



About OCPSC

The Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC) bridges state government and community by ensuring vital state information, programs, and resources reach all Californians.



The California Connects Series

In October and November 2025, OCPSC hosted eight California Connects: Regional Convenings across the state. In April 2026, the series culminated in a Statewide Convening in Sacramento that reconnected the network and celebrated four years of community-centered partnership. Across these events, OCPSC created cross-sector collaboration spaces for community-based organizations, state agencies, elected officials, local governments, tribal-serving organizations, educators, philanthropy, and ethnic and community media.

California Connects Convenings 2025–2026

- October 8, 2025** San Francisco
- October 15, 2025** Los Angeles
- October 16, 2025** Anaheim
- October 21, 2025** Sacramento
- October 23, 2025** Riverside
- October 29, 2025** Oxnard
- November 5, 2025** San Diego
- November 18, 2025** Fresno
- April 23, 2026** Statewide in Sacramento

Series Series Attendance at a Glance



1,170 Participants



65 Ethnic Media Organizations Engaged



51 Languages Served by Attending Organizations



106 State Agency Staff Participants



621 Unique Organizations Represented



43 Elected Officials Represented

Outcomes

100% of participants gained valuable information on state programs and resources.

1,080 new regional partner connections forged across the series.

27 capacity-strengthening workshops held across nine convenings, equipping participants with skills in multilingual outreach, communications, and data storytelling.

In the Stronger Together workshop, participants mapped their organizations' assets and needs across seven categories – people, places, relationships, technology, programs, funding, and data – generating 1,756 individual responses that together revealed where California's community-engagement ecosystem is strong and where gaps persist.

Measurable public-engagement spikes for state programs shared to attendees at Convenings, including: CalAssist, the California Grants Portal, and the California Community Resource Guide.

80 million+ audience impressions generated across the series through ethnic and community media coverage in more than a dozen languages.

What We Built Together

Across California, partners shared what they have, what they need, and what only this network can do.

A Capacity-Strengthening Network for California

OCPSC's eight regional convenings reached 621 unique organizations representing communities across California. Interactive workshops strengthened participants' ability to engage multilingual and multicultural communities, communicate in key opportunities, persuade funders and local leaders, and share community needs with data and clarity.



What Partners Told Us

In the Stronger Together workshop, participants from each regional convening mapped what their organizations bring and what they need across seven categories. Over 1,700 responses from across the state surfaced a consistent picture of California's community-engagement ecosystem. Below is a compilation of resources that organizations can offer and those they seek, highlighting opportunities for regional collaboration and capacity strengthening.



People & Skills

HAVES Multilingual organizers, cultural navigators, youth leaders, and trusted messengers.

NEEDS Dedicated grant writers, evaluation and communications expertise, and stable staffing capacity.

Spaces & Places

HAVES Community centers, schools, faith-based facilities, and nonprofit offices across regions.

NEEDS Larger and affordable ADA-accessible venues.

Relationships & Networks

HAVES Local trust and long-standing collaborations across communities and sectors.

NEEDS Stronger cross-sector pathways, clearer referral systems, and more connections to state agencies.

Technology & Tools

HAVES Social media, email, and digital communications platforms.

NEEDS CRMs, integrated data platforms, IT support, cybersecurity, and rural broadband connectivity.

Programs & Services

HAVES Youth development, workforce readiness, health, food security, civic engagement, climate resilience, and immigration support programs.

NEEDS More alignment across programs and co-delivery, less duplication.

Funding & Supplies

HAVES Diverse funding mixes sustaining operations across organizations.

NEEDS Flexible, multi-year operating funds allowing for planning and growth.

Data & Proof Points

HAVES Lived-experience and community-level data

NEEDS Shared metrics, data visualization tools, and storytelling capacity.

State Resources Boosted

CalAssist Mortgage Fund — 4,600 website visits and more than 100 new applications tied to convening dates, including a 3,000-user spike following the Los Angeles convening

California Grants Portal — eight major traffic surges, with daily pageviews up by as much as 1,200 across regions

California Community Resource Guide — 35% increase in total pageviews and 13,524 new users, with the strongest gains on organic search and social media.

“Love to see state folks engaged in community and sharing the wonderful programs the state offers. So many departments are siloed, and to see all that you offer... humanizes government personnel.”

— Convening Feedback Survey Response



Bringing the Network Together

On April 23, 2026, OCPSC convened 226 participants representing 154 unique organizations in Sacramento for the California Connects: Statewide Convening, a day to celebrate and reflect on four years of community-centered partnership and impact. Expert speakers and panelists and state agency exhibitors joined community-based organizations, ethnic media, and cross-sector leaders from every region of the state. The day fostered relationships, strengthened organizational capacity, reinforced best practices, and created direct opportunities for partners to deepen cross-sector collaboration. Participants left inspired, energized, and motivated—and 100% of respondents in the feedback survey said they felt more connected to partners across sectors and regions.



The Journey Map: A Four-Year Record of the Work

The network put state resources in community hands. Over four years, OCPSC invested \$107.7 million in 371 community-based organizations that collectively reached more than 28 million people, with the current cohort alone helping individuals claim nearly \$10 million in CaKIDS scholarships and enroll in over 14,000 state programs.

Pride went beyond metrics. From a \$24 million Trusted Messenger grant to a student-led rural food pantry, participants' proudest moments centered on connection, collaboration, and representation.

New possibilities are already taking shape. Participants surfaced ideas for connecting CBOs with

The convening's visual centerpiece was a Journey Map that invited attendees to physically chart four years of network impact. Across 267 contributions, participants mapped what the network built, what they are proud of, what could exist next, what wisdom they gained, and how they were transformed. From those contributions, five cross-cutting themes emerged:

incarcerated people before release, intergenerational workforce training, youth financial literacy, and cross-regional disaster preparedness.

The network built connections through experience. "Collaborate, not compete. Show up authentically. Tend to the people doing the work."

This work transformed people. Participants left as leaders who listen



more deeply, delegate with trust, and believe more fully in people power—and they are committed to carrying it forward.



What Participants Told Us

Feedback from across the series demonstrated the unique opportunities provided through California Connects Convenings.



Voices from the Field

“There is no other space where we can come together like this.”

“I felt heard and seen—and I left with partnerships I will actually keep.”

“The convening connected our organization to programs and funders we wouldn’t have found on our own.”

“OCPSC’s support made it possible for us to be in the room and have our community voices heard.”

Closing Reflection

California Connects demonstrated what is possible when community organizations, state agencies, and local leaders come together with a shared commitment to serving Californians. Across nine convenings, participants built relationships, exchanged knowledge, strengthened capacity, and created new pathways for collaboration.

This network represents more than a collection of organizations—it is a statewide ecosystem of people and institutions working together to solve challenges, share resources, and expand opportunity.

By staying connected, learning from one another, and investing in collective action, we can continue building a California where information, resources, and opportunities reach every community.