

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program
2020-2023

Request for Applications – Solicitation of Interest

According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce ([2014](#)), 42 percent of California's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs require a bachelor's degree. Additionally, more than half of all STEM bachelor's degree students from underrepresented minority (URM) groups started their postsecondary education at a community college ([Tsapagos, 2004](#)). The California Community College (CCC) system has been a continued and reliable pipeline for low-income and underrepresented minority students to pursue postsecondary STEM credentials and jobs.

In 1999, the Legislature included a little over \$2 million in ongoing funds in the annual state budget for colleges to implement a Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program. This program is designed to provide academic and support services for economically and educationally disadvantaged students majoring in calculus-based STEM fields who seek to transfer to a four-year institution. This legislation requires that funding be used for community college faculty, staff, business leaders, students, and four-year colleges and universities to work collaboratively to support economically and educationally disadvantaged students. ***CCC MESA programs are required to implement the 13 components of the MESA model and the 8 program objectives in order to yield outcomes advancing the Vision for Success.*** The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) is committed to the [guided pathways](#) framework and continuous improvement.

RFA Specification #:	20-029
RFA Specification Title:	Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA)
Program Division:	Educational Services and Support/Academic Affairs
Program Funding Source:	CA Budget Act, Proposition 98, Fund for Student Success (FSS)
Program Funding Period:	2020-2023
Total Funding Allocation:	\$2,539,000
Award Amount Range:	Up to \$100,000
Match Requirement:	100% Match
Number of Awards:	The maximum and minimum number of awards will not exceed the total program funding allocation and will depend on the number of applicants and the scores earned.
Award Term	2020-2023
Eligible Applicants:	California Community Colleges within a California Community College District

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Throughout the three-year funding cycle all participating colleges will need to:

- operationalize the eight MESA Program Objectives and engage in the continuous improvement cycle emphasized through guided pathways
- show improvement in the program metrics annually
- develop a sustainability plan using local funds, as state funding to these colleges will cease at the end of the three-year funding cycle

Application Form and Criteria

Section A: Applicant Information

- Community College Name
- Community College District
- Indication of whether the MESA program was established or is new

Section B: Operational Criteria

If a previously state funded applicant, please indicate “Yes” or “No” for completion status of the criteria throughout the last MESA program funding cycle for FYs 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20.

If a new applicant (does not have an established previously state funded MESA program), indicate “Yes” or “No” for the college commitment to completing the operational criteria in the current funding cycle.

Logistics & Staffing

1. 500+ square feet MESA Center?
2. MESA Program Director dedicated to this role full-time?
3. MESA Program Director attendance at the Fall Statewide MESA Program Directors Meeting?
4. MESA Program Director attendance at the Spring Statewide MESA Program Directors Meeting?

Education Planning

5. Serve at least 125 students declared eligible for the MESA program (excluding ASEM students)?
6. Student Education Plan completed for every MESA and ASEM program participant?
7. Student files complete for each MESA and ASEM program participant for each year?

Reporting

8. Progress Report(s) submitted by the due date?
9. Annual Final Report submitted by the due date?
10. MESA fall and spring term enrollment data submitted through CCCCO MIS system by due date?
11. Entire state award expended?

Implementation

12. Implement all 13 MESA Program Components?
13. Implement all 8 Program Objectives?

Section C: Certification and Application Submission

This section is for the certification of applicant information and signatures. Information submitted will be verified. Providing false information will lead to application disqualification.

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Section D: Data Analysis

The final section of the application is an analysis of 2018-2019 (unless otherwise noted below) MIS data for the campus and MESA program using the following variables and weights:

For Existing MESA Programs	Weight	For New MESA Programs	Weight
% of the college student population that is economically disadvantaged ¹	7.5	% of the college student population that is economically disadvantaged	7.5
% of the college student population that is educationally disadvantaged ²	7.5	% of the college student population that is educationally disadvantaged	7.5
% of the MESA student population that is economically disadvantaged	7.5	Average credit retention of economically disadvantaged students	12.5
% of the MESA student population that is educationally disadvantaged	7.5	Average credit retention of educationally disadvantaged students	12.5
Average credit retention rate of MESA students	20	Average credit success of economically disadvantaged students	12.5
Average credit success rate of MESA students	20	Average credit success of educationally disadvantaged students	12.5
% of MESA students identified in 2017-18 or 2018-19 who have earned a degree or have transferred by spring 2020	20	% of college's 2017-18 or 2018-19 economically disadvantaged students who have earned a degree or have transferred by spring 2020	12.5
Existing MESA program	5	% of college's 2017-18 or 2018-19 educationally disadvantaged students who have earned a degree or have transferred by spring 2020	12.5
Program fulfilled all program components all 3 years of the previous funding cycle	5	Maximum Possible Score	
Maximum Possible Score	100		

The overall weighted scores of all applicants will be ranked in descending order. Colleges that earn a score of 60 or higher will be eligible for funding. An eligible score does not guarantee a grant award to the applicant. Actual funding amounts and tiers will depend on the number of applications received and the number of applicants eligible for funding based on the data metric detailed above taking into account regional representation. Below are proposed potential funding amounts per score range, which is subject to change.

Potential Funding Amount per Score Range	
Weighted Score	Amount
90-100+	100,000
80-90	90,000-99,999
70-80	80,000-89,999
60-70	70,000-79,999

¹ Economically disadvantaged is assessed using Perkins definition (see SM 106 on the Student Success Metrics dashboard)

² Educational disadvantage is assessed using students' first generation college graduate status, based on the LaunchBoard SM 108 first-generation metric

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In the event no eligible applicants fall within a weighted score range, the Chancellor's Office reserves the right to adjust the scale as needed. If there is an increase in the allocation of funds or any funds remaining from the original allocation of which the amount does not equal a full award, the Chancellor's Office may elect to award an amount to the next eligible applicant on the scoring list or increase the award amount for current eligible applicant(s).

Once all applications have been evaluated and scored, the Intent to Award List will be developed and disseminated.

Subsequent years (2021-22 and 2022-23) funding is not guaranteed and is contingent upon, but not limited to:

1. Program allocation in the California State Budget
2. Completion of the approved prior year's objectives
3. Compliance with agreement terms and conditions
4. Improvement in program data metrics

Application Instructions

Interested applicants must complete the attached application form and submit it to ISUnit@CCCO.EDU using the following email subject line format: College name: MESA 2020-2023 Application by 5:00 pm PST on Friday, May 28, 2021.

Questions regarding this Solicitation of Interest, the Application form, or the MESA program can be directed to ISUnit@CCCO.EDU using the following email subject line format: College Name: MESA 2020-2023 (subject).

Grant Appeal Procedures

After program awardees are selected and a new intent to award is announced, applicants will again have ten days to file an appeal. Applicants may file an appeal **within ten (10) business days from the date the Intent to Award list is published.**

An appeal must:

- use the Grant Appeal Form (email sricksal@ccco.edu for the form)
- be signed by the District Superintendent/Chancellor or authorized designee
- be addressed to: Dr. Aisha Lowe, Vice Chancellor Educational Services & Support
- be emailed to: alowe@ccco.edu with email subject line: MESA 2020-2023: *enter college name – Appeal*

The Vice Chancellor shall:

- a. review all appeal submissions
- b. disqualify appeal submissions that did not follow submission procedures
- c. render a final decision, and
- d. notify appeal of final decision within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of appeal receipt.

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After Completion of RFA Competition:

When the appeal period has concluded and appeal responses have been finalized, the award list will be posted on the MESA webpage. CCCs awarded a grant for this cycle will be contacted to submit additional paperwork. When the additional paperwork is reviewed and approved, the grant agreement execution process will commence. CCCs that are not awarded a grant this funding cycle have the opportunity to become an unendowed (non-state funded) MESA program. An executed Memorandum of Understanding is required to be an unendowed MESA program. If interested in this option email sricksal@cccco.edu.