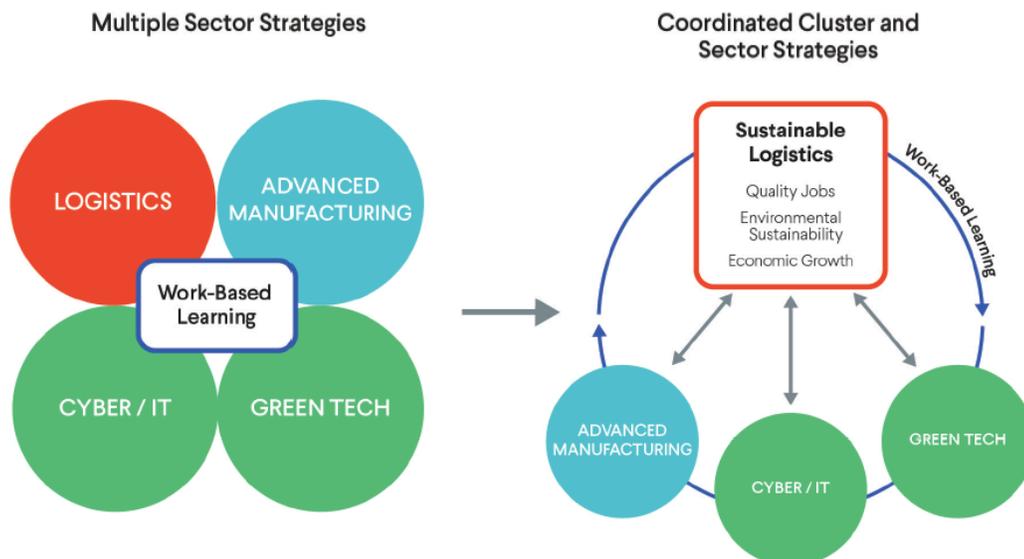
The IE has seen considerable economic growth in the last several years, but this growth has not translated into shared prosperity for all. A diverse set of community leaders from Riverside County and San Bernardino County have mobilized through the Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO) effort to address this regional inequality, focusing on advancing inclusive economic growth and expanding middle class opportunity in the region. IEGO partners are taking bold steps to generate more quality middle-skill jobs that earn family-sustaining wages, and to make them accessible to all workers in the region, particularly those without a four-year degree.

IEGO's Driving Role in Post COVID-19 Recovery

The COVID-19 crisis brings an unprecedented amount of uncertainty. Many IE institutions are currently in rapid response mode: schools are pivoting to virtual learning platforms, business owners are fighting to pay their workers, hospitals are battling the largest public health crisis in a century, and public agencies are providing support to a rising number of unemployed residents. Amidst the urgency of the rapid response, the IEGO effort offers a medium to long-term recovery path forward toward building a resilient economy.

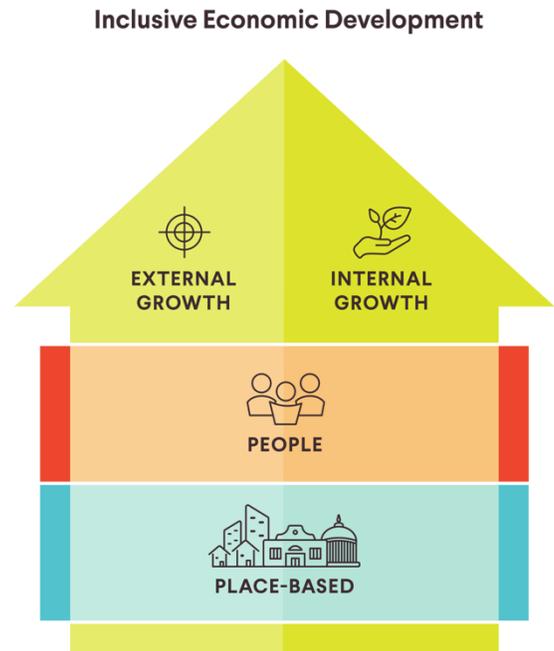
IEGO Economic Development Priorities

As IEGO moves into implementation, its partners will prioritize investment in the sectors below that provide pathways to good jobs for workers without a four-year college degree. Based on a number of factors—including the IE's role as a national leader in logistics—IEGO will invest in a cluster strategy focused on sustainable logistics to grow quality jobs, environmental sustainability, and economic growth and catalyze sector development in advanced manufacturing and in emerging industries such as cybersecurity/IT and green tech.

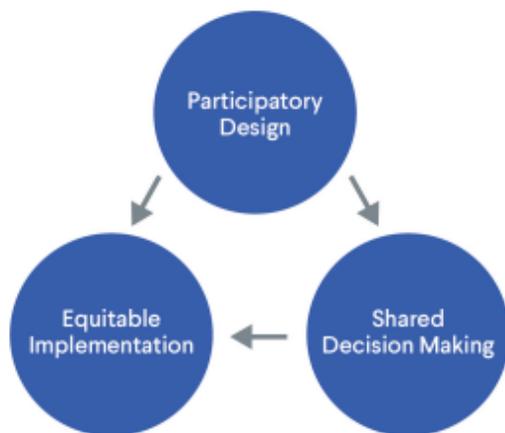


IEGO's Position in the Regional Ecosystem

While IEGO has a robust strategy, it cannot tackle inequality on its own. Many regional tables like Growing Inland Achievement, Inland Empowerment, and Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium play critical roles in this ecosystem. A unified effort is needed to align the numerous regional collaboratives and initiatives, nonprofits, educational institutions, public-sector agencies, and businesses working toward a common goal. IEGO should not and does not need to do all things, but needs to catalyze the activity of existing initiatives that can play complementary roles. Coordinating regional activities under an inclusive economic development framework makes it possible for institutions to pursue their own goals (i.e. healthcare pathways) while also embracing IEGO's priorities.



Operationalizing Inclusion in IEGO's Process



IEGO is taking deliberate action to formalize inclusion in its process, both to improve long-term outcomes in the IE and to provide a model for California of what an inclusive process looks like in a regional economic development initiative. IEGO partners are developing ways to authentically engage community groups, environmental justice advocates, industry, workers, and youth in the design, decision making, and implementation of regional cluster and sector strategies. This includes designing a set of operating norms and rules of engagement for IEGO partners to translate this shared commitment to equity and inclusion to other regional tables and efforts.

IEGO's Next Steps

1. Develop a sustainable logistics cluster strategy for the IE focused on quality jobs, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.
2. Operationalize inclusion both within IEGO's Coordinating Council and in the sector initiatives.
3. Strengthen the IE's regional work-based learning infrastructure through cyber/IT apprenticeship.
4. Create and mobilize around a Fall 2020 investment plan for IEGO's regional priorities.