



# Regional Equity & Recovery Partnership

Weekly Q&A: March 18, 2022

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### Application Criteria

**Q: Is there a page limit for the narrative?**

A: No.

**Q: For the "Community College" field we would enter the name of the Regional Consortium, correct?**

A: Yes, you can insert the name of the Consortia, but the application should also include the names of the specific Community Colleges that will participating in the RERP effort.

**Q: Will there be another date/time that this information will be given?**

A: Q&A’s will be posted weekly and the Webinar PowerPoint will be uploaded to the website.

**Q: Is PDF – Wet Signature the same as Electronic Signature?**

A: Any portions of the application that require a signature (cover page, STD 204 and 205, etc.) may be signed and submitted as a PDF. All other exhibits including budget forms and narrative will be submitted in the original Word or Excel format.

**Q: Is there any required travel known? Quarterly meetings or once a year in person meetings?**

A: No.

**Q: Since there is a requirement to work with community colleges, will procurement rules be waived so we can work with whichever ones in our region we would like depending on their programs aligning with the grant objectives? And will the EDD Monitoring Unit be notified of this so we don't run into findings down the line?**

A: Fiscal Agents must use their own documented procurement procedures, as long as they are consistent with applicable state and local laws and regulations. EDD WDB Directive 18-16, Guidance on Regional Awards, states: "The CWDB has determined that a designated Regional Fiscal Agent may apply for regional grants on behalf of a consortium of Local Boards and partners in the RPU. A Regional Fiscal Agent must submit an application that contains the agreements between the partners and/or a detailed plan, the names of partners that will receive funding, a description of services that will be provided as part of the grant, and the amount of funding designated to each partner. If the grant applicant provides a detailed plan or agreement containing the designated roles for each partner, no additional procurement at the local level will be required." Partners should be service providers and meet the criteria of subrecipients (WSD18-06 - Subrecipient and Contractor Distinctions). Finally, these funds are state funds and may be subject to review or audit.

**Q: Since this is State General fund, could we sole source to a contractor by writing them into the grant application?**

A: Fiscal Agents must use their own documented procurement procedures, as long as they are consistent with applicable state and local laws and regulations. Fiscal Agents should refer to [EDD WSD Directive 18-16 Guidance on Regional Awards](#) and include the justification for funding in the project narrative.

**Q: If we subcontract the RO role, could we still budget for staff to manage the subcontractor and assist with RO activities**

A: Yes.



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**Q: Can CWDB please explain how they expect RPUs to develop RERP projects and complete application forms when we do not know if or how much complementary funding our community college partners will receive?**

A: The community colleges receive an array of funding sources that can be used to leverage the RERP funding available through the State Board over the 3-year grant term. The intent of both the RERP funds and the leveraged funding provided through the Chancellor's office is to build partnerships between workforce boards and community colleges and a sustainable infrastructure for meeting the training needs of California's residents and employers. RPUs should describe the activities of the community college partners participating in the grant and include the amount of complementary funding needed to implement these activities. After the RERP awards are made by the CWDB, the CCCCO will award additional AB132CCCO RERP funds to participating colleges. If the awards are less than, or more than requested in the RERP Application, contracts with RPUs will be negotiated.

**Q: Is there any flexibility on Forms 10-13 being part of the application rather than the contract once the awards are determined?**

A: We have omitted all forms with an exception to:

- STD 204: Payee Data Record Form
- STD 205: Payee Data Record Supplement, if applicable
- Proof of Non-Profit status, if applicable

## **RERP Grant Program**

### **General**

**Q: Will this funding be added to our EDD subgrant agreement or will it be a separate contract with CWDB?**

A: No. These are State Funds and will be separate contracts with CWDB.

**Q: If this is also to fund Regional Organizers, what about funding for Regional Training Coordination?**

A: We are working with leadership to support capacity building and professional development using other funding sources. RERP is primarily focused on partnership building and training of participants, not professional development or capacity building for staff and partners

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Updated A: RPI 4.0 extensions will be available, we will be sending out more information



**Q: The term "Regional Organizer" is associated with the Regional Organizer and Regional Training Provider under Slingshot 4. Will the "Regional Organizer" under this grant be specifically for this grant? (Unrelated to Slingshot Regional Organizer?)**

A: The Regional Organizer role will be like their role in RPI and SlingShot, focusing on partnership building, ensuring communication between local board directors and partners in the RPU, coordinating with industry-led sector strategies, and connecting with state partnership staff. They will be focused on making sure the partnership works well and reporting progress and outcomes of the RERP effort.

**Q: RPI 4.0 resources Regional Organizers through 9/22 and this grant period begins 12/22. How does the state plan to support ROs?**

A: The state is considering allowing extensions of RPI 4.0 funding if there are RPUs with unspent funds. Other ways of filling the funding gap are being explored and should additionally be considered as part of sustainable regional work at the local level.

**Q: We currently have a shared RO between both local areas. Is this allowed as long as it totals to one FTE?**

A: Yes. This should be explained in the project narrative

**Q: Can we apply for more than our projected award?**

A: Yes you can apply for more than your projected award amount. Funding will be based on the quality of the application; no region is guaranteed funding in any amount.

**Q: How did the CWDB arrive at the potential allocation and customers served numbers for each region? Was it based on population, poverty, number/size of community colleges/districts, etc.?**

A: The CWDB looked at WIOA allocation formula, but determined that there were insufficient funds for small and rural regions to operate a 3-year program. The final formula is based on the number of workforce boards in regions and the number of community colleges in each RPU.

**Q: Is every local board in an RPU required to have a project included in the application? Or theoretically could a local board just participate with the Regional Organizer activities but opt out of the program implementation piece**

A: This would be a local and regional decision.

## Target Populations

### General

**Q: For those targeting youth, some local WDBs have a waiver on the definition of youth to include in-school youth at risk of disconnecting, are homeless or precariously housed, will those youth count toward the RERP target population goals?**

A: The RFA lists out-of-school youth 18-24 as a target population for RERP. However, a WDB has the youth waiver, this target group can include in-school youth age 18-24 who are at risk of disconnecting or are homeless or precariously housed, as long as they are eligible for dual enrollment in community college, or have schedules that can accommodate enrollment in community college career technical education certificate or degree programs. The awarded entity will be responsible for maintaining the documentation and appropriate percentages to serve in-school youth under their waiver.

**Q: Are applicants limited to the Target Populations listed on Pgs. 4-5?**

A: Yes. The RERP funds are expected to target populations with barriers to employment and populations that have not historically successfully entered and completed Community College certificate and degree programs. The target populations listed on page 4-5 represent these target populations and it is anticipated that participants will fit into one or more of these categories.

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**Q: Is dual enrollment allowed for high school students as part of this program?**

A: Youth targeted for services in this application are "individuals that meet the criteria for WIOA eligible out-of-school youth ages 18-24". While dual enrollment is important to the colleges and the workforce system, these RERP funds are focused on economic recovery and equity. Youth who are enrolled in dual enrollment activities may be good candidates for RERP as they graduate from high school and enter community college certificate and degree programs, as long as they meet one or more of the target groups included in the RFA. Target groups listed in the RERP RFA include "out of school youth, first generation college students, residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, immigrants, people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, homeless/housing insecure, and English Language learners".

**Q: Will dual enrolled youth count towards the region's goal of total number of individuals enrolled in higher education if they continue to community college after high school?**



A: Youth targeted for services in this application are "individuals that meet the criteria for WIOA eligible out-of-school youth ages 18-24". While dual enrollment is important to the colleges and the workforce system, these RERP funds are focused on economic recovery and equity. Youth who are enrolled in dual enrollment activities may be good candidates for RERP as they graduate from high school and enter community college certificate and degree programs, as long as they meet one or more of the target groups included in the RFA. Target groups listed in the RERP RFA include "out of school youth, first generation college students, residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, immigrants, people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, homeless/housing insecure, and English Language learners.

## **Fiscal & Allowable Costs**

**Q: What is the administrative cost limitation? 10%?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is it permissible to subcontract the role of Regional Organizer?**

A: Yes.

**Q: For the requirement of a purchase justification form for \$2500, is this for services or just equipment/supplies?**

A: During a review process CWDB may request a purchase justification form to justify the purchase and procurement of a single item or a group of items to serve the same purpose that exceed \$2,500. This may be required for equipment/supplies and services.

**Q: The list of RERP activities does not include incumbent worker training yet Tim Rainey said on the CWA Quarterly Regional Exchange meeting that this was allowable to move people from entry level to good jobs. Is this allowed?**

A: Yes, it is allowable to provide incumbent worker training if the individuals you are serving meet a target population eligibility listed on the RERP RFA, starting on page 4. Training of incumbent workers should focus on "move-up" strategies and result in income mobility. RERP applications may use the statewide definition provided in the RFA to determine eligibility. For example, "low income housing" can be determined as below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) State Income Limits) or use regional/local definitions of low-income household, including self-sufficiency standards.



**Q: If stipends will be offered, do we need to include the methodology to derive the stipend? Is there a maximum % per allowable activities?**

A: There is not a maximum percentage for allowable activities. The methodology for stipends should be included in the budget/project narrative.

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**Q: How should regions plan with respect to the CA Community College funding that will follow RERP awards? Without clarity on funding levels, it makes it difficult to plan around those funds, on top of RERP funding.**

A: Regions should include the name of the college(s) that are partnering in the RERP grant, the activities that the college is providing for the partnership, and the source of the proposed leverage in the RFA Narrative, Exhibit 5 - Work Plan, and Exhibit 6 Partner Roles and Responsibilities. Leverage can include Strong Workforce, Carl Perkins, AEBG, or AB132-CCCO RERP leverage (details on this leverage are in the next paragraph). Proposed leverage should be the total for the 3-year grant term. After RERP grants are awarded by the CWDB, the Chancellor's Office will award AB132-CCCO RERP grants to participating community colleges. If awards are not consistent with the leverage amounts included in the application, contract outcomes will be negotiated.

*AB 132 CCCCO RERP Leverage: The California Budget also included \$10,000,000 for the Chancellor's Office to award grants to support colleges participating in regional equity and recovery partnerships. The budget states:*

(c) (1) Of the funds appropriated pursuant to subdivision (a), ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be used by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to award grants through a grant process developed by the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to support community colleges participating in regional equity and recovery partnerships, which are regional partnerships of community college consortia and regionally organized local workforce development boards intended to connect workers most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to high-quality jobs in target and growth industry sectors, including regional equity and recovery partnerships funded pursuant to Provision 6 of Item 7120-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2021.

(2) A participating community college receiving a grant pursuant to paragraph (1) **shall focus on integrating community college priorities into programs identified and developed by regional equity and recovery partnerships, including, but not limited to, awarding credit for prior**



**learning, creating work-based learning opportunities, providing academic and career supports, and providing an on-ramp to credit pathways that lead to industry-valued credentials or degrees.**

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**Q: (RPU with less than five) When completing Budget Exhibits 7 & 8 would the Fiscal Agent (one of the four local workforce boards in the RPU) complete Budget Line Items 1-11 for admin & program costs of the Fiscal Agent only, and use line 12 for the other three local workforce boards?**

**A: Yes.**

## **Match Funds**

**Q: What does expected leverage costs mean?**

**A:** Leveraged costs are a financial commitment toward the costs of a project from a source other than the granting organization. In this RFA, Leverage cost means the value of your partner's contribution. Leveraged costs can include the value of faculty or other staff paid for out of non-RERP funds that work on the RERP effort. It can also include support services, wages, facilities, or other costs paid for by other funds that support the RERP effort.

**Q: Can leveraged costs include local funds?**

**A: Yes.**

**Q: How to leverage Chancellor's office funding if we don't know how much colleges are getting**

**A:** Leveraged funding from the community colleges will be determined after the RERP awards are made.

**Q: Is Leveraged Costs mandatory? Are we able to use WIOA funds for leverage? What percentage of leverage is mandatory?**

**A:** Yes, leveraged costs are required. There is no required percentage of leverage that is mandatory. Leveraged funding will be one of the elements evaluated in the scoring rubric.





**Q: Are we allowed to leverage WIOA Title-I funds?**

A: Yes, using WIOA funds as match is allowable.

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**Q: If a region wishes to use those funds as leverage or fund specific activities within proposed projects. It's unclear how we would include that in our proposal submission.**

A: The region should include the request for AB132CCCCO RERP funds in the proposal submission, describing the activities that the college will be providing and the leveraged funding that will be needed to provide the activity (Narrative, Exhibit 5 Work Plan, and Exhibit 6 Partner Roles and Responsibilities). If the final award is less than requested, contracts will be negotiated.

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**Q: The Budget Summary labels one of the columns as “Leveraged/Match Amount”. Is this being considered leverage or match and how does this grant program differentiate between leverage and match?**

A: For this application, funds in this column are considered leveraged. The definition of leverage can be found in WSD Directive WSD 19-05 Monthly and Quarterly Financial Reporting Requirements: "Leveraged Resources – Federal and/or non-federal resources (cash and/or in-kind contributions) used by the subrecipient to support grant activity and are allowable and auditable under the WIOA program". For the RERP application, this last line should be changed to "allowable and auditable under the RERP program".

## Partnerships & Project Team

**Q: Is one community college consortium one site?**

A: The California Community Colleges are organized into ten economic regions served by seven consortia. In RERP it is anticipated that local workforce development boards in a RPU will be working with colleges in a Regional Consortia, to develop programs that meet the objectives of the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships. A Site would be the local workforce development board and the local community college that are working together. We ask that you clearly specify which community colleges will be participating in your application for RERP.



**Q: If we have multiple colleges that are part of a community college district, do we need to list each college in that district or can we do a project with the district**

A: You would list each Community College.

## Other

**Q: Will the CalJOBS system have customized reporting or be adjusted so the Regional Organizer can access information for all the Boards in the RPU? This type of reporting by RPU is currently NOT available in CalJOBS.**

A: We are working on it. It is currently possible for each fiscal agent to access data for the region.

**Q: For the supplemental data report, what data will be needed that is not going to be in CalJOBS?**

A: We are still working on this report.

**Q: The language on tab 11 clearly states that the application is binding which requires Board of Supervisors approval prior to submitting the grant rather than once we receive the funding and they approve the contract. Is there a way you can help us understand why this changed as this is going to be a huge challenge for us because our regular timeframe for board approval is 12 weeks? They must have the fully completed grant application way in advance of the meeting. The closest meeting prior to the due date is April 12. Is there any flexibility on these forms being part of the application rather than the contract once the awards are determined?**

A: The changes in the language on tab 11 are due to the use of State funds for the RERP effort. Fiscal Agents should inform their Elected Officials of their intent to submit these forms as part of the application, but Elected Official approval is not necessary until after the award is made and the forms become part of the contract.