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## Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership Summit Q&A

Thursday, March 10, 2022 – 9:00AM-11:00AM

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### Regional Equity & Recovery Partnership

#### **Q1. What are the expected funding amounts?**

**A1.** The CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB) released the [Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership \(RERP\) Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) to invest \$24,050,000 in enhancing and expanding partnerships between the Local Workforce Development Boards in the Regional Planning Units (RPUs) and the Local Community College in the Regional Consortia. The CA Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) will fund an additional \$10M to support community colleges participating in the RERP grant.

#### **Q2. We currently have multiple partnerships with multiple community colleges, are we looking for new projects or looking to enhance existing infrastructure that we have built over the years with the community colleges?**

**A2.** The CCCCCO and CWDB hope that the local community colleges and local workforce development boards will leverage and strengthen existing partnerships to build/build on an infrastructure that is impactful and meaningful to help individuals get back to work as intended in the budget language.

#### **Q3. How does RERP fit with all of the other amazing funding opportunities?**

**A3.** RERP will enhance and expand on existing cross-system planning with a focus on “High Road” approach to support infrastructure and partnership building that will be sustainable over time and beyond this funding opportunity.



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## CWDB Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership Grant

**Q4. What is the funding cycle timeline? If more time is required, is an extension possible?**

**A4.** CWDB has approved the extension for the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership (RERP) application due date. The new due date is **Friday, May 6, 2022, 3:00 PM (PST)**. CWDB will announce the award in June 2022, with an estimated start date of December 1, 2022, and end date of September 30, 2025 (three-year grant term). For an updated timeline of the RERP grant, please visit the [RERP](#) webpage.

**Q5. Can RPUs work with multiple colleges within the region?**

**A5.** Yes, you can work with multiple colleges.

**Q6. Can multiple RPUs work together?**

**A6.** Multiple RPUs can work together but must submit their own application for the RERP grant.

**Q7. Are Adult Ed, non-credit programs under a community college system qualify as suitable partners?**

**A7.** Yes, they are eligible partners on the RERP grant.

**Q8. Are local community college districts, who often provides non-credit/not-for-credit courses, eligible as partners in this grant?**

**A8.** Yes, they are eligible partners on the RERP grant.

**Q9. Does WIOA requirements apply to the RERP grant: eligibility, services and training?**

**A9.** No, RERP is a state-funded grant and WIOA requirements are not applicable unless you are leveraging WIOA funds. If leveraging WIOA funds, please abide by the WIOA federal guidelines in the use of leveraged WIOA funds.

**Q10. Will there be agreements between community colleges and WDBs for reporting outcomes that work through FERPA restrictions?**



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**A10.** Yes, there should be agreements between community colleges and workforce development boards for reporting outcomes. Our expectation is that agreements are set in place as part of this joint collaboration, community colleges will report the grant required (aggregate) data to the workforce development board while protecting the student's privacy.

**Q11.** For participant eligibility only one "Target Population" is required. To be clear, if "Justice Involved" is selected, can it be a stand-alone eligibility, or do they also need to be "low income" or "dislocated worker"?

**A11.** Stand-alone eligibility – individuals only need to meet one of the target populations listed on page 4 to be eligible for services.

**Q12.** How does the low number of participants in the RERP RFA relate to building infrastructure and structure for partnerships? Is this more of a pilot approach to focus on sector approach while balancing goals for the infrastructure building?

**A12.** We are using \$9,500 per participant cost to support the building of the partnership and infrastructure; while allowing projects the flexibility to provide work based learning, supportive services, and other services, as stated on page 3 of the RERP RFA, to help individuals get back to work. The intent is to strengthen the partnership and encourage innovative projects to put in place the high road vision.

**Q13.** Can an RPU request beyond the projected award amount?

**A13.** The RERP RFA includes planning estimates for each RPU to give regions an idea of what the partnerships can apply for to avoid challenges with development of the proposal. This is a competitive grant so final awards will be based on the application submitted and partnership proposed. The state has included language in the RFA that allows the ability to raise or lower the planning estimates.

**Q14.** K-12 Adult Ed agencies would be leveraging other funding including Perkins Grant, WIOA II 231, etc., is that allowed?

**A14.** Yes, we encourage applicants to leverage available resources and funding streams to better serve participants, whether that is Perkins, WIOA Title I or II, and/or etc.



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**Q15. Will it support pre-apprenticeship programs connected to apprenticeship programs?**

**A15.** Pre-apprenticeships connected to registered apprenticeships are allowable.

**Q16. Please describe what is meant by stipends. Would RERP allow us to pay for stipends?**

**A16.** Supportive services to help cover basic costs while the individuals receive training under the Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership grant.

**Q17. Would the RERP grant allow us to pay for stipends?**

**A17.** Yes, stipends are considered an allowable activity under the [RERP RFA](#) released by the CWDB. You can locate allowable activities starting on page 3 of the RERP RFA.

**Q18. Is Board of Supervisor (BOS) approval required?**

**A18.** Board of Supervisor's approval is not required during the application submission but CWDB will require it once the project proposal is awarded. We suggest you refer to your local process to ensure you are complying with your procedures. RFA Forms 10-13 have been omitted from the application and will be required prior to execution of sub-grants.

## **CCCCO AB132 – Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership**

**Q19. Could you clarify who the fiscal agent is for the community college funds? Is it the same fiscal agent identified in the RFA?**

**A19.** The fiscal agent for the \$10,000,000 in AB132 RERP funds will be the community college that is included in the RERP regional application submitted in response to the CWDB RERP RFA.

**Q20. When will the CCCCCO release the RFA for the \$10 million grant fund?**

**A20.** The CCCCCO will not release an RFA for the \$10M. Community colleges can become eligible for the \$10M by collaborating with the RPU's within their area on the development of the RERP proposal. The CCCCCO and CWDB will jointly review the competitive RERP applications to determine the awards for each respective



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funding streams (CWDB for RERP - \$24,050,000 and CCCCCO for AB132 - \$10,000,000).

**Q21. Will the Workforce Development Boards will respond to the RFA and submit the application in NOVA?**

**A21.** The Workforce Development Board that is selected as the fiscal agent for the Regional Planning Unit (RPU) will respond to, and submit the application to the CWDB. Once funding decisions are made by the CWDB, the CCCCCO will review the RERP applications to identify participating community colleges to award. Community colleges do not have to submit a separate RFA application but will need to collaborate with the RPUs in the development of the RERP proposal. Community colleges will receive guidance about the steps for grant processing and reporting requirements in NOVA once the award determinations are made.

**Q22. Is there an amount per region for the community colleges, similar to the RPUs?**

**A22.** The final amount of the awards are based on how many colleges participated and the budget amount requested by the community college in the proposal for the RERP grant.

**Q23. Will the \$10 million for the community colleges be equally split among each area and automatically sent to the colleges once CWDB announce the awards? What will the process be like?**

**A23.** The award for the \$10M will not be split equally among the community colleges but will be dependent on the RERP proposal. After CWDB announce their awards, the CCCCCO will identify the amount that needs to be distributed to each college. As mentioned in question #20, community colleges will receive guidance on next steps in NOVA once the award determinations are made.

**Q24. What metrics will be used to determine allocations for the \$10M that will be granted to eligible community colleges?**

**A24.** It will be similar to the metrics in the [RERP RFA](#), starting on page 6: building an infrastructure, achieving employment outcomes, etc.



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**Q25. Is the \$10 million for community colleges only or can Adult Ed partners receive some of this funding as well?**

**A25.** The local community colleges are required partners on RERP. [AB132, Section 87\(c\)](#) specify the CCCCO's role in awarding the \$10M grants to support community colleges participating in the RERP grant. Adult Ed are valuable partners and the CCCCO and CWDB highly encourage partnerships between the local workforce development boards, local community colleges, Adult Ed, and other workforce partners.

**Q26. Is equipment for community college program set up an allowable expenditure?**

**A26.** Equipment was not specifically called out in the AB132 statute but we highly encourage leveraging other available resources (Carl Perkins, Strong Workforce, WIOA) to support the purchase of equipment. Need to circle back with CCCCO.

**Q27. Please clarify what is meant by Credit for Prior Learning. Could this mean that courses taken at an adult school could be articulated to the college?**

**A27.** The Credit for prior learning (CPL) is a strategy to help students get credit for what they already know and can do, saving them time and money on their educational path. You can locate the definition of Credit for Prior Learning directly from the [CA Code of Regulations, Title 5 section 55050](#) and/or on the [CA Community Colleges](#) website. Yes, courses taken at an adult school that are housed under the CA community colleges could be articulated to the college. The Credit for Prior Learning Policy Implementation Toolkit can be found at the following [link](#).

**Q28. Awarding credit for prior learning requires curriculum which has either equivalent coursework, or flexible units within the degree or certificate where the awarded credit can be applied to completion requirements, or it is just additional units. To meet timelines, will the Chancellor's office be able to expedite curriculum approvals to accommodate program modifications to existing curriculum and/or new program curriculum with "general" units?**

**A28.** The intent is to 1) focus on training that is impactful and meaningful to get individuals back to work and 2) build a sustainable infrastructure. The partnerships are expected to help identify gaps and where support is needed from the local, regional, and/or state level.



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**Q29. Will the Chancellors office be looking to streamline portability of Curriculum from District to District within the community college system?**

**A29.** RERP is focused on building an infrastructure for students who need to access training and educational programs that lead to employment. It would be ideal to scale meaningful outcomes and share best practices that work for each region.