

A background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference setting. A large dark blue rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the main title and subtitle. The right side of the image shows a person's hands holding a blue pen over an open notebook, with other people blurred in the background.

Regional Collaboration & Coordination Grant Bidders' Conference

Overview of funding opportunity and application details

OCTOBER 28, 2025



California Community Colleges

A11Y 11/6/25

Topics for today

- 1 **Logistics and housekeeping items**
- 2 **Overview of funding opportunity** – Regional Collaboration & Coordination (RC&C) Grant
- 3 Walkthrough of RC&C Grant **application requirements and submission**
- 4 **Next steps**

Chancellor's Office
presenters for today's
session...

Chèri Fortin, Dean,
Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD)

Javier Cazares, SWP and K12 SWP Programs Lead, WEDD

Katie Gilks, EWD Program Lead, WEDD

Lupe Maldonado, Perkins V Title 1B Lead, WEDD

Important logistics and housekeeping items

- 1 **This webinar is being recorded and will be made available** on the [WEDD RFA website](#)
- 2 **NOVA application will be available Monday, November 3rd** for the Regional Collaboration & Coordination (RC&C) Grant
- 3 **Questions and answers will be addressed** at the end of this webinar. Additional questions and answers will be compiled and posted on the RFA FAQ page
 - Please submit additional questions to RegionalCoordination@CCCCO.edu by November 5th for inclusion on the online FAQ



Introduction of funding opportunity

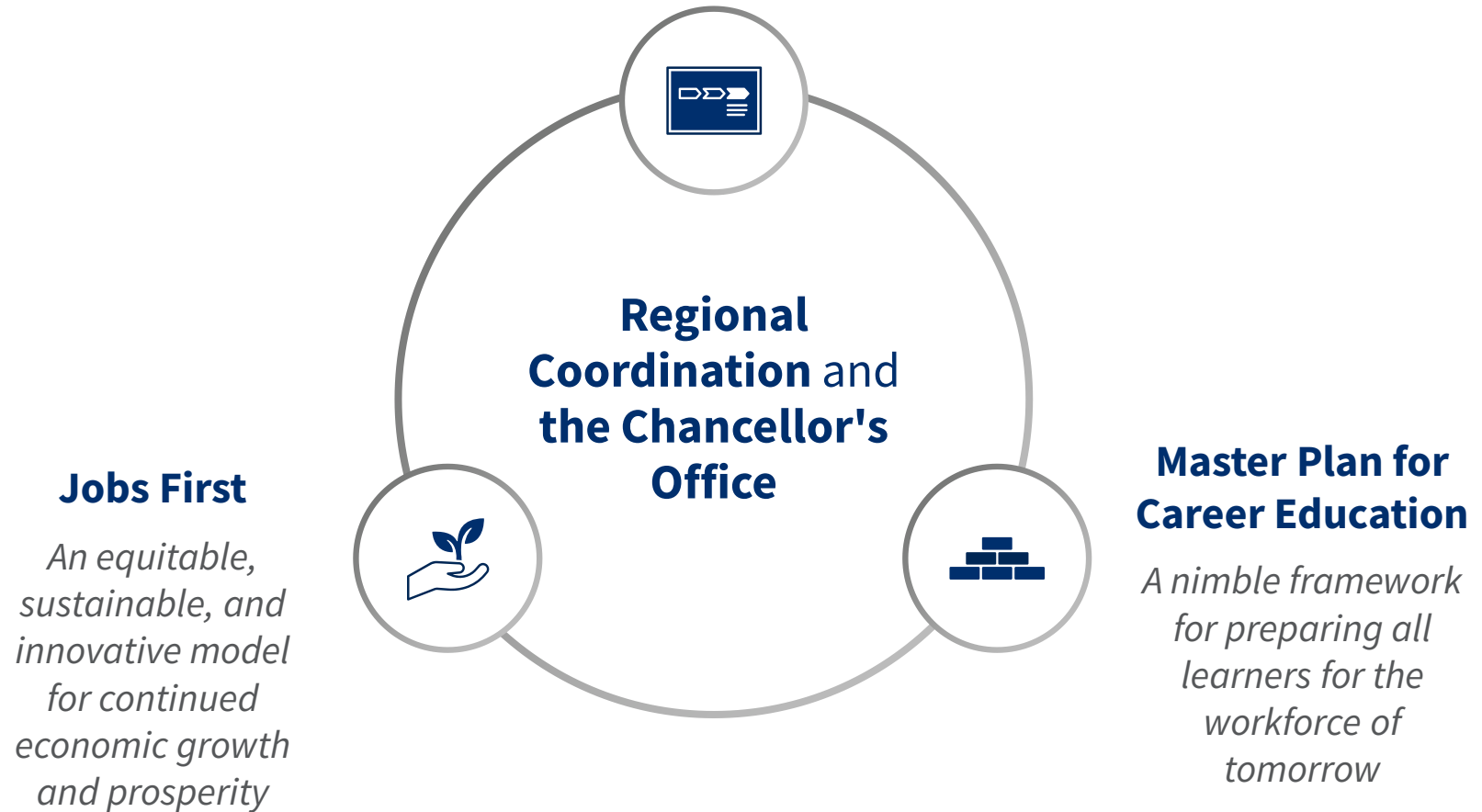
– Regional Collaboration & Coordination (RC&C) Grant

Statewide Strategy |

California is poised to unlock transformative progress in education and workforce development

Vision 2030

A living vision and roadmap for advancing equity in access, success, and supports for students, including equitable workforce outcomes



The Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant strengthens alignment of Regional Consortia with statewide priorities, positioning them as key strategy drivers

Grant Context | The Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant marks an important opportunity to elevate the work of Regional Consortia

Regional Consortia were initially tasked with **reviewing and approving new CTE programs**, in collaboration with college leaders, to keep proposals aligned with labor market needs.

With the launch of the Strong Workforce Program and additional funding through Economic and Workforce Development and Perkins, the Regional Consortia assumed **fiscal agent responsibilities**, building capacity to **support regional career technical education (CTE) strategy and employer engagement**.

Over time, the Regional Consortia evolved into **broader system intermediaries**, now **fostering collaboration across colleges and external partners, scaling employer engagement, and aligning dual enrollment and career pathways** while supporting statewide priorities (e.g., Vision 2030).

The Regional Collaboration & Coordination Grant provides an opportunity **to formalize and strengthen this evolution**, better aligning the Regional Consortia with statewide efforts. The grant will support the **Regional Consortia as strategic regional leaders** – responsive to local needs while helping achieve California's education and workforce goals.



Overview | Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant

Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant is designed to strengthen the role of the Regional Consortia in **advancing career education and workforce development**. It comprises **four funding streams**:



Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share



Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) – Employer Engagement



Perkins V: Title 1-Part B State Leadership Fund



K-12 Strong Workforce Program (K-12 SWP)

(direct pass-through to K-12 LEAs, with 1% retained for Regional Consortia admin costs)



Funding period: Funding is for a **three-year period** with the option for renewal for **two additional years** based on performance



Grant vision | Empower the Regional Consortia as leaders and intermediaries across education and workforce systems



Serve as lead voice & represent community colleges on CTE, workforce development, and associated system-wide priorities in regional convenings and conversations with the Chancellor's Office



Partner with college / district leaders to build unity around regional goals and Vision 2030, equitably deploying supports and resources for collective success



Coordinate funding streams within and across systems (e.g., Strong Workforce, K-16, WIOA) to bolster collaborative efforts



Institutionalize workforce / employer partnerships to facilitate collaboration with system partners and streamline the entry points for employers into the Community College system



Track and measure success, monitoring regional CTE and workforce development outputs & outcomes, using clear and consistent metrics



One size does not fit all – the grant is designed to support regional differences, enabling each region to tailor implementation based on its strengths and dynamics while contributing to a shared statewide strategy



Clarified roles for the Regional Consortia help translate the vision into action

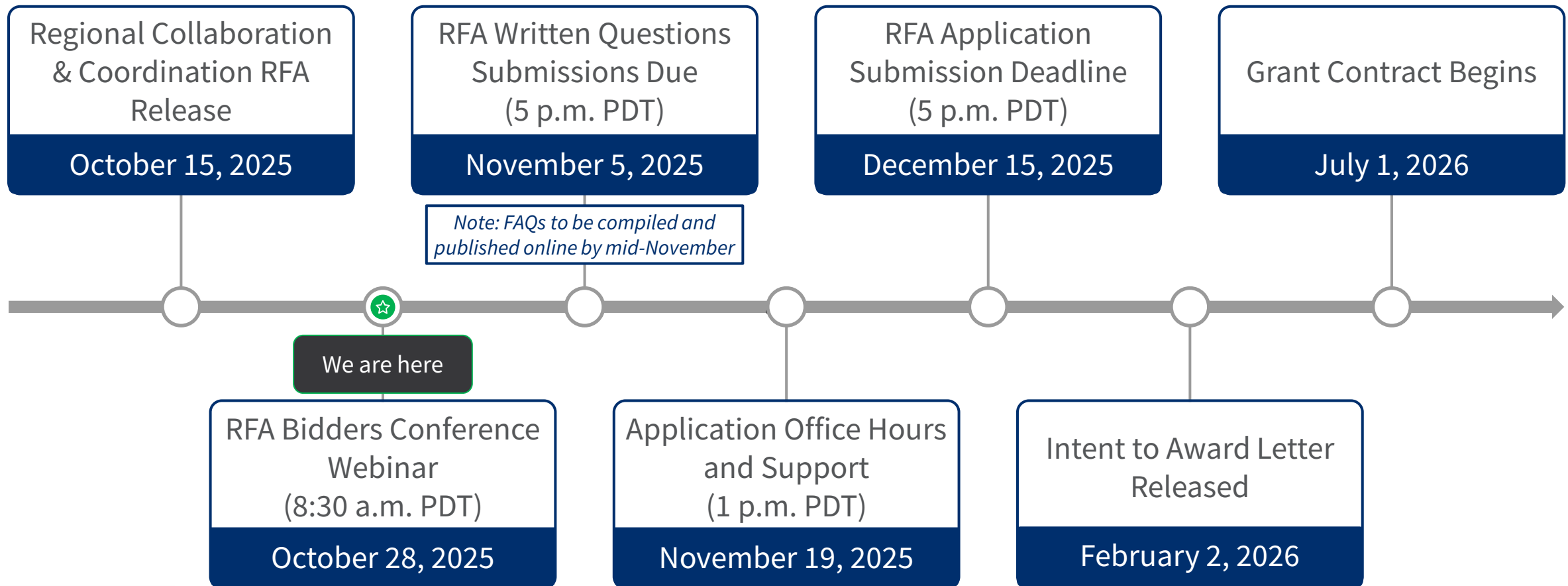
Non-exhaustive

Vision component	Key role
 1. Serve as a lead voice & represent community colleges	• Lead workforce strategy, support regional CTE and K-16 workforce development, and convene colleges across system-wide priorities (in partnership with other influential regional players)
 2. Partner with college/district leaders to build unity	• Form regional governance structures, such as voting and advisory councils, for collective decision-making around fund usage; Lead and support workgroups of diverse stakeholders for key focus areas
 3. Coordinate funding streams across grants	• Ensure regional investments for each funding stream are aligned to the Regional Consortia's core outputs; Coordinate resources across/between funds to amplify impact towards these outputs
 4. Institutionalize workforce/ employer partnerships	• Coordinate employer engagement across stakeholders (e.g., WDBs, EDOs); Support employers with developing regional partnerships and programs (e.g., apprenticeships, curriculum advisory committees)
 5. Track success, monitoring regional outputs & outcomes	• Establish annual workplans and routinely report progress against desired metrics (e.g., annually report the Strong Workforce Program CTE metrics)

Walkthrough RC&C Grant Application Requirements and Submission

Key dates | Milestones for RFA submission, notification, and award

Non-exhaustive



Eligibility criteria | Applicants must meet three criteria to apply for the Regional Collaboration and Coordination (RC&C) Grant

1

The **applicant is a California community district / college**, within the boundaries of the region for which the applicant is applying

2

The **district/college has the operational and physical capacity** to manage and implement the project and achieve the performance objectives of the grant, as evidenced by previous experience with similar projects

3

The **district/college has experience and ability to serve as a fiscal agent** for other entities and administer the contractual and financial requirements of the grant

Application | Grant application divided into 8 sections

Details and Assurances (*e.g., workplan attestations*)

Contacts (*e.g., key applicant contacts*)

Supporting Documents

Relevant Qualifications and Capacity

Problem Statement

Qualitative Response to Problem Statement

Detailed Workplan: Objectives, Activities, & Outcomes

Budget, Budget Forecast, and Fiscal Management

A Deep-dive to follow

B Deep-dive to follow

C Deep-dive to follow



Application requirements | Supporting Documents and Relevant Qualifications and Capacity



Supporting Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents along with their application:



Combined PDF of support letters



Proposed Regional Team Organization Chart



Latest Strong Workforce 4-Year Regional Plan for Applicant's Region



Relevant Qualifications and Capacity

Applicants must provide a description / justification (1,500 words max) **of why they are best suited** to serve as Host District / College, including:

- 1 Previously demonstrated **experience related to collaboration roles**
- 2 Demonstrated **understanding and capability of meeting strategic vision** outlined by the Chancellor's Office and WEDD
- 3 Demonstrated ability to **set and achieve**, and lead colleges to set and achieve, **key outputs of the Grant**
- 4 Demonstrated **financial capability to act as fiscal agent**, administer complex contracts, and meet financial requirements
- 5 Demonstrated **operational capability** to administer the grant (e.g., physical space, administrative capacity)
- 6 Brief **case study on a new and innovate program established by the Applicant**, including objectives, goals, key stakeholders, results, and other relevant information
- 7 **Support letters from all colleges in Applicant's region** signed by the CEOs and CIOs

Application Requirements | Problem Statement and Qualitative Response



Problem Statement

Statement (500 words max) describing the needs that regional collaboration and coordination efforts aim to address



Description of regional needs or equity gaps, supported by labor market information, in areas **where Regional Consortia will lead or support**, (e.g., CTE programming, broader K-16 strategy)

At least three key outputs defined in the RFA that should be prioritized in your region (e.g., # of work-based learning participants)



Qualitative Response to Problem Statement

Description (2,000 words max) of how regional collaboration and coordination efforts will address the problem statement and methodology for fulfilling roles and responsibilities



Section 1: Structure

Description of proposed regional governance and operational structures (e.g., who is involved, decision making processes)) and **methodology for distributing funds**



Section 2: Approach

Description of **how Regional Consortia will achieve the Grant's vision** and advance Vision 2030, **revisit existing SWP 4-Year Plans**, and **set three-year goals around the key outputs** identified in the problem statement



Section 3: Partnerships and Resource Utilization

Description of **how Regional Consortia plan to partner**, engage, or deepen relationships **across education** (e.g., K-14 TAPs, CSUs / UCs) **and workforce** (e.g., employers, WDBs)

Application requirements | Workplan and Budget



Detailed Workplan

Applicants will complete one NOVA workplan for the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant



- Workplans should **translate responses to the Problem Statement into detailed activities**, demonstrating how applicants will meet the responsibilities of each Regional Consortia role
- **For each of the five roles** of the Regional Consortia (e.g., employer engagement), applicants will specify:
 - Description of Activities
 - Outputs and Milestones (e.g., # of students in apprenticeship program)
 - Relevant Outcome(s) (e.g., % of students employed)
 - Responsible Persons



Budget, Budget Forecast, and Fiscal Management

Applicants will complete budgets and forecasts for EWD Employer Engagement and Perkins V: Title 1-B funds



- Budget items entered into NOVA will be **specific to EWD and Perkins V funds allocated for use by the Regional Consortia**
- Budgets must be **prepared using object codes** 1000-7000 in NOVA (*note: indirect costs are a separate object code*)
 - ! **Fiscal management: Applicants must describe the reasoning for each budget item**, demonstrating how planned investments align with strategy and outcomes
- Budget forecasts must show the **planned quarterly expenditure of funds**

Note – Budgets not required for Regional Share Strong Workforce Program (SWP) and K-12 SWP¹. Regional Share SWP funds are awarded on a project-by-project basis, with individual colleges / districts manage reporting

[NOVA demonstration video available](#)



Scoring | Applications scored on a 100-point scale; **minimum average score of 75 required** to be considered for funding

Application section	Maximum points
Details and Assurances	<i>Not scored</i>
Contacts	<i>Not scored</i>
Supporting Documents	<i>Not scored</i>
Relevant Qualifications and Capacity	15 pts.
Problem Statement	10 pts.
Qualitative Response to Problem Statement	35 pts.
Detailed Workplan: Objectives, Activities, & Outcomes	25 pts.
Budget, Budget Forecast, and Fiscal Management	15 pts.
Total	100 pts.

To receive the highest possible score and prevent disqualification ...

- 1 Application instructions in NOVA must be followed
- 2 All questions must be answered
- 3 All requested information must be supplied

NOVA Demonstration – Application submission

Applicants may view the application process using [this link](#) to our YouTube-Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant Application, NOVA Application Walk Through.



Applications must be submitted by December 15th; **late or incomplete applications will not be considered**

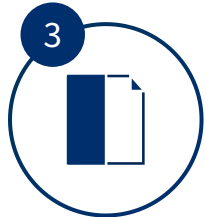
The WEDD Selection Committees may reject applications prior to scoring if:



The application is not received and certified via submission through the NOVA reporting system **by 5:00 pm PDT on Monday, December 15, 2025**. NOVA will not accept applications after the deadline



The budget exceeds the maximum amount allowed as specified in the Application instructions



The application does not meet the match requirement funding levels and / or indicates that the match comes from non-allowable sources



The application is incomplete and/or **missing any required documents**

Live Q&A

FAQs | Sample of Frequently Asked Questions for RC&C Grant (I/II)

Question	Answer
What are the match requirements for this grant?	»» Programs and activities that utilize EWD funds require a match of 100% by the awarded district/college. Examples of acceptable matches include federal grants (e.g., Perkins V: Title 1-B), other state grants (e.g., Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share), and equipment donations. Consult the RFA document for a longer list of acceptable matches
What is the maximum indirect cost allowed for this grant?	»» Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement: Indirect administrative overhead costs should not exceed 4% of the total grant amount. Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share: The host college / district will have fund oversight, which includes 5% for admin and fiscal fees K-12 Strong Workforce Program: Regional Consortia receive 1% of their region's total allocation for administrative costs. These funds must be used to support the Regional Consortia's role as a fiscal agent and regional coordinator.
By applying for the RC&C Grant (which includes EWD funds), am I also applying for Regional Centers of Excellence and Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) funds?	»» Funding for Regional Centers of Excellence and Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) is not included in this RFA.

FAQs | Sample of Frequently Asked Questions for RC&C Grant (II/II)

Question	Answer
Since there are four funding streams included in this application, will applicants need to create four separate workplans and budgets?	»» Workplans: Applicants will create one workplan in NOVA for the RC&C Grant that incorporates the four funding streams. Workplans should translate proposed strategies into detailed activities, demonstrating how applicants will meet the responsibilities of each Regional Consortia role. Budgets: Budgets and budget forecasts should be created for Perkins V: Title 1-B and Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement expenditures.
Is the host expected to track and report a separate set of metrics for each of the four funding streams, or will one common set of metrics suffice across all?	»» The host college / district will report on a common set of metrics that assess progress across the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Consortia. Strong Workforce Program metrics require no separate reporting from the host college / district as these metrics are reported in MIS. The Chancellor's Office recognizes the importance of regional autonomy in achieving target outputs and outcomes. Regions are expected and encouraged to develop strategies and implementation plans that align with their unique contexts.

Closing and Next Steps

Thank you for your
attendance today!

A few reminders as we conclude...

- 1 **A recording of this presentation will be made available** on the [WEDD RFA website](#).
- 2 **FAQs will be posted** on the RFA FAQ page in mid-November
 - Please submit additional questions to RegionalCoordination@CCCCO.edu by November 5th
- 3 The grant program team will host **office hours for application questions and support on November 19th at 1 p.m. PDT**



Appendix – Grant Funding Allocation by Region

Regional allocations | Projected annual allocation of RC&C funds across regions (I/II)

	Bay Area	Central Valley/Mother Lode	Inland Empire / Desert	Los Angeles
Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share	\$16,339,934	\$11,744,810	\$9,215,839	\$15,380,284
<i>Base Allocations</i>	\$13,684,257	\$9,877,621	\$7,850,293	\$12,291,481
<i>17% Incentive</i>	\$2,655,677	\$1,867,189	\$1,365,546	\$3,088,803
EWD Employer Engagement	\$2,316,426	\$1,450,936	\$1,263,136	\$1,677,004
Perkins V: Title 1-B	\$451,954	\$331,278	\$267,585	\$461,574
K-12 Strong Workforce	\$31,191,153	\$23,508,291	\$21,890,071	\$26,194,563
<i>K-12 Allocations</i>	\$28,288,270	\$21,929,001	\$20,188,189	\$24,172,834
<i>TAPs and PCs</i>	\$2,620,000	\$1,360,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,780,000
<i>1% Admin Fee</i>	\$282,883	\$219,290	\$201,882	\$241,728
Total				

Regional allocations | Projected annual allocation of RC&C funds across regions (II/II)

	North / Far North	Orange County	San Diego / Imperial	South Central Coast
Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share	\$12,380,468	\$7,700,110	\$8,229,553	\$6,561,002
<i>Base Allocations</i>	\$10,720,759	\$6,168,887	\$6,886,847	\$5,479,855
<i>17% Incentive</i>	\$1,659,709	\$1,531,223	\$1,342,706	\$1,081,147
EWD Employer Engagement	\$2,054,027	\$1,070,659	\$1,127,954	\$1,039,858
Perkins V: Title 1-B	\$345,527	\$239,658	\$247,452	\$224,973
K-12 Strong Workforce	\$22,503,478	\$12,199,920	\$15,068,350	\$10,944,174
<i>K-12 Allocations</i>	\$20,518,295	\$11,287,050	\$13,849,851	\$9,766,509
<i>TAPs and PCs</i>	\$1,780,000	\$800,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000
<i>1% Admin Fee</i>	\$205,183	\$112,870	\$138,499	\$97,665
Total				

Appendix – Background, Eligible Uses, and Reporting Requirements for Core Funding Streams

Strong Workforce Program (SWP) | Increase availability and quality of CTE programs



Grant background

Regional Consortia are designated planners and implementers of the **SWP Regional Share**¹, tasked with coordinating the use of these funds to address regional workforce needs. **Each Consortium is responsible for overseeing a transparent and annual application process** through which colleges and districts may request SWP Regional Share funding



Eligible uses of funds (*non-exhaustive*)

Regional Share funds may be expended to support activities that fulfill the statutory goals of the SWP as outlined in Education Code sections 88820–88826.

The outlined purpose is to “**fund regionally prioritized projects and programs that meet the needs of local and regional economies**, including development of short-term workforce training programs focused on California’s economic recovery from COVID-19 beginning in 2020, as identified in regional plans and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) regional plans.”



Additional details can be found in the SWP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) posted on the [Chancellor’s Office website](#)



Reporting Requirements

Each year, Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funds are disbursed with required reporting on a semiannual basis. The recipient of this RFA will assume responsibility for administering SWP funds beginning with the 2026-27 cycle.

SWP spending plans for 2026-27 must be submitted and certified in NOVA by no later than 5 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2026. Districts and regions will have 24 months to expend 2026-27 allocation funding and are **expected to report their expenditures for the 2026-27 allocation on a semiannual basis.**

SWP performance metrics are generated from statewide data systems (e.g., DataVista, MIS)



Note: Reporting for SWP occurs on a project-by-project basis (i.e., individual colleges must report) and is **completed in NOVA**



EWD Employer Engagement | Expand workforce training through stronger employer partnerships



Grant background

Regional Consortia are designated facilitators of EWD employer engagement efforts, tasked with coordinating activities that connect colleges with employers, industry associations, and workforce partners to support sector strategies and regional workforce priorities



Eligible uses of funds (non-exhaustive)

EWD Employer Engagement funds may be expended only to support activities that fulfill the statutory mission and guiding principles of the Economic and Workforce Development Program as outlined in Education Code sections 88600–88651. Statutory goals include:

- 1 Advancing California's economic growth and competitiveness
- 2 Supporting labor market-aligned training
- 3 Promoting sector strategies and regional coordination
- 4 Using data for decision-making and accountability

Acceptable uses of funds include (non-exhaustive)

- 1 **Activities that directly respond to the needs of employers, workers, and students**, including convening employer advisory groups and assessing regional workforce gaps
- 2 **Regional collaboration and alignment** with workforce and education partners to foster well-articulated career pathways and sector strategies



Additional eligible uses can be found in the RFA document

Reporting Requirements

Programs and activities that utilize EWD funds require a match of 100% by the awarded district/college. Examples of match include:

- District commitment such as supervision, rent, utilities, etc.
- Federal grants (e.g., Perkins)
- Other state grants (e.g., Strong Workforce Program)
- Equipment donations
- Professional time donated to the project by individuals (outside of colleges)
- Donations of office space or meeting locations (at market rental value)
- In-kind services by outside organizations (e.g. mailings, advertisements in existing flyers, labor hours paid for during training)

The **initial budget and forecast** in the application and **bi-annual fiscal reporting** for EWD Employer Engagement **will be completed in NOVA**



Additional examples of acceptable matches can be found in the RFA document



Perkins V: Title 1-B | Strengthen CTE by building leadership and coordination capacity



Grant background

Perkins V provides federal funds to strengthen CTE programs, with up to 10% available for state leadership activities such as launching employer advisory councils, expanding work-based learning in priority sectors, and improving pathway alignment across high schools and colleges



Eligible uses of funds (non-exhaustive)

- 1 Develop and align career pathways** by establishing clearer, non-duplicative roadmaps for students from high school through postsecondary education and workforce training, allowing them to explore interests and actualize their dreams
- 2 Strengthen regional and State coordination by fostering stronger collaboration and service delivery** between educators, workforce training providers, employers, and community members at state and regional levels
- 3 Invest in teacher and faculty development** by ensuring a highly qualified and diverse teacher workforce in CTE and other strategic sectors, improving educators' ability to provide inclusive instruction and stay current with industry demands
- 4 Leverage data and foster innovation by promoting data-informed decision-making** to align programs with labor market needs and address performance gaps
- 5 Drive continuous improvement and modernization of CTE programs**, adapting to changes such as artificial intelligence



Additional eligible uses can be found in the RFA document



Reporting Requirements

Budget and budget forecasts for Perkins V will be completed in NOVA

Additionally, Regional Consortia Chairs should utilize data, dashboards, and reporting tools to **provide evidence that the region is “moving the needle” towards student success**, not limited to the following:

- Quarterly and Annual narratives reporting **within the NOVA system**
- Quarterly and Annual fiscal reporting **within the NOVA system**
- Report progress on closing gaps identified in Consolidated Local Needs Assessment (CNLA)
- Report progress on Vision 2030 in regional benchmarks



Note: Match requirement has been removed from Perkins V: Title 1-B in this 2025 Regional Collaboration and Coordination RFA



K-12 Strong Workforce Program | Advance CTE programs and pathways through partnerships with K-12 stakeholders



Grant background

The **K-12 SWP supports local education agencies (LEAs) in developing and expanding career technical education (CTE) courses, programs, and pathways.** Administered by the Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education through Regional Consortia as fiscal agents, the **program funds LEAs via competitive sub-grants**



Eligible uses of funds (*non-exhaustive*)

Regional Consortia receive 1% of their region's total K-12 SWP allocation for administrative costs. These funds must be used solely to support the Regional Consortia's role as a fiscal agent and regional coordinator, including:

- 1 Managing sub-grant distribution, compliance, and fiscal reporting
- 2 Supporting the K-12 Selection Committee process
- 3 Overseeing grantee reporting through NOVA and Cal-PASS Plus
- 4 Coordinating with K-14 TAPs and K-12 PCs to align regional strategy and data
- 5 Hosting convenings and communication efforts related to program oversight

*Note: All expenditure must be necessary, reasonable, and directly tied to program administration. **Use of funds for implementation or instruction is not permitted***



Reporting Requirements

K-12 SWP funds require semiannual reports, annual course data, and a final expenditure report with narrative responses. **These reporting requirements apply only to LEAs using the funds, not Regional Consortia.**

Reports will be submitted through two data systems:

- Semiannual expenditure reports and the final expenditure / narrative report are **reported in NOVA**
- Annual course data reports are **reported in Cal-PASS**

Regional Consortia do not directly report metrics outlined by K-12 SWP but do ensure grantees report outcomes aligned with legislative intent. These outcomes include:

- Completed 2+ CTE courses in high school in the same program of study
- Median annual earnings of students after exiting CA Community College



Full list of K-12 SWP outcomes can be found in the RFA document

