



MEMORANDUM

January 12, 2024

ESLEI 24-01 | Via Email

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

FROM: Anthony Cordova, Vice Chancellor
Workforce and Economic Development Division

RE: Strong Workforce Program 4-Year Regional Plan Contents and Submission Process

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the contents and submission process for new 4-year Strong Workforce Program (SWP) regional plans.

Background

In 2016, budget trailer bill legislation (Assembly Bill 1602) created the Strong Workforce Program to expand and improve career technical education (CTE) at California Community Colleges. The Strong Workforce Program provides \$275.8 million annually in funding to the California Community Colleges in support of the creation and expansion of high-quality CTE programs that lead to living-wage jobs. This funding supports the goals of initiatives like the Vision 2030 and Governor Newsom's Roadmap for California Community Colleges, which aim to improve student success, reduce achievement gaps, and develop a skilled workforce in California. College districts and regional consortia invest Strong Workforce funding across a range of industry sectors that are identified as priorities locally.

SWP Regional Plan Requirements

Pursuant to [Education Code sections 88820 - 88825](#), funds apportioned directly to a community college district shall be expended for the purpose of funding regionally prioritized projects and programs within the community college district that meet the needs of local and regional economies. As a condition of receiving direct funding, each regional consortium shall submit a regional plan to the Chancellor's Office for the four years of each SWP plan cycle by January 31.

The new 4-year SWP implementation cycle commences in FY 2023 – 24 as follows:

- FY 2023 – 24 (Round 8 – Year 1 of 4)
- FY 2024 – 25 (Round 9 – Year 2 of 4)
- FY 2025 – 26 (Round 10 – Year 3 of 4)
- FY 2026 – 27 (Round 11 – Year 4 of 4)

SWP Regional Plan Components

Each 4-year regional plan received from the eight consortia shall include the following components:

- The names of the community college districts participating in the consortium, including the name of the community college identified as the consortium's fiscal agent, and the

names of entities collaborating with the consortium.

- The governance model for the consortium.
 - Decisions governing, or relating to, the distribution of fiscal resources shall be determined exclusively by the community college districts participating in the consortium.
- An analysis of regional labor market needs informed by a federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(Public Law 113-128\)](#) economic analysis and other sources as applicable. This analysis shall also include wage data for each industry sector or labor market need identified.
- An inventory of regionally prioritized and locally prioritized projects and programs that close relevant labor market and employment gaps.
- Measurable regional goals that align with the performance accountability measures of the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(Public Law 113-128\)](#).
- A description of the alignment of work plans, spending plans, and other education and workforce plans guiding services in the region, including plans pertaining to the building of career pathways and the employment of workforce sector strategies and those plans required pursuant to the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(Public Law 113-128\)](#).

Integrated Planning Efforts

Community college districts participating in a consortium shall utilize their region's SWP plan to inform local campus planning efforts to implement career technical education courses, programs, and pathways and integrate available local, regional, state, and nonpublic resources to ensure that students will achieve successful workforce outcomes. To avoid duplication of effort, regional plans developed shall be informed by, aligned with, and expand upon regional plans and planning efforts established pursuant to the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(Public Law 113-128\)](#).

Further, the Chancellor's Office encourages community college districts to use their region's SWP plan to greatest extent possible in the development of Comprehensive Local Needs Assessments (CLNAs) required to receive federal Perkins funding. Guidance from the Chancellor's Office about the new 2-year Perkins CLNAs due in late Spring 2024 will be forthcoming.

Regional Plan Submission Process

Each of the [eight regional consortium chairs](#) will submit the new 4-year SWP region plan in the Chancellor's Office [NOVA system](#) by **January 31, 2024**: Programs > SWP Regional Plan. The Chancellor's Office will accept one (1) plan per region. Chancellor's Office staff will review the plans for completeness and ensure that annual updates are made by each consortium. Chancellor's Office staff will determine if each consortium has made significant progress in meeting the goals and measures outlined in its regional plan and provide ongoing technical assistance to consortiums towards meeting its identified goals and outcomes.

Strong Workforce Program 4-Year Regional Plan Contents and Submission Process

January 12, 2024

For questions about this memo or SWP regional plan requirements, contact Dean Ochoa:
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