

# 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.