

# Background for Conversation on Regional Approaches

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CCSCE and State and NOVA WIBs

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# Topics

- Importance of Regions and Regional Approaches
- Challenges and Approaches in Reducing Inequality
- The Importance of Industry Participation

# Regions and Regional Approaches

- For many workforce boards workers seek and find jobs in adjoining areas and businesses attract workers from adjoining areas. There is large intra-regional and some interregional commuting
- This is true for areas not included in conventional regional definitions such as San Joaquin County
- So help to workforce board customers must be based on information about the economy in adjoining areas within the regional economy.  
Local delivery, regional thinking

# Regions and Regional Approaches

- Besides better helping worker and business customers, regional approaches are needed to make best use of limited funds—to avoid duplication of services and allocate responsibilities within a region—local delivery, regional thinking
- The CWIB is now processing two regional information/action initiatives—1) from EDD for labor market information and 2) from CWA for regional coordination in service delivery

# Regions and Regional Approaches

- The selection of regional boundaries is to be determined
- Southern California has 14 WIBs with more than one in LA, Orange and San Bernardino
- The Bay Area has 12 with 3 in Alameda and 2 in Santa Clara
- The Sacramento region has 3. There are 4 WIBS that cover multiple counties and 16 more single county WIBs

# Challenges and Approaches in Reducing Inequality

- Inequality can be reduced by three major approaches:
  - reducing or reversing the growth for high income groups
  - improving wages and benefits for low wage workers
  - improving skills and reducing barriers to help people move up (a mobility agenda)
- WIBs and colleges use the third approach but we are only one part of success for this approach.

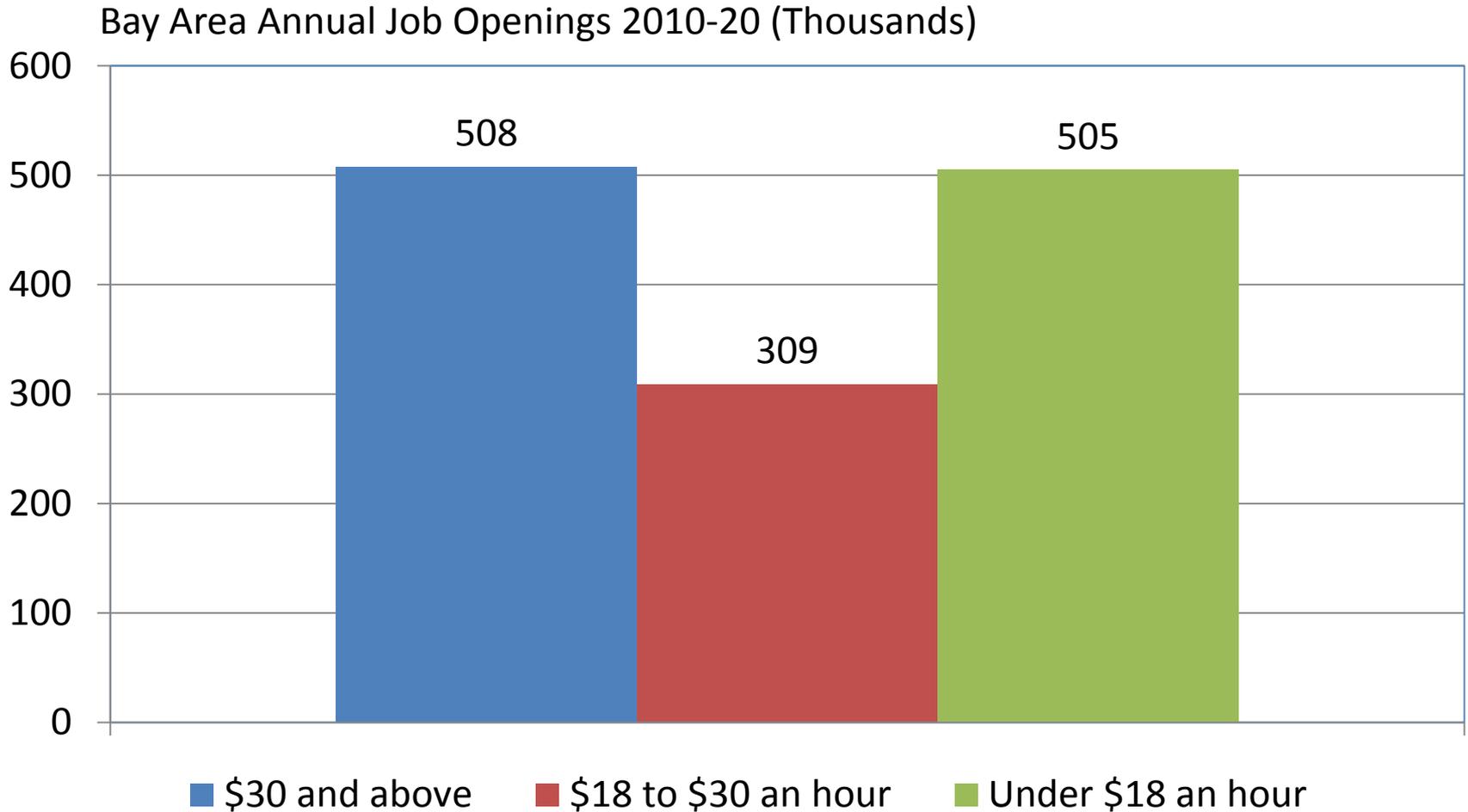
# Challenges and Approaches in Helping Low and Moderate Wage Workers

- The number of low and moderate wage jobs will increase in the future and there are nowhere near enough move up opportunities for all low wage workers.
- WIBs, colleges and labor partners will have difficulty overcoming the challenges of 1) poor education through high school, 2) language and immigrant status barriers, and 3) housing and transportation access
- And, of course, limited resources for WIBs and colleges and apprenticeship programs

Just over one third of all Bay Area workers earn low and moderate wages (i.e up to about \$18 per hour)

| Number of Workers |           | Share of All Workers |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| All               | 3,249,672 | 100.0                |
| Above LMI         | 2,098,609 | 64.6                 |
| LMI               | 1,151,063 | 35.4                 |

# There are more opportunities at the top and bottom than in the middle.



# The Importance of Industry Participation

- Business and workers are equal partners under WIA—serving both is our mission
- The best practice model for regional coordination toward an upward mobility agenda is industry-driven regional workforce initiatives whether these are specialized certificates, apprenticeship programs or college degree programs.