

ANCHORS IN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Project Innovation: Clean Energy Infrastructure

ARC Mission

ARC addresses the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health by leveraging the assets and capacities of Bay Area anchor institutions and community-based partners. We focus on expanding community wealth and ownership, improving health outcomes, and strengthening the capacity of communities of color and low- and moderate-income residents to be resilient in the face of climate and economic disruption.

The program aims to facilitate partnerships and create co-learning opportunities between anchors, community leaders, and other stakeholders. ARC mobilizes projects that leverage hiring, purchasing, and investment for health, wealth and resilience.

New Sector Potential

Robust clean energy policies and electrification recommendations have been enacted in Bay Area regions as well as encouraged statewide. The resulting incentives and investments offer a supportive environment for community wealth building via local utility and construction sectors that can match anchor institutions' demand for clean energy.

The ARC program could support these efforts through a regional Clean Energy Infrastructure project. The ARC table could convene anchors and local minority and disadvantaged contractor networks to discuss and meet anchor demands for environmentally-friendly facility upgrades. This can include LED lighting retrofits, electrification upgrades, and other innovative building measures such as demand response, solar, and storage.

Partnership with RENEW Multifamily

ARC plans to partner with the Emerald Cities Collaborative RENEW Multi-Family Program and use the ARC model in the building retrofit sector. The RENEW Multi-Family program is seeking anchor investors, especially health systems, who can help their surrounding communities become more resilient by improving indoor air quality, reducing building climate emissions and lowering utility burdens. RENEW works with low-income affordable housing partners to offer low-cost retrofit project solutions by utilizing state and local utility rebate and incentive programs. However, affordable housing owners operate on very constrained budgets, and often cannot complete the deeper whole-building retrofits needed to maximize health and climate benefits. Anchor funding could help bridge this gap and allow projects to pursue more innovative building measures, track resident health metrics, and scale the program to many more affordable housing units in California.

For information on the ARC and RENEW program contact Carli Yoro, cyoro@emeraldcities.org