



Workforce Accelerator 14 Grant Program

Cumulative questions and answers will be posted weekly beginning Friday, July 24, 2026.

Questions must be received each Tuesday by 2:00 p.m. PST to be included in that Friday's weekly posting. The last Q&A posting will be on Friday, August 21, 2026, and questions must be received by Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. PST to receive an answer. Questions submitted after the deadline will not be included or answered in the Q&A.

Email questions regarding this RFA to Solicitations@cwdb.ca.gov. Please use "WAF 14 Question" in the subject line. The Q&A does not include duplicate questions. The CWDB encourages prospective applicants to utilize the search feature (CTRL+F) in this document to find answers to frequently asked or previously asked questions.

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Weekly Q&A as of Friday, July 31, 2026

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Q: Are local governments, state governments, and tribal governments eligible to serve as Lead Applicants for this program?

A: Yes, local, state, and tribal government entities are eligible to serve as Lead Applicants for Accelerator 14, provided they have the capacity to fulfill the responsibilities outlined on page 3 of the RFA.



Q: Can a California State University foundation serve as the Lead Applicant instead of the university itself?

A: Yes. University foundations are an allowable Lead Applicant for Accelerator 14.

Q: May a for-profit LLC participate as a project lead through a fiscal sponsor or eligible partner?

A: Accelerator 14 does not have a formal “project lead” designation that is distinct from the Lead Applicant role described on page 3 of the RFA. An LLC is eligible to serve as a partner organization but may not serve as a Lead Applicant.

REQUIRED PARTNERS

Q: For organizations focused on K-12 education, what would the Employer Attestation look like?

A: The Employer Attestation requirements are the same for any type of Lead Applicant.

Q: Can a company located in Canada participate as a partner?

A: Yes, organizations outside of the United States may participate in Accelerator 14 as a program partner only. Organizations that will serve as Lead Applicants must have a documented presence in California. Partner organizations do not have this same requirement.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT LETTER REQUIREMENTS

Q: Do partnership commitment letters need to disclose the estimated leverage amount they will be committing to? This has been a requirement in the past.

A: Partnership commitment letters do not need to reference a leverage amount. The Partner Roles and Responsibilities exhibit of the application is where applicants should document any leverage from partner organizations.



EMPLOYER ATTESTATION

Q: Could CWDB change the Employer Attestation requirement from hiring participants to simply interviewing them, or make the hiring commitment optional?

A: Applicants unable to obtain employer commitments to hire participants are encouraged to apply as a Planning and Development project rather than the Innovation Impact Project Type. Planning projects require only employer participation in planning throughout the grant term and do not include hiring commitments.

Q: Would internships or pre-apprenticeships qualify as employment for this grant?

A: No, Employer Attestations must include a commitment to hire participants. Internships and pre-apprenticeships do not satisfy this requirement.

SELECTIONS AND AWARD PROCESS

Q: The RFA says 2 awards will be made. Is that one for each Project Type? Or is it possible you'll award two projects of the same type (i.e. both Planning or both Innovation Impact)?

A: There is no predetermined number of awards for each project category.

Q: How many awards are expected in each category?

A: At least two total awards are expected. There is \$3 million available with a maximum award of \$1.5 million. There is no predetermined number of awards for each project category.

Q: Is there a preference for proposals that request the maximum award amount?

A: No. Applicants should request only the amount needed for the proposed project.

Q: Is the CWDB looking to fund projects that combine both quantum and fusion?



A: Proposals focused on both sectors are allowable but will not receive preference.

LEVERAGED FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Q: Can we use WIOA Title I Adult or Dislocated Worker funds as leverage?

A: No, WIOA formula funds may not be used to meet the Leverage/Match requirement for Accelerator 14. For more information, please review page 19 of the RFA.

OTHER

Q: Will there be additional funding to sustain successful Accelerator 14 projects beyond the grant term, or should we expect this source of funding to end after March 31, 2029?

A: The program's grant term is from January 1, 2027-March 31, 2029. Funded grantees will be required to submit a sustainability plan that outlines how the project will secure non-CWDB resources to sustain program activities after the grant term.

Q: How strictly must training map to the named trades (Cryogenic Technician, Precision Machinist, Electromechanical Technician) versus adjacent software/controls/systems-integration roles?

A: The occupations listed in the RFA are given as examples and are not an exhaustive list of allowable occupations. Roles in software/controls/systems-integration are allowable.

Applicants should explain how their proposed occupations support the quantum or fusion supply chains in the Scope of Work narrative response.

Q: Can a project focus on precision manufacturing instead of only quantum or fusion industries?

A: Yes, provided applicants can clearly demonstrate how the proposed training pathway



supports the quantum or fusion sectors and includes appropriate employer partners connected to those industries.

Q: Would a project focus on software and systems integration instead of hands-on technical trades be considered well aligned?

A: Yes. The funding opportunity is not limited to hands-on technical training. Software and systems integration proposals are also eligible if they support the target industries.

Q: Are overhead (Facilities & Administrative costs) requests allowed for California State Universities? At what rate?

A: Yes. The grant has a 15% indirect cost cap. Applicants with a negotiated indirect cost rate may use that rate, subject to the guidance in Section 6 of the RFA and applicable WIOA/federal requirements.

Q: For institutions with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, is reimbursement limited to 15% Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC), or may the full negotiated rate be charged?

A: Applying organizations with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA) may use the full negotiated rate in their application. The CWDB reserves the right to request budget amendments from awarded applicants with a NICRA that greatly exceeds 15%.