



TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Business Officers
Regional Consortia Chairs

FROM: Sheneui Weber, Vice Chancellor
Workforce and Economic Development Division

CC: Eloy Oakley, Chancellor
Daisy Gonzales, Deputy Chancellor
Sandra Sanchez, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Alejandro Sandoval, Associate Program Manager
CCCCO Staff

RE: Updates to 20-21 Strong Workforce Program

Dear Strong Workforce Program Colleagues,

The importance of the Strong Workforce Program to the state is clear with the preservation of FY 20-21 funding in the budget process. There is high expectation for these funds to support the economic recovery of the State by putting people back to work. Increased efforts to focus on student outcomes and impact with SWP funds in our local and regional economies, and for our system to make targeted investments in achieving the intended student outcomes and impact is even greater.

The Chancellor's Office is responsible for implementation of performance accountability outcome measures for the program. FY 20-21 is the first year of a new four-year cycle for the Strong Workforce Program. With field input and prior year outcomes, modifications are being made to the program beginning with FY 20-21, designed to improve overall program outcomes. These changes are as follows:

1. Prior guidance on First In First Out Accounting for expenditure of Strong Workforce Program Investments will be discontinued and will no longer apply. Accounting of each funding cycle must be maintained and reported separately.
2. Beginning with the 20-21 Allocation the Strong Workforce Program allocation dollars must be expended within an 24-month period.

3. Beginning with Allocation Year 20-21 and going forward for this four-year cycle, all expenditures must be entered in NOVA by allocation year and project funding must be tied to an allocation year. The Chancellor's Office NOVA system will be updated by November 1, 2020 to allow colleges to enter their projects and expenditures by allocation year.
4. Please note that new Local and Regional Applications must be submitted into the NOVA system no later than December 30, 2020.
5. For the 2020-21 Allocation, colleges have until **June 30, 2022**. These funds will expire and no extensions will be granted.
6. Starting in FY 19-20, colleges that have utilized SWP funds, to offer certificates or degrees related to allied health professionals should prepare to meet the legislative reporting requirements under EC§ 88826.5
7. For Allocation Year 20-21, the Local 60% Share and Regional 40% Share will continue to be calculated based on the following criteria:
 - 1/3rd CTE full-time equivalent students
 - 1/3rd Unemployment Rate
 - 1/6th Job openings
 - 1/6th Strong Workforce outcomes
8. To ensure SWP funds are being fully invested to achieve student success and outcomes, and in closing employment gaps, colleges may not have more than two funding cycles active at any one time.

New Trailer Bill Language for Strong Workforce Program

Due to the economic crisis from Covid-19, additional flexibility has been included in the budget for the Strong Workforce Program beginning with FY 20-21. Colleges are encouraged to utilize SWP funds to provide short term workforce training (including not-for-credit offerings) to return individuals to employment expeditiously.

Section 88821(g) of the Education Code is amended to read:

(g) Community college districts are encouraged to expedite the development of targeted credit or noncredit short-term workforce training programs, in accordance with all of the following:

- (1) Short-term workforce training programs that focus on economic recovery and result in job placement.*
- (2) Short-term workforce training programs that focus on the reskilling and upskilling of individuals.*

- (3) (A) *Short-term workforce training programs that have at least one proven employer partner, demonstrate job vacancies, and submit verification to the chancellor's office.*
- (B) *For purposes of subparagraph (A), verification includes the projected number of individuals served, completion rates, and job placement rates.*
- (4) *It is the intent of the Legislature that, where possible, short-term noncredit workforce training programs should be utilized to be responsive to the workforce training needs of employers, with the ability to transition to credit or noncredit courses and programs upon successful completion of a program established pursuant to this subdivision. Colleges are encouraged to develop workforce training that utilizes competency-based approaches, and applies credit for prior learning where possible.*

Please note that subsidization of existing career education contract education or community education with SWP funds are not allowed. However, SWP funds may be used to support any not-for-credit activities that meet the requirements of *Section 88821(g) (1) to (4) as stated above.*

Additionally, use of SWP funds to pay student internships or subsidize any on-the-job-training is also not allowed.

Lastly, we would like to remind colleges that funds appropriated to community college districts for local or regional share investment **shall supplement, not supplant**, existing funding of community college career technical education programs as specified in EC§88824(e).

WEDD Webinars

The Chancellor's Office will be holding a webinar on August 26th, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to discuss these new changes to the Strong Workforce Program. If you would like to attend the webinar, please register on the California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program web site.

If you have any additional questions, please email them to strongworkforcehelpdesk@cccco.edu