Accelerator by the Numbers...

1.0

Grants	Total Leveraged
16	$3,140,343
Total Funded	**Participants**
$2,139,000	688

2.0

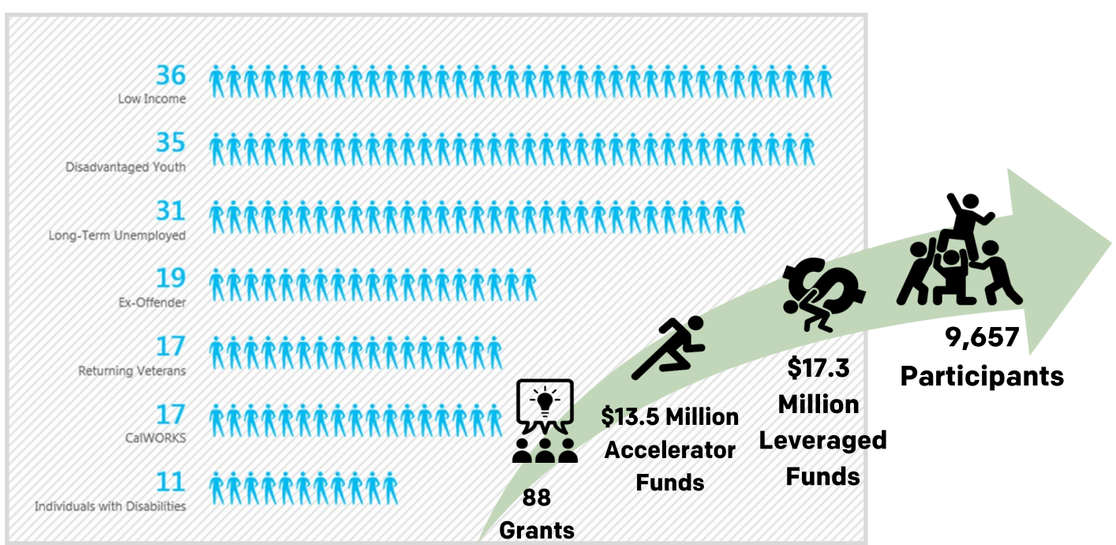
Grants	Total Leveraged
26	$3,895,362
Total Funded	**Participants**
$2,948,000	1,459

3.0

Grants	Total Leveraged
29	$6,097,102
Total Funded	**Participants**
$5,712,866	5,511

4.0

Grants	Total Leveraged
17	$4,248,182
Total Funded	**Participants**
$2,748,088	1,999



Information Technology
Manufacturing
Health Care
Public Service
Energy
Construction
Transportation
Hospitality
Water Resource Management
Aerospace Engineering
Early Childhood Education
Logistics
Sales & Marketing
Banking

WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR FUND

ACCELERATOR 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 & 4.0

At a Glance

AN INITIATIVE OF THE CALIFORNIA Workforce Development Board

What is Accelerator?

Accelerator seeks to improve jobs outcomes for California residents with barriers to employment by creating improvements in the service delivery system.

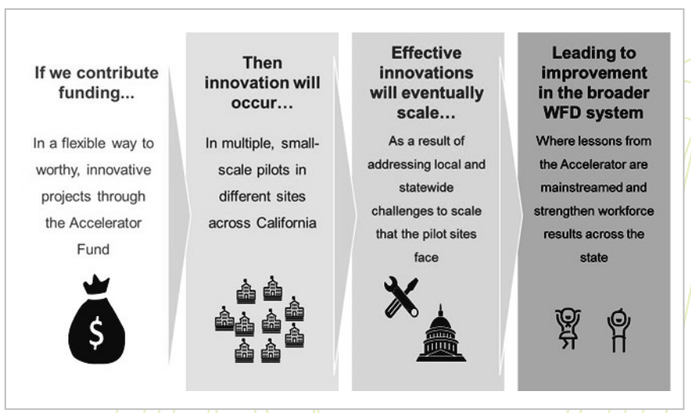
Why?

The workforce system has failed to achieve scale and impact in moving individuals and families toward self-sufficiency, especially those with barriers to employment.

The labor market is changing, but new ideas are being hampered by old constraints.

Accelerator "de-risks" the process of trying new ideas and solutions.

The Workforce Accelerator Fund provides relatively small, flexible grants to test new ideas and learn which innovations are effective in order to scale these solutions for the broader workforce system.



Goals

- Improve labor market skills and outcomes for those with barriers to employment through the development of strategies that fill gaps, accelerate processes, or customize services to ensure greater access to training and employment opportunities.
- Create new modes for service delivery and funding alignment that can be replicated across the state and tailored to regional needs.
- Leverage state investments with commitments from industry, labor, government and community partners.
- Implement, replicate and scale successful innovations- becoming the new "Business as Usual" for high-quality workforce development.

Project Lessons

Re-design Workforce Systems Through Innovative Programs

The Accelerator Fund allows organizations to address less common areas of focus that hinder individuals from job placement and advancement. Grantees are able to focus their attention on overcoming specific obstacles and testing solutions to see what works. By funding innovative projects we are able to identify unforeseen challenges in order to develop effective practices to replicate at scale.

"Accelerator crystalized what we knew about how our existing model was effective, and gave us insights and design concepts that helped us design a curriculum that would maximize those strengths." - Center for Media Change, Inc.

Promote Collaboration and Break Down Silos

Accelerator promotes and facilitates relationships with new partners, leading to enhanced resources and augmentation of existing service strategies. By working with similar or established programs, organizations are better equipped to anticipate complications and can instead focus on their methods and success. Organizations participating in Accelerator also improved their working relationships with stakeholders.

"Equally important was the collaborative effort in leveraging the expertise from our partners to pinpoint the strategies believed to be the most effective in marketing programs and integrating recruitment and outreach efforts. Participating in the Workforce Accelerator Fund grant has reinforced regional partnerships, encouraged the breaking down of silos, and helped to leverage additional resources to support both education and employment goals." - Verdugo Workforce Investment Board

Increase Accessibility and Strong Support Systems

Accelerator projects increase services beyond just being available, to being easy to access and use for program participants. Adaptations such as curriculum changes to meet participants at their math and reading level, integration of systems with other service providers to reduce travel time in between services, and the hiring of staff who can provide personalized care that directly addresses individual barriers to employment, all allow for an increase in accessibility and stronger support systems for participants.

"This project has been a great experience for us, and we are excited to continue training and placing women to help them begin their construction careers. We have learned a lot about the unique needs of women in pre-apprenticeship training, and the different set of barriers they face. We have also learned a lot about how to help them build a strong sense of community, which will support them long after training ends and employment begins." - Rising Sun Energy Center

Identify Enthusiastic Employers

Accelerator recognizes that strong relationships with employers are necessary to create pathways to gainful, long-term employment for participants. Collaboration with industry leads to well-crafted trainings and jobs for participants with employers who value them. As a result, service providers receive high-quality job placements because there is a mutual benefit to employers.

"JVS developed and strengthened relationships with 6 partner banks: Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Bank of the West, US Bank, Comerica and Union Bank. These employers gave financial support, provided essential insight into the banking industry's hiring landscape, and participated in our graduations/job fairs. Their robust volunteer engagement included speaker presentations, bank tours and mock interviews, demonstrating their deep-rooted investment in our work." -Jewish Vocational Service