



**TO:** Chief Executive Officers  
Chief Instructional Officers  
Chief Business Officers  
Chief Student Services Officers  
Career Education Deans  
Regional Consortia Chairs

**FROM:** Sheneui Weber, Vice Chancellor  
Workforce & Economic Development Division  
California Community Colleges Chancellors Office

**RE:** Request for Applications – Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grants

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The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to announce the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant funding opportunity for regions.

**Background:**

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in support of the State's efforts, is focused on a broad-based approach to post-pandemic workforce recovery. The recovery efforts targets regional investments to serve greater numbers and diverse populations of Californians and the delivery of flexible and manageable workforce training and education-leading career pathways that result in high-skill and high-wage employment. Specifically, investments aim to expand and enhance proven workforce training models and support systems that focus on equity, access, inclusion, prioritize programs that deepen participation by employers, and focus on jobs recovery that will lead the way in the economic recovery of the State of California.

**Funding Opportunity:**

The Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to restructure regional consortia roles and responsibilities to meet current and future workforce needs, given the shifts that has occurred in the economy in the past few years. This RFA invites regions to revisit and redesign their regional and governance structure to be much more inclusive. Ensuring that all voices are engaged and heard, from the Chief Executive Officers and Chief Instructional Officers, to the Chief Student Services Officers, Career Education Deans, faculty, practitioners and students -- designing the career education experience with the students' goals in mind.

Regions and colleges must be willing to experiment, to test assumptions, to learn, to fail and to learn from failures to design better workforce programs for our students and deliver a quality workforce pipeline that meets both the short and long term needs of employers.

The RFA is also an opportunity to redesign employer engagement — how colleges partner with business and industry, communities, and work together to close the skills, competencies and job gaps. The Chancellor’s Office has been advancing and encouraging skills and competency-based learning approaches, integration of work-based learning into courses and programs, incorporation of credit for prior learning, adoption of flexible earn and learn programs and establishment of more apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs when it comes to workforce and economic development. The present challenge is to evolve our employer engagement model in order to transform and scale experiential or work-based learning, which help students put theory into practice, and a more prepared workforce.

The RFA calls for improving regional alignment -- to design and deploy a more coordinated employer engagement model with colleges that will support expansion of:

1. **work-based learning opportunities for students,**
2. **increased student jobs and employment outcomes, and**
3. **approaches that are more responsive to employer immediate training needs, particularly with emerging technologies.**

In addition to the Perkins funding as the base funding for the funding opportunity, investment from the Economic and Workforce Development Program is included to support the regional employer engagement model and activities.

The grant funding opportunity totaling \$14,570,000, is intended for each regional consortia and member colleges to consider all workforce programs as a whole that supports traditional and non-traditional students, instead of the traditional silos. A holistic framework that better integrates efforts across each region such as Guided Pathways, Strong Workforce Program (SWP), K12 SWP, California Adult Education Program, Apprenticeship, Economic and Workforce Development Program, and other regional initiatives and goals.

A California Community College district/college in each region will be selected as host to provide Regional Collaboration and Coordination activities specified in the RFA through the competitive RFA process, working with the colleges and key stakeholders in each region’s workforce and economic development ecosystem to help drive:

- a) Collaboration and coordination of career education programs among colleges in each identified region;
- b) Regional strategies to reduce employment and equity gaps;
- c) Capture and dissemination of valuable, region-specific employer, industry, and student success data;

- d) Develop strategies and structures that provide comprehensive supports to serve part-time and adult learners; and
- e) Evolution of current regional governance structures and employer engagement functions that are much more inclusive.

**Application Information Session:**

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend a Virtual Information Session to be held on June 21, 2021 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. For more information about the Information Session and to register for the event, visit [our website](#).

Please note that attendance of the Virtual Information Session is not required for submission of an application.

**Application Information:**

The Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant RFA Instructions, Terms and Conditions, application requirements, and other materials are available online and may be accessed at the [Chancellor's Office website](#).

Any questions about specifications in the Request for Applications must be submitted in writing and received by 5:00 pm on Thursday, July 1, 2021 via email to: [perkinssupport@cccoco.edu](mailto:perkinssupport@cccoco.edu).