



California Community Colleges

# DATA QUALITY INSTITUTE

## Assessing Workforce Need 2026 Perkins V

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FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

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October 21, 2025

# Today's Conversation

**Who we are: COE mission, scope,  
and audiences served**

The labor market data most useful  
for community college planning

Q&A





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FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

# Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE)

The COE provide quality labor market data and information to help colleges with:



Assessing labor  
market needs



Reviewing career  
education programs



Investing in new career  
education programs

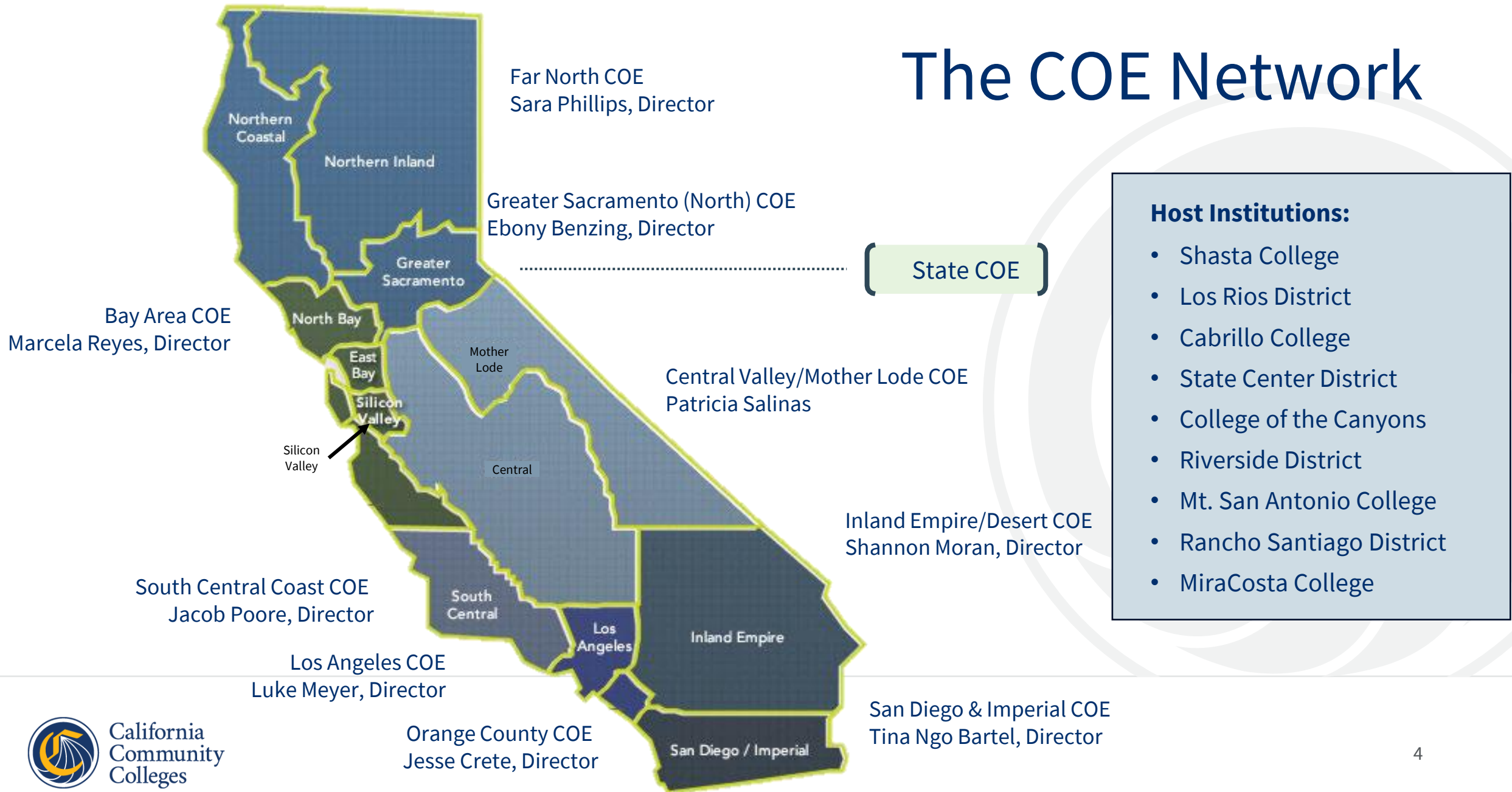


Grant program planning and  
investment

**We aspire to be the leading source of workforce  
information and insight for California's community  
colleges.**



# The COE Network



# What We Deliver

- Labor Market Assessments (LMAs) for Program Recommendation (1,000)
- Sector profiles, regional/district overviews, and workforce studies (140)
- Data tools and dashboards (36)
- Presentations and data workshops (250)
- Customized support requests

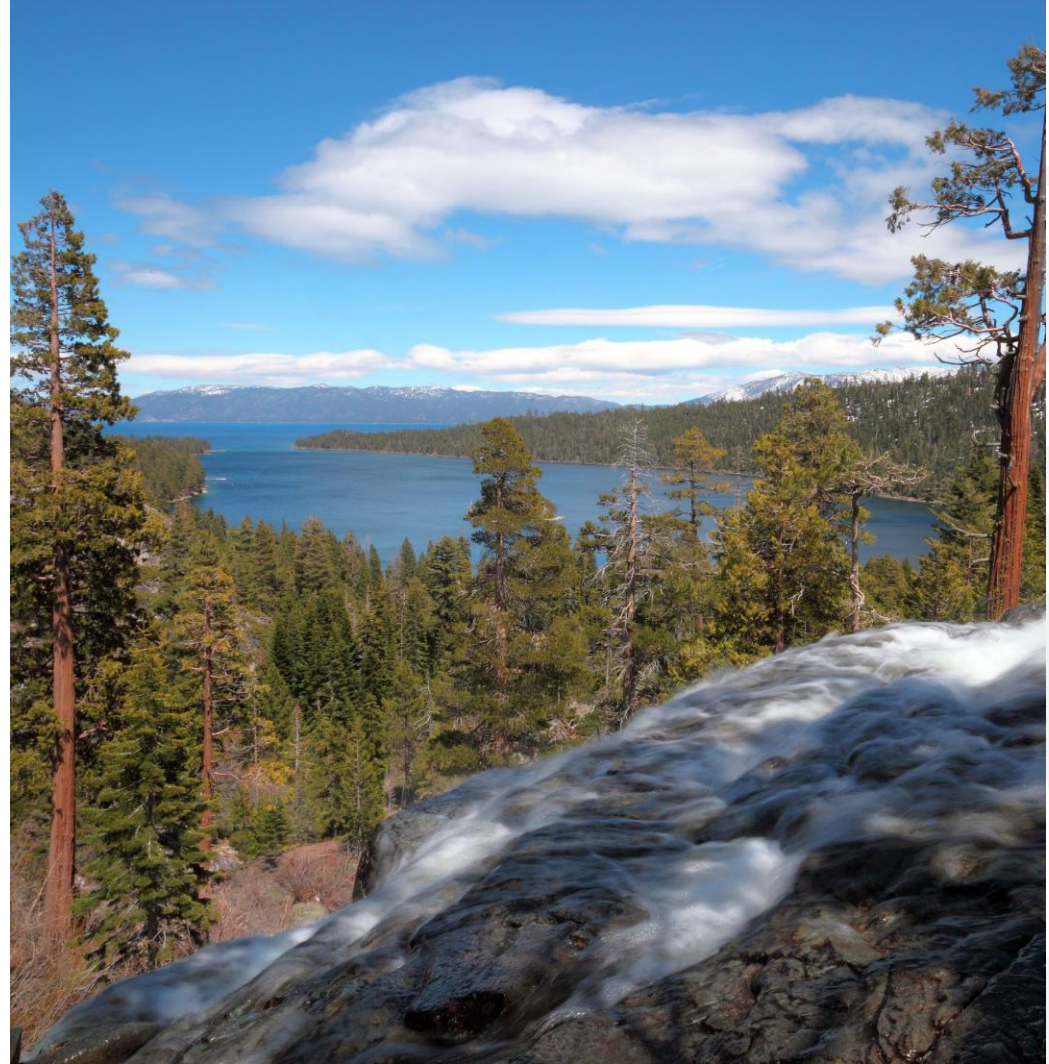


# Today's Conversation

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# Key Labor Market Conversations for assessing local and regional workforce needs





# Understanding Today's Workforce

## Metrics

- Labor force statistics
- Past and current employment and unemployment
- Characteristics of the incumbent workforce

## How It Informs Decisions

- Sets context for available labor supply
- Provides insight about slack in the labor force, part-time vs. full-time and more
- Expands understanding of workers currently in an occupation



## California Labor Force



**\*Civilian Labor Force**  
(19,857,900)



**Total Civilian Employment**  
(18,763,300)



**Unemployment**  
(1,094,700)

## California Unemployment Rate



# California's Labor Force

## August's Labor Force Characteristics

- By age group, the unemployment rate was highest for Californians aged 16-19 years at 21.3%.
  - Rates for the six age groups between 20-65+ years ranged from 3.5% to 9.9%.
- By race and ethnicity, the August unemployment rate for blacks was 8.5%, Hispanics was 6.1%, and whites was 5.4%.
- The majority (81.4%) of all employed Californians usually work full time. There were 737,100 persons who worked part time involuntarily.
  - Involuntarily is also referred to as "part time for economic reasons," which includes full time workers reporting "slack work" (insufficient demand for the employer's business to support more work hours) and part time workers reporting "inability to find full time work." They comprised 4.0 percent of all persons at work.
- August 2025 Preliminary figures, [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

# Understand Today's Workforce

COE Lookup: Occupational Characteristics - Breaks down occupations by

- Gender & race/ethnicity
- Education attainment levels
- Veteran status, age, self-employment

## Lookup: Occupational Characteristics in California

2022 American Community Survey



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Use this dashboard to view data on occupational characteristics within California's workforce. Scroll down to see tables.

Occupation Group

**Table A:** % of Occupation by Sex and % of Occupation by Race/Ethnicity

Occupation

**Table B:** % of Occupation Self-Employed and % of Occupation by Educational Attainment

**Table C:** % of Occupation by Veteran Status and % of Occupation by Age

<https://coecc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>

# Understand Today's Workforce

## COE Lookup: Occupational Characteristics

- Example: In California, what does the Medical Assistants workforce look like?

Gender		Race/Ethnicity				
Female	Male	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White
90.0%	10.0%	0.4%	6.6%	0.7%	63.7%	19.4%

Education		Degree		
High School or Below	Some College, No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Above Bachelor's Degree
24.7%	49.1%	14.3%	10.6%	1.3%

Age						
< 25 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years	35 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65+ years
17.3%	23.3%	17.1%	10.6%	16.9%	12.8%	1.9%



# Assess Regional Opportunities

## Metrics

- Past, current, and future employment levels
- Wages earned (entry, median, and experienced) vs. living wage
- Staffing patterns
- Location quotient

## How It Informs Decisions

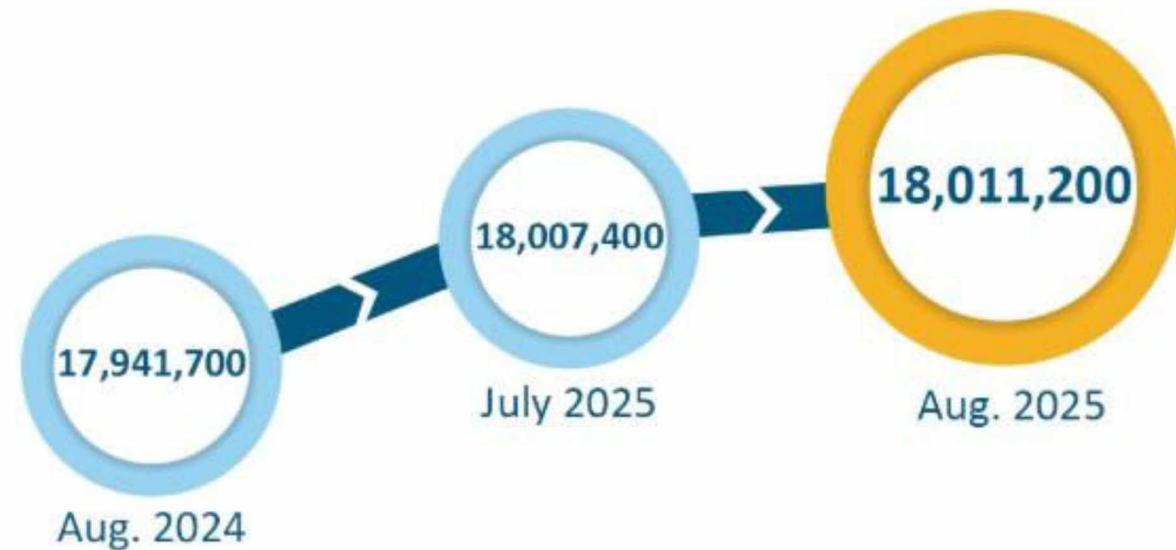
- Validates need for new or expanded programs
- Prioritizes occupations for investment
- Sets expectations for program scale and student placement
- Reveals geographic nuances in demand

# California's Labor Market

## Industry Employment (“the job market”)

- In California, there were 18,011,200 jobs in nonfarm industries in August, up 3,800 jobs from July.
  - Annually agricultural or “farm” employment accounts for an additional 400,000 jobs. This is separately counted and represents primarily contract or seasonal jobs.
- Regions posting gains in nonfarm jobs last month: Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Orange County.
- August 2025 Preliminary figures, [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

## California Payroll Jobs



# Assess Regional Opportunities

## COE Lookup: Occupational Demand

- Find career paths relevant to region and educational goal.

### Lookup: Occupational Demand

Projections of Employment, 2023-2028

This dashboard displays the projected employment demand in California by region. Narrow the data displayed by making selections to the filters.

Region: California (CA) (1) ▼

Perkins Career Cluster ▼


Occupation ▼

CCCCO Sector ▼

Skill Level ▼

Reset Filters

For occupational characteristics within California's workforce, including age, educational attainment, gender, race/ethnicity, self-employment, and veteran status, view the [Occupational Characteristics Dashboard](#).



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Table totals displayed below. Totals reflect filter selections.

# Occupations of Displayed	2023 Jobs Total
797	20,471,390
Average 2023-28 % Change	Total Annual Job Openings
5.4%	2,655,510
Median Hourly Earnings	Median Annual Earnings
\$36.87	\$76,699

Sort, Export, or Reset Table

<https://coecc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>



# Verify with Perkins Requirements

## COE Lookups: Perkins Qualifying Occupations

To qualify for Perkins, occupations must meet a minimum of two of three criteria: high-wage, in-demand, and high-skill.

- ☐ High-wage = An occupation with a median wage at or above the regional median wage across all occupations.
- ☐ In-demand = An occupation projected to add new jobs over a 5-yr period and average annual job openings at or above the regional median.
- ☒ High-skill = An occupation trained for by an existing CCCCO-approved career education program.

<https://coeccc.net/collection/perkins-qualifying-occupations-data-tools/>

# Verify with Perkins Requirements

- Look up occupations to see if they meet either the high-wage or in-demand requirement in your region.

## Perkins Qualifying Occupations

South Central Coast Region, 2025-26

Please log in to your Google Account to use this Dashboard



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Use this dashboard to view Perkins Qualifying Occupations in the South Central Coast region. To qualify for Perkins, occupations must meet a minimum of two of three criteria: high-wage, in-demand, and high-skill. Use the filters and search boxes below to identify high-wage and/or in-demand occupations.\*

Career Cluster

Skill-Level

Reset Filters

Occupation Title

Occupations Displayed

796

### High-Wage

An occupation with a median wage at or above the regional median wage across all occupations.

High Wage

### In-Demand

An occupation projected to add new jobs over a 5-yr period and average annual job openings at or above the regional median.

In-Demand

### \*High-Skill

An occupation trained for by an existing CCCCCO-approved career education program. Applicants may select any of the approved programs offered at their college.

<https://coeccc.net/collection/perkins-qualifying-occupations-data-tools/>

# Map the Training Landscape

## Metrics

- Community college (TOP) and other postsecondary awards (CIP)
- Program capacity and pipeline trends
- Supply–demand gap analysis (openings vs. awards)
- Related and feeder programs (crosswalks)

## How It Informs Decisions

- Right-sizes program portfolios to meet regional need
- Minimizes duplication vs. unmet demand
- Supports program revision or creation
- Aligns TOP/CIP to SOC codes employers need



# Crosswalk to Programs

## COE Lookup: Code Crosswalk

- Links program codes (TOP/CIP) to occupations (SOC).
- Helps ensure program design aligns with real job targets.

### Lookup: Code Crosswalk



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The Code crosswalk was created to help identify occupational targets of California Community College career technical education programs.

**Occupation  
(SOC)**



**Taxonomy of  
Program (TOP)**

**&**

**Classification of  
Instructional Program (CIP)**

<https://coeccc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>

# Crosswalk to Programs

## ► Example: Medical Assistants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupation Code and Title (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COE Skill Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical Entry-Level Education
<input type="text" value="Type to search"/>	<input type="text" value="medical"/>	<input type="text" value="Type to search"/>	<input type="text" value="Type to search"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 31-9092 - <b>Medical</b> Assistants <input type="checkbox"/> 29-2036 - <b>Medical</b> Dosimetrists <input type="checkbox"/> 31-9094 - <b>Medical</b> Transcriptionists <input type="checkbox"/> 29-2072 - <b>Medical</b> Records Specialists <input type="checkbox"/> 31-9093 - <b>Medical</b> Equipment Preparers <input type="checkbox"/> 49-9062 - <b>Medical</b> Equipment Repairers</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Middle-Skill</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Postsecondary nondegree award</div>
<div>Reset Filters</div>			

### Crosswalked TOP Matches

TOP Code and Title ^
1208.00 - Medical Assisting
1208.10 - Clinical Medical Assisting
1208.30 - Health Facility Unit Coordinator

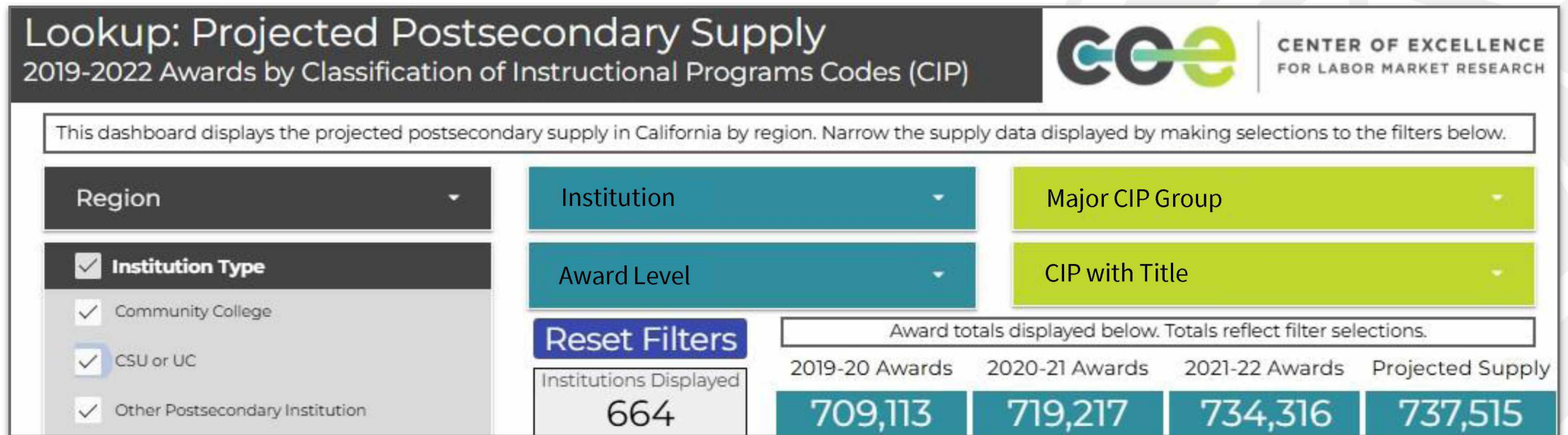
### Crosswalked CIP Matches

CIP Code and Title ^
51.0711 - Medical/Health Management and Clinical Assistant/Specialist
51.0801 - Medical/Clinical Assistant

# Assess Existing Programs

## COE Lookup: Projected Postsecondary Supply

- Learn what programs are in your region. Assess how many students are completing and entering the workforce.



<https://coeccc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>



# Getting Started

- Visit COE website for reports, tools, and training opportunities ([www.coeccc.net](http://www.coeccc.net))
- Contact your Regional COE for custom requests and presentations
- Set up a MyCOE account and sign up for newsletters to stay informed
- Integrate LMI into program review, grant development, and equity planning

