



# California Community Colleges

## Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives (IDRC) Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any questions not covered by this document, please email [EWD@CCCCO.edu](mailto:EWD@CCCCO.edu).

**1. Are single colleges allowed to submit more than one request/letter of interest (LOI) for different projects or are we limited to one per district?**

Community college districts are allowed to submit a maximum of three (3) letters of interest/project proposals.

**2. Is funding annual, and is the LOI submission date generally in the month of July?**

Please note that funding is not annual. Below are the key dates for this cycle:

- LOI Release: June 13, 2025
- Webinar: June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.
- LOI Deadline: July 11, 2025
- Awards Announced: July 21, 2025
- Appeals Deadline: Aug. 1, 2025
- Grant Start Date: Sept. 17, 2025

**3. Is funding then dependent on bonds or legislation being passed?**

The funding does not depend on bonds or legislation being passed. The funds used for the IDRC grants will not depend on new FY 2025-26 dollars, we will be using older fiscal year funds.

**4. Is there information on how to access the webinar being held on June 25th?**

Here is a link to register for the webinar:

[https://cccco.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_I1psOZZBTzue5VmYpGJKzA](https://cccco.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I1psOZZBTzue5VmYpGJKzA)

**5. Could a single institution be awarded all three LOI or would you just pick one for each institution?**

Yes, as an institution in a single college district, you may submit up to three letters of interest and could be awarded all three if each application successfully meets the criteria to qualify for an award.

**6. Is other state funding (e.g. Transformative Climate Communities funding) allowable as match?**

Yes, other state funding sources such as Transformative Climate communities funding may be allowable as match to meet the IDRC match requirements. The only restriction for using other state funds is that they cannot be used as match for any existing EWD funded grants, such as Employer Engagement. Eligibility and acceptability of the match depend on the specifics of the use of the funds.

For example, the funding should be:

- Unrestricted or allowed for use – meaning it is not restricted solely for other purposes incompatible with the match requirements.
- Allowable expenditures – the costs or funds must meet the allowable expenditure criteria specified by the grant, including reasonableness and allocability.

**7. Does the IDRC require an overall match (cash or in-kind) for the requested budget or does the match need to be sufficient for each itemized budget classification? In the example below, the overall match is more than the budget request but in some of the object classifications, the match does not equal to the budget request (Object code 1000s, 2000s, and 3000s). Please advise.**

The match is for the overall budget, not for each itemized budget.

**8. Is there a page count limit for the LOI template?**

No

**9. Can we include appendices for documents like resumes, letters of support from industry partners, etc.?**

Yes

**10. The FAQ deadline is the day before the submission deadline. Will we still be able to send inquiries and get a response that close to the deadline?**

Yes, we will respond direct through the [EWD@CCCCO.edu](mailto:EWD@CCCCO.edu) mailbox.

**11. Mt. San Antonio College and our partners attended the IDRC LOI Training Webinar on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, how can we access the recording of the training?**

The webinar recording is available to watch [here](#). Unfortunately, we have had some technical difficulties with posting the webinar recording. We are hoping to have the link

posted on Monday July 7, 2025, as well as the FAQs.

**12. Can discounted equipment be used for matching funds? Example: if an instructional trainer costs the college \$20,000.00 and the equipment manufacturer sells the equipment to us for \$10,000.00, can the savings be used for matching funds?**

Yes, that would be an acceptable form of match.

**13. Have you extended the deadline for the LOI?**

No.

**14. I think some additional clarification is needed on this allowable cost:**

***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.***

**This sounds like using funds to pay for subsidized internships is allowable, by definition of the word "subsidized." Sounds like we can reimburse employers for some of the wages they pay interns.**

"Subsidized internships and performance-improvement training activities" is referring to two types of eligible expenses or contributions that can count toward a grant match:

1. Subsidized internships – These are internships where part or all the intern's pay is covered (or "subsidized") by an organization, such as a school, business, or government program, instead of being fully paid by the employer.

This match is typically tied to the Responsive Training Fund grants, but if colleges can demonstrate the use of IDRC to offset the costs, we can allow as a match.

The purpose of the Responsive Training Fund for Incumbent Workers is to enable colleges to provide short-term, intensive training for incumbent workers in identified Strategic Priority Areas as well as other local impact sectors. Training may be offered to managers/administrators, as well as rank and file. Colleges must follow up with the employer served 30 days after training is completed to determine whether the agreed-upon performance indicators were achieved. Funds are not intended to be used in soft skills training subjects such as team building. Training can be offered in college classrooms or on the job site. Instructors will typically be community college employees or subcontractor/trainer of the college or district. If the training is highly technical, the instructor may be from the company; in those cases, a college instructor/trainer may participate in train-the-trainer opportunities to train for the company in the future.

The employer is required to provide 50% of the per-unit cost of training (cash or in-kind).

Matching funds may be waived if paid by the employer.

2. Performance-improvement training activities – These are training programs designed to help students, employees, or participants improve their skills and job performance.

In simple terms:

You can count the money or resources spent on paying interns (if it is subsidized) and on training people to do their jobs better as part of your required contribution toward the grant.

**15. For the required matching funds, can only those funds coming directly to the institution be used as matching funds for this, or can we also use funds that are going to partners for this project as matching funds? For example, if we have other grant support for this project that we would be trying to expand, from which \$60K go to the institution and \$40K go to a partner (industry or non-profit), but all \$100K are used towards the same project; would we be able to list only the \$60K going to the institution as matching funds for the LOI, or could we also be able to list the \$40K going to an external partner (for work on the same project) as matching funds for this application?**

For the required matching funds, only the funds that are directly allocated to and received by your institution can be used as matching funds for the IDRC grant. Funds going to external partners are typically not considered eligible.

In your specific example, since \$60,000 is allocated directly to your institution, that amount can be listed as match.

**16. Would you be able to share the slides with us later?**

Yes, we will share slides after the webinar!

**17. Can Strong Workforce funds be used as a match?**

Yes. Perkins and Strong Workforce may be used as match funds.

**18. What sources are allowable as match? Is state funding okay? Other CCCCCO grants? Or does it need to be industry-sourced?**

Perkins, Strong Workforce (SWP) and other Chancellor's Office grants may be used as match funds. Please note EWD funds (such as Employer Engagement grants) may not be used as a match.

**19. Are there word limits to each section?**

No, there is not a word limit.

**20. Is it a 1:1 required match?**

Yes, 1:1 match is required for the IDRC grants

**21. Are separate Match Fund forms required from each supporting entity? Or is one Match Fund form supposed to reflect all partner contributions?**

One Match Fund form from each supporting entity is required because the form will require their signature. You can list all supporting match on the Match form – Once the IDRC have been awarded, EWD program staff will follow up with additional guidance and instructions for submitting plans, budgets, and required/certified match in NOVA.

**22. Does the match have to be in the same program as the proposed program? Or can it be the total of our SWP and Perkins allocations?**

No, not necessarily. Match can be used from SWP or Perkins and does not have to be from the same program area. For example, if your program receives lab space match from Perkins program, you may use the lab space for other initiatives/projects for your IDRC project.

**23. Is this grant only for CTE programs as identified by their Vocational Taxonomy of Program (TOP) code?**

No, you are not restricted to identifying only CTE programs. IDRC grants offer short term, demand driven funding to support training initiatives that directly address industry needs. These grants should focus on new or innovative projects that are not currently being offered. These grants provide flexibility for colleges to assess and define their specific project needs within the context of statewide and regional needs. Additionally, these grants serve as pilot programs to inform the state's future direction, helping colleges develop training in emerging areas that will require technical workers over the next 5-10 years.

**24. Can the IDRC funds be used for direct student support for items like reimbursement of expenses related to workplace training like childcare, equipment, fees, transportation, professional attire.**

Unfortunately, IDRC funds cannot be used for direct student support or reimbursement for their expenses.

**25. On the limit to 3 applications is that by district or by college? Our district has 9 colleges.**

Proposals are limited to 3 per district.

**26. If we have two related concepts, would it be possible to submit a single application, or would it be better to submit two separate ones?**

If the two related concepts – welding and construction management – are closely connected and can be integrated into a single, cohesive project that aligns with the objectives of the IDRC, we advise to submit one comprehensive application. In the need section demonstrate the potential for a broader impact and show how the two areas complement each other.