

# High Road Training Partnerships – Funding Opportunity

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The California Workforce Development Board is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$8.9 million in Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act funding to expand, enhance, and/or build upon previous or current-funded high road training partnerships that 1) **prioritize job quality**, 2) **support economic and climate resilience**, and 3) **link regionally-driven sector work to a statewide skills agenda**.

## What Will High Road Training Partnerships Do With Continued Funding?

Supplemental funding for High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) will build on H RTP strategies through industry-specific innovation leading to improvements in equity, job quality, and environmental sustainability. Project should show how additional funding will improve, expand, and/or scale existing or previously funded H RTP projects. Examples of the type of long-term goals, may include:

- Expand into one or more new regions to increase access to high-quality jobs or entry-level work with clearly defined routes to advancement.
- Increase opportunity for skills attainment for those at the lower end of the labor market
- Develop and expand career pathways within key industries for populations who have experienced barriers to employment.
- Support both labor and management in order to increase productivity by increasing the health, safety, and specialization of jobs in a particular sector.
- Address skill needs in new and emerging industries, specifically those which center environmental sustainability and equitable recovery.

## Potential Uses

(Including, but not limited to)

- Expanding earn and learn strategies
- Developing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- Strengthening existing partnerships and adding new partners
- Adding new certifications
- Addressing organizational capacity building

## Grant Award and Length

H RTP: WIOA 3.0 Grant Term: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024 (24-Months)

*\* Grant term is approximate and may be adjusted as conditions dictate.*

Funding requests should not exceed \$500,000 for each project. Projects that have demonstrated a track record of meeting previous grant benchmarks and are seeking to expand to multiple regions or statewide may request up to \$1,000,000. Leveraged funds or in-kind

contributions are required for applications requesting more than \$500,000.

## Eligible Applicants

Past or existing HRTP Subrecipients/Fiscal Agents. This includes organizations funded through the following grant programs:

- HRTP: WIOA 1.0
- HRTP: WIOA 2.0
- HRTP: Low Carbon Economy Workforce Program
- HRTP: Education Stabilization Fund-Reimagine Workforce Preparation Grant (ESF-RWP)

## Letter of Intent

Existing HRTP grantees will submit a “Letter of Intent” to apply for continued HRTP funding by October 22, 2021. This letter should be high level and should be no more than 3 pages. If invited to apply, the application narrative will provide an opportunity to expand details.

The Letter of Intent must include the following:

1. A brief description of how the existing or previously funded HRTP project will:
  - Be enhanced for large-scale industry impact or reach, including expanding the number of trainees;
  - Increase the number or role of worker representatives, employers, and/or intermediary or partnership conveners;
  - Improve and/or increase opportunities for skill attainment for retention, upskilling or placement in quality jobs;
  - Identify and include any new populations or sub-groups who experience barriers to employment.
  - Expand into new regions, including statewide.
2. Outcomes of original HRTP project **OR** areas of opportunities for in-progress HRTP project, including:
  - Opportunities that exist due to partnerships’ work under original/current HRTP project;
  - How partnership has improved employment opportunities, upskilling or career pathways for workers;
  - How worker voice has been prioritized and incorporated.

Funding amount request and brief description on how new grant funding will be used

## Letter of Intent Submission

Questions and Letters of Intent should be sent to the High Road Training Partnership mail box at [HRTP@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:HRTP@cwdb.ca.gov)

## Selection Process

The California Workforce Development Board will evaluate and invite full applications to be

submitted for selected projects.

For projects that are invited to apply for funding, the following additional information will be required in the full application:

- How COVID has impacted the industry and how this funding will support industry and employer needs, as well as equitable recovery.
- Identify organizations (continuing and new) who will convene the partnership, including their role and contribution to this continuation/expansion of high road work.
- Identify area(s) of focus for your project and provide details on priorities and implementation plans with grant funding.

## Funding Source Information

High Roads Training Partnerships are supported by the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) in coordination with the California Employment Development Department (EDD) with Department of Labor funding totaling \$10,530,000. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

The use of these funds are governed by the WIOA and its associated federal regulations, state and federal directives, and the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidance for Grants and Agreements ([Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards 2 CFR Part 200](#)). Appendices A and B describe the general requirements pertaining to these funds.

Annual monitoring will be conducted by the EDD Compliance Review Office and follow a similar protocol as WIOA Title I monitoring. Funds awarded under this RFA cannot be used to purchase real property or construct buildings. A maximum of 10% of the total project budget will be allowed for administrative costs. The definition of administrative costs is provided in Appendix A on the [HRTP: WIOA 3.0 – Applying for WIOA Funds](#) document.

If invited to apply, applicants will have to confirm/attest to one of the following:

- Confirm applicant has direct experiencing managing WIOA funded projects, are well versed with WIOA Title 1 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2 (Uniform Guidance), and are able to responsibly operate and manage the grant program in order to meet WIOA requirements;
- Confirm applicant is aware and willing to become familiar and comply with WIOA Title 2 and the Code of Federal regulations, Title 2 (Uniform Guidance) responsibly operate and manage the grant program in order to meet WIOA requirements.

To help prepare potential HRTP: WIOA 3.0 applicants on the expectations if awarded funds under this grant program, which are defined by WIOA Law, the CWDB created the [HRTP: WIOA 3.0 – Applying for WIOA Funds](#) document and will be hosting a What to Know for WIOA Funds Workshop & Live Q&A.