



**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**  
**Workforce and Economic Development Division**

**LETTER OF INTEREST APPLICATION NOTICE**  
**For California Community Colleges and Districts**  
**to Participate in the 2025-26**  
**Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives (IDRC) Grant**

## Program Summary & Background

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office), through the Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Program, invites **Letters of Interest** from eligible community colleges and districts for participation in the **Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives (IDRC)**<sup>1</sup> grant opportunity for **2025-26**. The IDRC initiative is designed to provide short-term, flexible, and demand-driven funding to support regional training programs that respond directly to industry needs in high-growth and emerging sectors.

The IDRC program prioritizes initiatives that are responsive to real-time labor market trends and promote innovation in technical education across sectors such as digital manufacturing, biotechnology, nanotechnology, green technologies, information technology, and Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS). The goal is to create agile, performance-based programs that serve as scalable models for future career and technical education pathways across the system.

## Purpose of Economic and Workforce Development Funds

This initiative is supported under the authority of **California Education Code section 88600**, which governs the EWD Program. The EWD program is established to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement. It provides the state's community colleges with the structure to partner with employers, labor, and community organizations to develop programs that meet evolving workforce needs and build a highly skilled labor pool.

### EWD funds are intended to support programs that:

- Provide direct training and technical assistance to students and workers.
- Strengthen partnerships between colleges and industry.
- Create new curriculum and programs in response to industry demand.
- Support regional and statewide economic development.

### General Award Information

- Total Available Funding: ~\$6 million
- Estimated Number of Awards: 10-20
- Maximum Grant Award: \$500,000
- Grant Duration: Sept. 17, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2027

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<sup>1</sup> California Education Code Section 88631 outlines the services and functions that Economic and Workforce Development Program centers and California Community Colleges may provide as participants in networks. (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that industry-driven regional collaboratives perform services as participants of regional networks. Grants by industry-driven regional collaboratives shall provide flexibility for local projects to assess and define their individual project needs. New local programs and equipment shall be key components of these grants. Funding shall not be limited per project but shall be based on the merit and reasonable cost for the anticipated outcomes and performance of the project. Funding for industry-driven regional collaboratives shall be limited to two consecutive fiscal years.

- Required Match: Dollar-for-dollar (cash or in-kind)

### Project Focus Areas

Proposals should prioritize innovation and high-impact training in sectors including, but not limited to the following:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Climate, STEM, and Technology
- Carbon Capture/Rangeland Management
- Advanced Transportation
- Marine Energy and Aquaculture
- Energy/Green Technologies
- Nanotechnologies

### Projects should:

- Be responsive to regional/statewide workforce gaps.
- Increase strong industry and community partnerships.
- Deliver measurable workforce, economic, and performance outcomes.
- Model as scalable or replicable pilots.

### Vision 2030 Alignment

All Letters of Interest should demonstrate alignment with the **Vision 2030 goals** established by the California Community Colleges. Vision 2030 sets a bold agenda to transform the state's community colleges to be more equitable, future-ready, and responsive to California's dynamic economy. It prioritizes:

- **Equitable Access and Opportunity:** Ensuring all students—especially those from historically underserved communities—can access pathways to education and careers.
- **Economic Mobility for All Californians:** Supporting programs that lead to living-wage employment and meaningful careers.
- **Future-Ready Workforce:** Preparing learners for tomorrow's jobs, particularly in industries that are reshaping California's economy.

Colleges are encouraged to reflect how their proposed project or initiative will contribute to these goals through inclusive partnerships, workforce innovation, and measurable outcomes that support both students and employers.

## Submission Guidelines

Interested colleges must submit a **Letter of Interest (LOI)** on official letterhead using the template provided on the Chancellor's Office [WEDD RFA webpage](#), signed by an authorized official, including the following information:

- Project Title and Sector Focus
- Brief Statement of Need (labor market demand or skills gap)
- Summary of Proposed Activities (e.g., training, curriculum, work-based learning)
- Key Partners (industry, workforce boards, etc.)
- Vision 2030 Alignment
- Project Lead's Contact Information

Submit the completed LOI to [EWD@CCCCO.edu](mailto:EWD@CCCCO.edu) with **subject line:** IDRC Letter of Interest – [College or District Name]

## Timeline

**Release of Letter of Interest:** June 13, 2025

**Training Webinar:** June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.

**Deadline of LOI Application:** July 11, 2025

**Announcement of Awards:** July 21, 2025

**Last Day for Submitting an Appeal:** Aug. 1, 2025

For colleges and districts awarded an IDRC grant, the Chancellor's Office will provide guidance and instructions for submitting required workplan and budget information into the NOVA system. The performance period for the IDRC grant is 27 months, commencing Sept. 17, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2027.

## Appeals Process – Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) Grants

Appeals are limited to the grounds that the Chancellor's Office failed to correctly follow the specified processes for reviewing the application. The college/district must file a complete written appeal with the Economic and Workforce Development Vice Chancellor, including the issue(s) in dispute, the legal authority or other basis for the position, and the remedy sought.

The appeal must:

- Be submitted via email and received no later than **5 p.m. on Aug. 1, 2025**. Appeals should be addressed to **Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova** and submitted via email to [EWD@CCCCO.edu](mailto:EWD@CCCCO.edu) with the subject line: [College or District Name] IDRC Notice to Appeal.
- Be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.
- Clearly outline the issue(s) in dispute, cite the legal or procedural basis for the appeal.

- Be based solely on the grounds that the review process was not correctly followed as outlined in the application procedures.
- Not introduce any new information that was not part of the original submission.

Incomplete or late appeals will not be considered. The Chancellor's Office will issue a final written decision within two weeks of the appeals deadline. This decision shall constitute the final administrative action on the matter.

## **Notification of Awards**

A notification of Intent to Award letter will be sent electronically to all applicants who are recommended to receive an award. Before the execution of grant agreements, grant awards must be approved by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Grant awards are not final until grant agreements are signed by the grantee district and the Chancellor's Office Deputy Chancellor.

## **Reporting Requirements**

Grantees required to report bi-annually on expenditures in NOVA, the Chancellor's Office grant management system. Outlined in Table 1 are the reporting deadlines. Dates may be subject to change.

**Table 1**

<b>Reporting Deadline</b>	<b>Reporting Type</b>	<b>Activity Period</b>
4/30/2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Bi-Annual Expenditure and Progress Report due	09/17/25 - 03/31/26
11/30/2026	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual Expenditure and Progress Report due	04/1/26 - 10/31/26
6/30/2027	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bi-Annual Expenditure and Progress Report due	11/1/26 - 05/31/27
01/31/2028	4th Bi-Annual Expenditure and Progress Report due	06/1/27- 12/31/27
<b>03/31/2028</b>	<b>Final Expenditure and Progress Report due</b>	

## **Questions**

Written questions concerning the specifications of this Letter of Intent must be submitted via email to [EWD@CCCCO.edu](mailto:EWD@CCCCO.edu) by **5 p.m. July 10, 2025**.

## Attachment A

### Economic and Workforce Development Program

#### REQUIRED PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES AND ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

The following required performance outcomes and allowable activities are grounded in the California Education Code section 88600, which guides the implementation of workforce and economic development programs across the California Community Colleges system. These provisions are designed to promote workforce skill development, enhance student employment outcomes, support faculty and institutional capacity, and strengthen partnerships with business and industry. By aligning efforts with the following legislatively required performance outcomes and allowable activities, selected projects will help address regional labor market needs, support job placement and retention, and contribute to the broader goals of economic mobility and regional competitiveness.

#### Required Performance Outcomes

- Job placement of students through internships, apprenticeships, or entry-level employment.
- Job retention of students and/or incumbent workers in their employment or otherwise increasing workforce skill competency that helps business and industry remain competitive and meets their region's labor market demand.
- Direct training to businesses, employees, and students.
- Direct technical assistance to businesses, employees, students, and colleges including faculty and staff.
- Acquired and leveraged community college and other vocational training resources to support local, regional, and statewide economic development.
- Established networks of local and regional economic & workforce entities in order to develop, attract, and retain businesses in their local areas, as well as meeting the workforce training and education needs of those businesses.

#### Allowable Activities

Allowable activities to attain the expected outcomes may include, but are not limited to, any or all of the following activities<sup>2</sup>:

- a. Convening skill panels to produce deliverables, such as curriculum models, that contribute to workforce skill development common to competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters within a region.

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<sup>2</sup> California Education Code Section 88631 outlines the services and functions that Economic and Workforce Development Program centers and California Community Colleges may provide and perform as participants in networks.

- b.** Development of instructional packages focusing on the technical skills specific to emerging or changing occupations in targeted industry sectors and industry clusters.
- c.** Supporting student or worker evaluation of, and fit for, career paths by articulating how a curriculum model fits within a career pathway or career lattice or system of stackable credentials, relevant career readiness battery scores, and career guidance tools.
- d.** Faculty mentorships, faculty and staff development, in-service training, and worksite experience supporting the new curriculum and instructional modes responding to identified regional needs.
- e.** Institutional support, professional development, and transformational activities focused on removing systemic barriers to the development of new methods, transition to a flexible and more responsive administration of programs, and the timely and cost-effective delivery of services.
- f.** The deployment of new methodologies, modes, and technologies that enhance performance and outcomes and improve cost-effectiveness of service delivery or create new college programs.
- g.** One-on-one counseling, seminars, workshops, and conferences that contribute to the achievement of the success of existing businesses and foster the growth of new businesses and jobs in emerging industry clusters.
- h.** The delivery of performance-improvement training, which shall be provided on a matching basis to employers to benefit workforce participants. This will promote continuous workforce improvement in identified strategic priority areas, identified industry clusters, or areas targeted in the regional business resource assistance and innovation network plans.
- i.** Credit, not-for-credit, and noncredit programs and courses that contribute to workforce skill development for competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters within a region or that focus on addressing a workforce skills gap or occupational shortage.
- j.** Subsidized student internships or work-based learning on a cash or in-kind matching basis for program participants in occupational categories identified in competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters.
- k.** Acquisition of equipment to support the eligible activities and the limited renovation of facilities to accommodate the delivery of eligible services.
- l.** Submission of performance data for aggregation by the Chancellor's Office.