

Additional Resources to Build California-Specific Connections

Compiled by the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business Institute for Business & Social Impact (IBSI)

Cost of Living and Regional Wage Data

Supports: Topic 2 (*Budgeting for Independent Living*), Topic 3 (*Employment and Net Income*)

- [United Ways of California Real Cost Measure](#)
- [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#)
- [California Self-Sufficiency Standard Calculator](#)

Instructional Use: These tools help students analyze regional differences in wages, housing, childcare, and transportation costs. They can also compare minimum wage laws with actual cost-of-living benchmarks in their local area.

California Legislation and Policy Awareness

Supports: Topics 2 (*Budgeting for Independent Living*), Topic 3 (*Employment and Net Income*), Topic 9 (*Consumer Protection & Fraud Prevention*)

- [AB5 \(2019\)](#): Clarifies employee vs. independent contractor classification
Instructional application: Explore how misclassification impacts taxes, benefits, and income stability.
[Click here for additional information.](#)
- [AB446 \(2025\)](#): Addresses consumer surveillance and data pricing
Instructional application: Connect to budgeting, online purchasing decisions, and consumer privacy.
[Click here for additional information.](#)

Extension Idea: Encourage students to investigate current or proposed California legislation affecting personal finance and present their findings as part of a civic engagement project or class discussion.

California State Programs, Dashboards, and Tools

Supports: A range of topics, especially Topic 3 (*Employment and Net Income*) and Topic 10 (*College and Career Financing*)

- [CalKIDS](#) and [ScholarShare 529](#): College savings and seed funding programs
- [Jobs First CA](#): Information on California's investments in regional industry growth
- [Labor Market Information Division](#): Job data and links to resources to assist job seekers with searching for jobs and includes a [locator](#) for local workforce centers and supports for students with disabilities
- [California Policy Lab Evaluations](#): Summary findings on the effectiveness of state job training programs
- [CA Cradle-to-Career Data System](#): Longitudinal student data and postsecondary outcomes
- [FedCommunities—Benefits Cliffs Tools](#): Visualizations and explanations of how public benefits and eligibility interact with income

Instructional Tip: Encourage students to explore these tools when discussing careers. These resources help ground abstract financial concepts in real-world data and policy relevant to their lives.