

California Workforce Development Board – At a Glance

Established: 1998, Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220)

Executive Director: Tim Rainey

Number of State Board Members: 43

2014 - present: The State Board currently gets its mandate from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law in 2014. WIOA outlines the vision and structure through which state workforce training and education programs are funded and administered regionally and locally.

Role: Convene the state’s workforce development partners to ensure a common vision, shared goals and objectives under WIOA, and an aligned approach to program implementation.

Responsibility: The State Board is responsible for the oversight and continuous improvement of the workforce system, serving as a convener and facilitator, an implementer of initiatives and grant programs, a technical assistance provider, and an evaluator and enforcer of program quality.

Current Initiatives: Cross-System Analytics and Assessment for Learning and Skills Attainment (CAAL-Skills); English Language Learner's Immigration Initiative; Equity, Climate and Jobs: Model High Road Training Partnerships; ForwardFocus: AB 2060 Supervised Population Workforce Training; Proposition 39 Pre-Apprenticeship Support, Training and Placement Grant; Regional Planning Implementation; Slingshot: Accelerating Income Mobility Through Regional Collaboration; Workforce Accelerator Fund; Workforce Corrections Partnership

Anticipated Initiatives: AB1111: Breaking Barriers to Employment; Breaking Barriers in Employment of Adults with Autism Pilot Program; Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator; SB1: Pre-Apprenticeship Development and Training Grant Program (High Road Construction Careers)

California Unified State Strategic Workforce Plan (2016 - 2020): Mandated by WIOA and created by the CWDB, is built around three policy objectives that guide state policy and practice across the partner programs and informs local policy and service delivery. The three policy objectives are:

- Fostering demand-driven skills attainment, so that workforce and education programs align training content with the state’s industry sector needs.
- Enabling upward mobility for all Californians, including those with barriers to employment, so that all Californians have access to good jobs that lead to long-term economic self-sufficiency and economic security.
- Aligning, coordinating and integrating programs and services, thus economizing limited resources to achieve scale and impact.

The State Plan outlines four strategies to achieve the three objectives:

- Job Placement in Quality Jobs
- Customer-Centered Services
- Industry Engagement
- Serving Individuals with Barriers to Employment

Through this framework, California’s workforce development system is designed to recognize the needs of industry and employers, while focusing on access for populations with the greatest barriers to employment.

State Plan Goals: The State Board has set two aspirational goals to measure its progress: between 2017 and 2027, California will:

- Double Apprenticeship Enrollment
- One Million Credentials

These goals are intended to remind system partners to “think big” in pursuing the system alignment and opportunities envisioned by WIOA and the State Plan.