

Economic and Workforce Development

Mission: The mission of the Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program is to advance California’s economic growth and global competitiveness through high quality education and services focusing on continuous workforce improvement, technology deployment and business development consistent with the needs of the state's regional economies. The EWD Program supports the CCCs to become more responsive to the labor market.

Funding: EWD received \$22.9 million in Proposition 98 funding in 2011-12. However, this funding is currently in “flex” because of categorical reform and can be used for other purposes unless identified by the Chancellor’s Office as a statewide or regional priority. At present, the majority of the funding is serving statewide or regional priorities and therefore is not “flexed”. Funding is down from 2008-09 levels of \$46.7 million. Included in the 2011-12 allocation is funding for four competitive grant programs:

- Industry Driven Regional Collaborative projects (\$3.8 million) provide short-term grants to local colleges to respond to emerging education and training needs of regional employers.
- Regional Resource Center projects (\$11.2 million) provide long-term delivery and capacity development infrastructure for community colleges. This infrastructure provides a foundation for a long-term sustained relationship with businesses, labor, workforce entities and colleges in the region. Centers provide in-depth training and technical assistance services; they provide outreach and marketing that assists community colleges in improving their economic development capacity; and they convene economic development stakeholders in their region to develop comprehensive and sustained collaboration on specific short-and long-term regional growth.
- Responsive Incumbent Worker Training projects (\$3.9 million) provide grants to colleges for either (a) expanding the delivery of performance improvement training to employers and incumbent workers in high growth industries or (b) developing programs that

integrate basic skills and career technical education curriculum to

help students transition into high-technology and high demand job sectors.

- Job Development Incentive Training projects (\$2.2 million) provide training to employers that incorporates job creation for unemployed, under-employed low-income workers, and public assistance recipients.

EWD projects require a local match. In 2008-09, the match was 100%.

Administration, Governance, and Service Delivery System: The Economic and Workforce Development program is administered by the Division of Career Education and Industry Partnerships in the California Community College Chancellor's Office. The Chancellors Office provides grants to ten statewide initiatives, which include a network of 40 regional resource centers at local colleges that develop and deliver customized curriculum, training and other services to meet the needs of business and industry sectors. These initiative include, in priority order: Advanced Manufacturing; Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy; Biotechnology; Business and Entrepreneurship; Business and Workforce Services Improvement Data and Labor Market Information; Environment, Health, Safety and Homeland Security; Health Care; International Trade; New Media and Entertainment; and Workplace Basic Skills and Learning Resources.

Population Served: The EWD program serves students, employers, and colleges. According to the 2008-09 Annual Report, of the participants who received training 29 percent were current employees of regional businesses, 47 percent were entrepreneurs, and 24 percent were students.

Services: The 40 sector-based regional resource centers design and provide customized curriculum and training to meet the needs of business. New curriculum development funded by these projects also can help new programs and courses to be added in ongoing career technical education offerings at the community colleges. The programs and services offered assist local community colleges meet the needs of regional and statewide employers facing the challenges of labor skill transitions. The centers work with colleges and employers to provide customized research, reports and scans conveying current labor market conditions and demands.

Accountability: The Chancellor's Office is required to submit an annual report each spring to the Governor and Legislature that includes information on expenditures disaggregated by industry clusters and regions. The Chancellor is also required to contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the program prior to January 1, 2011 and to submit this evaluation to the appropriate legislative and fiscal committees, the Director of Finance, and the Legislative Analyst prior to February 1, 2012. The program will sunset

on January 1, 2013 unless reauthorized by the Legislature in 2012.