

## California Co-enrollment Cohort

### Background: WIOA Co-enrollment – Progress Report on *Strategic Co-enrollment* in California

In Spring 2018, California was selected to participate in a US Department of Labor/US Dept. of Education sponsored Co-Enrollment Cohort. Participation in this cohort brought together California's core program and strategic planning partners: Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs;; Title II Adult Ed; Adult Education Block Grant; Title III Wagner-Peyser; Title IV Voc Rehab; CalWORKS, CalFresh E & T; and Refugee Programs. California's action plan has culminated in agreement amongst WIOA planning partners to develop joint policy guidance and provide technical assistance to build cross-system capacity around *strategic co-enrollment*.

#### Why a focus on *Strategic Co-enrollment*?

Co-enrollment is a critical strategy included in the State WIOA Unified Plan, and while federal regulations allow for and encourage co-enrollment, there is currently no state policy in place to facilitate co-enrollment and address the obstacles that locals have in operationalizing this strategy. However, co-enrollment is not an end in itself: co-enrollment should be a strategic investment opportunity.

WIOA places a strong emphasis on planning and implementation across multiple partner programs to ensure alignment in service delivery. One key goal is to develop effective partnerships across WIOA programs and other workforce providers, including community-based organizations to provide individuals the employment, education, and training services they need. Through the use of *strategic co-enrollment* the State can increase program and participant success; maximize resources; enable greater efficiencies in service delivery, and; better align services with regional sector pathways.

#### What is the expected outcome?

The cohort has explored many of the challenges that impede co-enrollment and have identified best practices to help lift models of how to leverage partnership in spite of a policy being in place. The team has developed an action plan to help arrive at a policy by September 2018, to coincide with the WIOA planning period. The goal is to promote a *strategic co-enrollment* policy that will be adopted by all of California's WIOA core partners and other key programs.

#### How can Regional Training Coordinators assist in the development and implementation of the Co-enrollment Policy?

It is the goal of the State work group to provide the following professional development and capacity building efforts as the Co-enrollment policy is drafted and implemented from August – November, 2018. Regional Training Coordinators will be asked to assist with:

- Ongoing professional development and technical assistance for staff
- Nuts and bolts toolkit for how to braid program funding
- Customer service training– front-line staff to leadership
- Human Centered Design (HCD) training