WHAT IS A CBA?

When corporations set up shop in our communities, residents and workers should share in the benefits. One way to hold corporations accountable to acting as good neighbors and good employers is through a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).

CBAs are legally enforceable agreements that community groups negotiate with companies to secure benefits for residents and workers, including company commitments to paying workers family-sustaining wages, creating training programs, and environmental commitments.

CBAs were first used to make sure working families could benefit from new development in their neighborhoods. But recently, community and labor groups have negotiated CBAs with manufacturers, too.

CBAs can:

- Transform communities and create stronger, more equitable local economies.
- Hold companies accountable to their promises to local governments, workers, and communities.
- Advance racial and gender equity by creating training and apprenticeship opportunities for women, people of color, veterans, and systems-impacted people who have historically been left out of good jobs in the manufacturing sector.

CBAS IN ACTION

In California, our community-labor coalitions have won CBAs with two electric bus makers, Proterra and BYD. The CBAs include commitments to train, support, and hire workers for union jobs.

In Chicago, our coalition won a CBA with a railcar manufacturer, CRRC, that has created good jobs for folks in the city’s southeast side.

And in the South, we’re fighting to win a national CBA with North America’s largest bus manufacturer, New Flyer, to make sure that workers and residents in Alabama get access to good jobs, safe workplaces, and a voice on the job.