Regional Collaboration and Coordination (RC&C) Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What funding streams are included in the RC&C Grant?

The Chancellor's Office has included four funding streams in this grant—Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Share, Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement, Perkins V: Title 1-B, and K-12 Strong Workforce Program (K-12 SWP).

Regional Consortia will be responsible for utilizing or distributing these funds to strengthen regional collaboration and coordination while also advancing the priorities of the community college system.

These four individual funding streams will continue to abide by their respective fiscal reporting requirements and timelines.

2. In representation of all statewide funding streams, how are K-16 Collaborations included the regional consortia for this funding?

While the K-16 Collaborative Programs are not explicitly represented in the alignment graphic, they absolutely play an important role in the broader ecosystem. There is strong synergy between K-12 Pathway Coordinators and the K-16 Collaboratives, particularly in areas like dual enrollment, career pathways, and regional alignment. The collaboratives help bridge education and workforce systems across K-12, community colleges, and universities, which complement the work of Regional Consortia. In practice, we see K-16 efforts as reinforcing regional strategies, creating seamless transitions for learners, and supporting some of the same goals of equity, access, and workforce readiness that the RC&C Grant is designed to advance.

3. The RFA includes language regarding the management of K12 SWP funding that seems to indicate that the Consortia should provide tools to community colleges and districts who are then responsible for providing technical assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) for meeting reporting requirements and managing funding. However, the colleges may not have the infrastructure to provide the level of support needed by K12 LEAs to implement funding. Can you please clarify the roles of the fiscal agent, key talent, and the community colleges/districts in

providing technical assistance to K12 LEAs in reporting and managing their awarded funds?

Primary responsibility for technical assistance lies with the Regional Consortia and key talent roles (K–14 Technical Assistance Providers and K–12 Pathway Coordinators), not individual colleges.

The Regional Consortia will provide centralized tools, templates, and training (e.g., step by step guides, NOVA/Cal-PASS Plus reporting clinics, technical assistance workshops, and office hours) to reduce the burden on colleges.

Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) and Pathway Coordinators (PCs) are funded specifically to deliver hands-on support to LEAs, ensuring that local implementation needs are met without overextending college resources.

Colleges play a supportive role in alignment and guidance, while the infrastructure for technical assistance and compliance is coordinated regionally through the Consortia and key talent positions.

4. **Is the previously provided SWP Regional Admin 5% funding breakdown continuing for the Regional Consortia (e.g. 2% Fiscal Agent [$200K cap], 3% Consortia) with 95% being allocated to colleges?**

   Yes, the SWP Regional Admin 5% funding breakdown remains the same.

5. **Should proposals submitted by colleges for SWP Regional funding as part of the regional call for proposals include multiple colleges in each proposal to ensure that the projects maintain a regional scope?**

   Proposals submitted by colleges for SWP Regional funding do not have to include multiple colleges, but they must demonstrate regional impact and alignment with regional priorities.

   Including multiple colleges in a proposal is encouraged when it strengthens regional impact, but it is not a requirement. The critical factor is that the project advances regional priorities and benefits more than just one institution.

6. **What is the performance period for this grant?**

   The performance period for this grant is three years, with an optional 2-year contract extension based on the performance of the host college/district against established metrics.

7. **How will the Chancellor's Office support Regional Consortia teams to implement the vision of the RC&C Grant?**

The Chancellor's Office is committed to serving as a strategic thought partner to the Regional Consortia – ensuring bi-directional communication, elevating the work of Regional Consortia, and providing support as requested.

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

1. Is the application open for County Office of Educations to apply?

This Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant RFA is open only to California Community College Districts.

2. Is the application open to a community college district with the support of a non-profit as a subgrant?

Yes, however there are requirements with subgrantees:

- A California Community College District (or College) acts as the applicant and fiscal agent (fulfilling the host district/college eligibility requirement).
- That applicant then issues a subgrant or subcontract to the non-profit for a portion of the work provided:

  i. The applicant district remains the official grantee and holds full accountability to the CCCCO/WEDD.
  ii. The non-profit subgrantee is clearly identified, its role, deliverables and budget included in the application, and subject to the same RFA terms and conditions (as the FAQ indicates for "Any Sub-grants…").
  iii. The work proposed by the non-profit aligns with the allowable activities and the project workplan of the host district/college team.
  iv. The budget narrative and workplan reflect the structure of subgranting (or subcontracting) and oversight/monitoring responsibilities.
  v. The non-profit would need to operate as a partner/sub-contractor rather than the lead applicant; the lead must still be the community college district.

3. Will the RC&C grant applications be open to apprenticeship programs within the building trades?

This RFA is open only to Community College Districts who are interested in serving as the host college for regional consortia. Please refer to the RFA, section four (4) Role, Responsibilities, and Accountabilities for further information.

4. Is this program related to the Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant program? And if so, does an applicant need to be a recipient of the IDRC to be eligible?

The IDRC grant is not related nor part of this application. Eligible applicants need not apply or be eligible if you have an IDRC, as they are separate grant programs.

5. **May one application be submitted per district?**

   Correct, as community college districts are the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant RFA is open only to Community College Districts.

6. **If we are part of a community college district, then does the district have to apply for all colleges in the district?**

   No, the district does not apply for all colleges. There would be one application from the district for a particular college to serve as the host college.

7. **Presumably though, the idea is for the region to agree on a collaboration structure, since all the Chief Information Officers (CIOs) have to sign on? Ten applications within a region would mean that all the colleges signed on to support all ten potential regional collaborations.**

   Correct. If there is a unified consensus from all of the colleges within the district who support a competitive process for two or more host colleges, that is acceptable under the constraints of this grant.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Who will be the primary contacts at the Chancellor's Office for application inquiries and support?**

   Please send application questions to RegionalCoordination@CCCCO.edu. The Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD) program staff at the Chancellor's Office will respond as soon as possible.

   WEDD program staff will host Zoom office hours for application support on Nov. 19, 2025 at 1 p.m. PDT at this link.

2. **Who will review applications?**

   Applications will be reviewed by the WEDD Selection Committee, which includes Chancellor’s Office staff and State workforce experts.

3. **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.

4. How should I as an applicant complete my workplan and budget in NOVA?

For step-by-step instructions, please refer to the RC&C Bidders' Conference webinar recording on the WEDD RFA website. As an overview:

Workplans: For each of the roles outlined in the RFA document, applicants must provide: 1) a description of activities, 2) outputs and milestones, 3) relevant outcome(s), and 4) responsible persons using the text fields and drop-down menus provided.

Budgets: For each planned expenditure, applicants must provide a reason / justification for the expense. This response will help demonstrate how planned investments align with strategic priorities and intended outcomes.

Budgets are only required for EWD Employer Engagement and Perkins V: Title 1-B expenditures.

5. In reference to Supporting Documents: Section 10. d. iv. (g) Support Letters - May applicants submit one letter signed by all CEOs and one letter signed by all CIOs, in lieu of multiple letters?

Yes, it is acceptable to gather all the referred to signatures on one page.

6. Are supporting letters from K12 and K16 accepted, or only community colleges?

We only accept supporting letters from community colleges to show the strength in the region and the capacity to manage all of the grant funds as a fiscal agent in that region.

7. Where may applicants find a list of the current Regional Collaboratives?

For information regarding the current list of Regional Chairs including regional websites, please follow this link: FY2022-2026 Regional Consortium Chairs

8. Is the expectation that the fiscal agent defines the regional scope, or will there be structured opportunities for partner colleges to propose leadership roles and deliverables?

As referenced on the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant RFA (page 18), regions have flexibility to define the governance structure that works best for them. For example, with voting, some regions may use one vote per district cast by a CEO or designated representative, while others may use a consensus model or weighted voting based on agreed-upon factors. This flexibility allows each Regional Consortia to design a governance model that reflects its institutional landscape and unique regional needs.

9. **In reference to the governance structure approach, is the two-tier governance system a required structural element that all regional consortia must implement, or must regions have discretion to maintain or evolve existing governance frameworks as long as they demonstrate equitable representation, accountability, and streamlined decision-making consistent with the RFA's intent?**

   The two-tier governance structure described in the RFA is not a mandatory requirement. Regions retain discretion to maintain or refine their existing governance framework, provided that it clearly meets the intent of the RFA by ensuring:

   - equitable representation across stakeholders,
   - transparency and accountability in decision-making, and
   - an efficient and documented process for regional prioritization and fiscal oversight.

   The model presented in the RFA serves as an example of an allowable approach, not a prescribed structure. Regions may propose alternate governance designs as long as they can demonstrate that the structure fulfills the requirements outlined in the application criteria.

10. **Does the Regional Collaboration and Coordination (RC&C) Grant RFA present an opportunity for new leadership within the SWP regional collaboratives that currently exist? Might there be any opportunity for sub-regions?**

    The RC&C Grant is not specific to SWP leadership. The grant is specific to the regional consortia as a whole across all the programs. The RC&C Grant does not propose the opportunity for sub-regions as this grant will be awarding eight awards, one per region, hosted by a community college district.

FUNDING QUESTIONS

1. **How many awards will be granted with the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant?**

There will be eight (8) awards given, one per region, hosted at a community college district.

2. **How will the awards be publicly released?**

   A formal letter of intent will be shared through the WEDD listservs, as well as published on our website. Awardees must be approved through our established process, including review and approval by the Board of Governors. Please reference the RFA page 38 for the calendar of key dates.

3. **Has this RFA process generally seen more than one proposal per region?**

   Yes, in the past we have received multiple applications per region.

4. **What is the maximum indirect cost allowed for this grant?**

   Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement: Indirect administrative overhead costs shall 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.

   Perkins V: Title 1-Part B State Leadership Fund: The host district/college may allocate a maximum of 5% administrative indirect costs for the term of the grant.

5. **What are the match requirements for this grant?**

   Programs and activities that utilize Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement funds require a match of 100% by the awarded district / college.

   There are no other match requirements in this grant.

6. **What is acceptable as a match for Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Employer Engagement funds?**

   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.

7. **Can the Chancellor's Office please clarify whether the Lead College/District is expected to demonstrate the required match amount for the full duration of the grant period (Fiscal Years 2026–29, with the option to renew through FY 2030–31), or only for the first year of the grant (FY 2026–27) as outlined in the budget tables on pages 19–20?**

   Applicants are required to demonstrate the required match amount for the first year of the project (FY 2026–27) as part of the initial application. Matching funds are not required to be documented for the full multi-year period at the time of submission. However, Lead Colleges/Districts will be required to annually document and certify that they continue to meet the required match amount for each subsequent year of the grant period. Match documentation will be submitted as part of the annual renewal process and must meet the same standards outlined in the RFA.

8. **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.

DATA & METRICS

1. **Is a data tracking platform and related technology considered an allowable expense?**

   In reference to APPENDIX B: GUIDELINES, DEFINITIONS, ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES, AND PERMISSIBLE USES OF FUNDS of the Regional Collaboration and Coordination Grant RFA, the expense may be allowable as determined by the following:

   All allowable costs must meet three primary criteria:

   1. Substantiate that the cost was necessary and reasonable for proper and effective administration of the allocations.
   2. The cost must be allocable to the funding source activities; and
   3. The cost must not be a general expense required to carry out the grantee's overall responsibilities (not supplanting). However, even if the costs meet the prior three criteria, the costs must be approved within the statement of work/budget of the grantee; otherwise, they are not allowable within that year without changes to the statement of work/budget. In addition, the grantee has the discretion to impose special conditions beyond the funding source that would also determine allowability of cost.

2. **Will each region be required to implement a regional Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) system for data collection?**

The Chancellor's Office does not require regions to invest in a regional (CRM) system as part of the application process. Whether to adopt a CRM—and how to fund or implement it—is a regional decision, based on local priorities, capacity, and governance agreements.

Most of the required program metrics for reporting (e.g., enrollment, completion, wage outcomes, employment, program participation) are already captured through existing statewide systems, including MIS, NOVA, LaunchBoard, and SWP dashboards. A CRM may be useful for local/regional coordination, partnership tracking, or employer engagement, but it is not mandated for data submission or compliance.

Regions may choose to invest in a CRM only if they determine it will add value—for example, by improving cross-college collaboration, streamlining work-based learning placements, or supporting documentation for braided funding streams. However, the Chancellor's Office does not prescribe specific technology solutions, nor does it require CRM-based data uploads as part of the grant application process.

3. **For clarity in the definition of "Students": the "Number of students enrolled at community colleges within your region", "Number of students completing 9+ CTE units within the academic year [Leveraged in Strong Workforce Program" should include the K12 students or only college?**

   The number of students defined above will be submitted through MIS data, however, they are also included in the SWP. Please note, each individual program has their own definitions. We encourage you to read each section of each program for definitions very carefully.

4. **Will the number of students employed, and wage progression metrics be tracked as self-reported in NOVA or MIS EDD?**

   Outcome-level indicators (employment, earnings, wage gains, persistence, etc.) are validated via MIS and EDD.

   Employment and wage metrics will be tracked through MIS and EDD data systems, not self-reported in NOVA. NOVA will collect activity-level and fiscal reporting, while verified outcomes like employment and earnings will be derived from statewide MIS/EDD wage match data used in official CCCCO dashboards.

   Employment and Wage Metrics
   Employment and wage outcomes (e.g., # of students employed, median earnings, wage progression) are not self-reported in NOVA. Instead, they are system-generated using statewide data systems, primarily:

- MIS (Management Information System) – for student enrollment, program participation, and completion data.
- EDD wage-matching data – for post-exit employment and wage outcomes (drawn from Unemployment Insurance wage records).
- These are integrated into DataMart / DataVista dashboards that the Chancellor's Office maintains.

NOVA System collects:

- The narrative and fiscal reporting (quarterly and annual)
- Planned outputs (e.g., number of Work Based Learning participants, internships established, partnerships formed)
- Self-reported progress metrics tied to activities — not employment outcomes.
- Budget, workplan, and expenditure data
- Local qualitative indicators or "leading measures"

5. **Would you advise applicants to refer to DataVista for the success metrics aligned to Vision 2030?**

   Yes, there is regional data that's available to you, as well as local data. Additionally, there are also regional reports that have been delivered to various regions on success metrics on aligned to Vision 2030 as part of regional convenings, if your region has had its regional convening. We encourage applicants to utilize DataVista information.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **How will the host districts report their plans and fiscal reports?**

   Districts shall report on the NOVA platform. Invoices, however, will be submitted quarterly to AccountsPayable@CCCCO.edu with a cc to the project monitor.

2. **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.