



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.

CONTENTS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	1
REQUIRED PARTNERS	2
PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT LETTER REQUIREMENTS	2
EMPLOYER ATTESTATION	3
SELECTIONS AND AWARD PROCESS	3
LEVERAGED FUNDING REQUIREMENT	4
OTHER	4

Weekly Q&A as of Friday, August 7, 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.

Q: Can a local organization provide a defined training component while a larger workforce or educational institution serves as the Lead Applicant?

A: Yes, the described partnership structure is allowable.

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.

Q: Should my application mention the task of each partner in the Scope of Work or only in the commitment letter?

A: The Partner Roles and Responsibilities (Partner R&R) exhibit is intended to capture tasks to be performed by project partners. Partner roles described in the Scope of Work and partnership letters should align with the Partner R&R exhibit.

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.

Q: Can a discounted software license provided by a partner be used as a source of leverage? For example, the software is valued at \$20k, and our partner would be willing to offer us a \$10k discount. Are we able to use the discount of \$10k toward the Leveraged Requirement?

A: Yes, as described, the \$10k discounted software price may be used as a source of leverage. Sources of leverage funding should be detailed in the application.

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%.

Q: If we choose to apply for both pathways, Planning and Development and Innovation Impact, would we need to submit two different applications? Or could they be submitted as one?

A: Eligible organizations applying as the Lead Applicant for Accelerator 14 may submit one application only. Applicants are encouraged to review the RFA and identify the project type that best aligns with their planned project.

Q: Can a proposed project's partners participate in more than one application submission?

A: Yes, organizations may serve as a partner in more than one application. Eligible organizations applying as the Lead Applicant for Accelerator 14 may submit only one application.

Q: Can a partner serve an unpaid role in my project?

A: Yes, partner organizations are not required to be subrecipients of awarded grant funds.