

\$2.7 million grant will help Just San Bernardino launch economic inclusion plan

By **REBECCA K. O'CONNOR** | The Community Foundation

PUBLISHED: March 12, 2021 at 9:07 a.m. | UPDATED: March 12, 2021 at 9:07 a.m.

A San Bernardino nonprofit collaborative has received a \$2.7 million grant to spur equitable economic growth in the city of San Bernardino.

The Just San Bernardino Collaborative, or Just SB, is launching its People's Plan for Economic Inclusion with the grant from The James Irvine Foundation administered through the [Inland Empire Community Foundation](#). The Irvine Foundation investment in Just SB and the People's Plan is aligned with the foundation's larger Priority Communities strategy.

The seven-year Priority Communities initiative has an initial focus on the cities of Fresno, Salinas, Riverside and San Bernardino. The goal is to support these communities in creating economies that work for all residents. This includes creating and protecting jobs that offer wages that can sustain families, benefits, and advancement opportunities for lower-wage jobs.





Workers and residents at a community picket of the Amazon warehouse calling for a community benefits agreement in San Bernardino (Courtesy of Warehouse Workers Resource Center)

Just SB was formed in 2019 with the support of the Inland Empire Community Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. The group chose the name Just SB to clearly focus its efforts centering justice as a component of future economic development in the city.

Under the leadership and expertise of nine community-based organizations in the Inland Empire, Just SB will focus on building opportunities and actionable plans to create economic development in San Bernardino.

The collaborative has worked for a year developing strategies in response to the growing disparities members feel, found in education, health, housing, and job opportunities and wage equity in the Inland Empire.

“Through the tragedy of COVID, we have learned so much more about what equity and justice should mean, and what is essential work and workers,” said Michelle Decker, CEO of Inland Empire Community Foundation. “The People’s Plan is an exciting and concrete way for the residents of San Bernardino to answer that question directly, for themselves.”

Just SB plans to engage more than 10,000 residents in the city over the next year. The People’s Plan and the strategies used to develop it will address the lack of economic growth in low-income communities through the lens of labor, housing, education, environmental justice, economic development, arts/culture, and health care.



The collaborating organizations of Just SB represent various industries. They include Time for Change Foundation, BLU Educational Foundation, Youth Action Project, Arts Connection, Inland Empire Labor Council, Warehouse Workers Resource Center, Inland Congregations United for Change, Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement, and the People's Collective for Environmental Justice.

“I am extremely proud to be intimately associated with the work of the Just SB People's Plan,” said Pastor Samuel Casey, executive director of COPE. “I firmly believe that those closest to the conditions that they find themselves in are best equipped to inform this process and the path forward.”

Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement is a 501(c)3 faith-based organization, established in 2000 by a group of pastors with a mission to train and develop the capacity of religious and other leaders in congregations and across the Inland Empire to protect and revitalize the communities in which they live, work, and worship.

The People's Plan is a multiyear economic development project and its first survey will launch soon.

“We are all learning that building an economy that closes economic, racial, and gender gaps will require truly inclusive conversations and leadership by those most affected, and we believe Just SB will help us all learn how to do that authentically,” Decker said.

Information: www.justsb.org.

[Inland Empire Community Foundation](#) works to strengthen Inland Southern California through philanthropy.

[Newsroom Guidelines](#)

[News Tips](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Report an Error](#)

 The Trust Project

Want local news?

Sign up for the Localist and stay informed

Enter your email to subscribe

SUBSCRIBE



Tags: **community**, **Coronavirus**, **economy**, **nonprofits**,
Top Stories Sun



Rebecca K. O'Connor | The Community Foundation



SPONSORED CONTENT

How do you find the right treatment for relapsing MS?

By Bristol Myers Squibb

 Bristol Myers Squibb

This busy mom has lived with relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS) for over 10 years. See why she

chose a once-daily pill.

[VIEW COMMENTS](#)

Join the Conversation

We invite you to use our commenting platform to engage in insightful conversations about issues in our community. Although we do not pre-screen comments, we reserve the right at all times to remove any information or materials that are unlawful, threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory, obscene, vulgar, pornographic, profane, indecent or otherwise objectionable to us, and to disclose any information necessary to satisfy the law, regulation, or government request. We might permanently block any user who abuses these conditions.

If you see comments that you find offensive, please use the “Flag as Inappropriate” feature by hovering over the right side of the post, and pulling down on the arrow that appears. Or, contact our editors by emailing moderator@scng.com.

