

EDGE Policy Update

End of Session Edition

October 2022

On September 30th, Governor Newsom took final action on all pending measures that were passed by the Legislature – a total of 1,166 bills. Of these bills, hundreds were signed into law that are considered to be some of the most historic pieces of legislation ever approved, such as workplace rights and better working conditions for farmworkers and fast-food workers, increased paid family leave for workers paid low wages, remedial education reform, investments in training to expand the health care workforce, measures to address climate justice and housing affordability, and increased career tech education opportunities.

Over the course of the 2022 legislative session, the CA EDGE Coalition focused on various education, training, and workforce policy efforts centered on the needs of opportunity youth, adult learners, workers, and industry. Specifically, our [2022 policy priorities](#) sought to strengthen and advance policies intended to secure a social safety net for underserved communities, sustain community colleges and their programs, and work with industry partners to stabilize their workforce – all while ensuring strategic funding and initiatives were developed through an equity lens. Building upon last year's efforts, the Governor signed critical measures that EDGE has been supportive of throughout the year in the areas of dual enrollment, expansion of workforce training opportunities, and support services for youth and adults that have been disconnected from the education and workforce systems.

In addition to legislation, EDGE strongly advocated in support of various budget items, including investments in student financial aid, career technical education, social safety net services, and increased investments for small businesses. These budget priorities were included in the final [2022-23 State Budget Act](#), a total of \$300 billion investment in the areas of education, workforce training, and economic recovery strategies that respond to the rising inflation crisis and other socioeconomic barriers continuing to impact Californians across the state. For more information on the enacted state budget, please see our budget overview [here](#).

As we close another successful legislative session, the work is far from done. Entering the 2023 legislative cycle, EDGE remains committed to working alongside our partners, the Legislature, and Administration to chart a path towards economic mobility that centers equity and removes barriers for California's most underserved communities, while supporting industry to hire a trained workforce. Strategic investments must prioritize communities that have been left out of our state's prosperity, particularly communities of color, women, opportunity youth, and undocumented immigrants, as well as empower them with resources to secure family-sustaining jobs; while also supporting our industry partners to keep businesses open and strengthen our economy.

The following is a summary of EDGE's 2022 priority bills and budget proposals with their final outcomes.

2022 EDGE Priority Bills

AB 102 (Holden) College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships - Dual Enrollment. This bill will remove the sunset date on the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) which will ensure dual enrollment opportunities remain available to all students. Dual enrollment allows for students to access college-level courses while in high school.

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 288 (Calderon) CA Ban on Scholarships Displacement Act of 2021. This bill will prohibit the displacement of financial aid awards due to receipt of private scholarships of students who are eligible for the: 1) Federal Pell Grant and/or 2) California Dream Act (CADAA) financial aid awards at both public and private institutions of higher education in the state of California.

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 1187 (Irwin) Supervised Tutoring at Community Colleges. This bill will increase access to supervised tutoring at the California Community Colleges by authorizing colleges to claim apportionment for students receiving assistance in credential/degree-applicable courses, including short-term training programs and education for older adults. This bill is in alignment with AB 705 implementation efforts that seek to stop the placement of students in remedial education courses.

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 1705 (Irwin) Strengthening Equitable Placement and Completion at Community Colleges. This bill will clarify and ensure that the implementation of AB 705 (Irwin, 2017) is delivered across the community college system - requiring colleges to enroll students in transfer-level English and math and halt the placement of students in remedial education, which colleges are continuing to do despite AB 705 law.

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 1746 (Medina) Cal Grant Reform Act. This bill would have built on last year's expansion of the Cal Grant entitlement to community college students by removing additional barriers to grant eligibility such as high school GPA verification; simplifying the program to make it easier to understand for students and families and indexing the award to inflation. A commitment from the Governor was made in the final budget to fund Cal Grant Reform, if state funding is available in 2024.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee but commitment included in the state budget.

AB 1816 (Bryan) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program. This bill would have created a competitive Reentry Housing & Workforce Development Grant Program to fund evidence-based housing, support services, and workforce development programs for people who were formerly incarcerated in state prisons and who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Position: Support

Status: Held. Placed on the Senate's inactive file.

AB 1864 (Gipson) Tax Credits for Small Business Employers. This bill would have created a local hire tax credit for small businesses, with 49 or fewer employees, that hire a full-time employee within a 5-mile radius of their place of business. This tax credit would have allowed employers to

benefit per eligible employee and be available for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2028.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee.

[AB 1965 \(Wicks\)](#) CA Antihunger Response Act of 2022 (CARE). This bill would have established the CARE program to provide state-funded benefits to individuals deemed ineligible for CalFresh as a result of the "able-bodied adult without dependents" (ABAWD) time limit. ABAWD is federally defined as individuals between ages 18 and 49 years old who have no dependents and do not have a disability and therefore may only receive CalFresh benefits for a certain amount of time. The federal "time limit" prohibits an ABAWD recipient from receiving benefits for more than three months in a three-year time period if they do not meet specific work requirements. This bill would have addressed food insecurity for individuals who would lose CalFresh eligibility due to the ABAWD rules and helped ensure they are supported as they continue to experience socio-economic and employment barriers.

Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. Full veto message [here](#).

[AB 2572 \(Rubio\)](#) Adult Learner Grant Program – This bill would have established an adult learner grant program at the CA Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and only allow students participating in online education to access these funds. It would have added unnecessary complexity to our state financial aid programs, creating a brand-new, boutique program to solely serve Californians aged 25 and over, who are enrolled exclusively in online education at either an in-state public higher education institution or a private nonprofit – even if it did not have a physical presence in California.

Position: Oppose

Status: Held in Assembly Higher Education Committee.

[AB 2617 \(Holden\)](#) Dual Enrollment Opportunities and Outreach. This bill will enable and incentivize more local education agencies to establish dual enrollment opportunities for students, coupled with student support services and outreach campaigns, and ensure dual enrollment outcomes are studied for program improvements. \$200 million to fund this effort was included in the final state budget.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee but included in the state budget.

[AB 2670 \(McCarty\)](#) CA Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises Program (RISE). This bill seeks to create the RISE Program, which will support employment social enterprises to provide targeted, specialized employment and workforce training, and connect them with local public partners, training providers, and private sector employers to accelerate economic mobility for individuals that experience employment barriers. \$25 million one-time investment was included in the final state budget to fund this effort.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee but included in the state budget.

[AB 2847 \(E. Garcia\)](#) Excluded Workers Pilot Program. This bill would have provided unemployment insurance benefits to excluded immigrant workers in California who cannot access these benefits due to immigration status. The proposal would have provided undocumented immigrants experiencing unemployment with \$300 per week for up to 20 weeks.

Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. Full veto message [here](#).

[SB 885 \(Laird\)](#) NextUp Foster Youth Program. This bill will expand the NextUp foster youth program by removing the 20 community college district limit, allowing the CC Chancellor's Office to instead enter into agreements with community college districts to provide and allocate to selected campuses, funds for NextUp programs. The bill also authorizes students enrolled in fewer than nine units to be accepted into the program if enrollment is part of an academic plan. \$30 million ongoing was included in the final state budget to fund this effort.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee but included in the state budget.

[SB 1115 \(Skinner\)](#) Women in Construction Priority Unit. This bill will establish a Women in Construction Priority Unit at the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to help women and non-binary individuals enter the skilled trades and foster competitive career growth within the workforce sector. \$15 million ongoing was included in the final state budget to fund this effort.

Position: Support

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee but included in the state budget.

[ACR 163 \(Medina\)](#) Adult Education Week. Proclaimed the week of March 27, 2022, to April 2, 2022, as Adult Education Week.

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

2022 EDGE Budget Priorities

In addition to legislation, EDGE also advocated in support of various critical budget investments related to career technical education, student financial aid, social safety net services, and support for small businesses. Below is a list of EDGE's budget priorities that were accomplished in the 2022-23 budget cycle.

Investments In Education & Student Support Services

Community Colleges & Students. 6.56% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), totaling a \$492.2 million ongoing investment, including a \$600 million base increase for the Student Centered Funding Formula. Additionally, the same COLA increase was approved for several categorical programs, including Adult Education, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS), CalWORKs Student Services, and Puente Project.

Dual Enrollment. \$200 million one-time Prop 98 funding over 5 years to expand dual enrollment opportunities tied to student support services.

Data Modernization: \$100 million Prop 98 (\$75 million one-time & \$25 million ongoing) for technology modernization and data protection, aimed to support community colleges as they continue to grapple with costly data security measures and fraud mitigation at the expense of student and programming investments.

Student Financial Aid:

- **Student Success Completion Grants.** \$250 million ongoing Prop 98 to increase Student Success Completion Grant award amounts and to expand available funds for students newly eligible for the Student Success Completion Grant due to establishment of the Cal Grant Entitlement Awards from last year's budget.
- **Cal Grant Reform.** The budget makes a commitment to prioritize Cal Grant Reform in 2024, only if general funds are available. If fully implemented, it would address

longstanding structural inequities within the student financial aid program by removing barriers, such as GPA verification, and expand access to underserved students, opportunity youth and adult learners. We are grateful to our state leaders for acknowledging the importance of modernizing the financial aid system, which will help rebuild the state's workforce pipeline and fuel California's economic recovery.

- **Emergency Financial Aid.** \$20 million one-time Prop 98 investment to fund the Emergency Student Financial Assistance Grants for eligible AB 540 immigrant students.

Social Safety Net Investments for Underserved Communities

CA Food Assistance Program (CFAP). \$35 million general fund (GF), increasing to \$113.4 million annually in 2025-26 to address food insecurity by expanding the CFAP program to Californians 55 and older, regardless of immigration status. Although grateful for this investment, we will continue to advocate alongside our Food for All coalition partners to advance the expansion of CFAP for all Californians, regardless of age and status, as the next step in this investment.

Health Care For All. Provides Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status, with \$835.6 million (\$626.1 million General Fund) in 2023-24 and \$2.6 billion (\$2.1 billion General Fund) at full implementation and annually thereafter until it reaches full implementation, starting no later than January 2024.

Child Care. The budget continues to extend certain COVID-19 child care protections, such as family fee waivers for another year, including \$100 million one-time federal funds for child care facilities. *However, sustainable funding must be included to support the child care workforce, increase reimbursement rates for subsidized child care providers, and increase the number of slots.* EDGE will continue to urge our state leaders to commit to stronger child care investments next year that will support California's working families who continue to lack access to affordable child care.

Investments In Workforce Development & the Economy

Relief for Small Businesses. \$6 million one-time GF in 2022-23 and \$23 million ongoing to permanently support the Small Business Technical Assistance Programs (TAEP). In addition, \$150 million one-time for COVID-19 Relief Grants to continue supporting small business recovery.

K-12 Golden State Pathways Grant Program. \$500 million one-time Prop 98 funding over 7 years to support career pathways focused on technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields. These programs will require local partnerships that bring together K-12, higher education institutions, employers, and other community partners.

Adult Ed Health Care Pathways. \$130 million one-time Prop 98 investment over 3 years for the Adult Education Program to support healthcare-focused vocational pathways for English language learners to increase language and cultural diversity in the field.

High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP). As part of the Workforce for a Healthy California for All Program, a \$1.5 billion one-time General Fund (GF) investment over 3 years, \$135 million of that funding will expand High Road Training Partnerships to help bolster the health care and human services workforce sector.

Workforce Literacy Program. \$10 million one-time GF for the Employment Training Panel to establish the Workforce Literacy Pilot Program, intended to expand workplace literacy training in

contextualized English, digital skills, and technical skills training for incumbent and new workers, including unemployed English language learners.

Integrated Education and Training for the English Language Learners (ELL) program. \$20 million one-time GF for the EDD Workforce Services Branch to expand the ELL program which combines English language instruction with vocational skills training for in-demand occupations. Also adopts budget language to include undocumented immigrants.

Immigration Integration and Economic Development Program. \$11.6 million in 2022-23, and \$500,000 annually thereafter, for GO-Biz to support statewide coordination for immigrant integration through enhanced services for immigrant communities at the state and local level, and support for economic development activities such as training programs and curriculum aimed at underserved business owners, including immigrant entrepreneurs.

CA RISE Program. \$25 million one-time GF to establish the RISE Program, intended to support employment social enterprises to provide targeted, specialized employment and workforce training, and connect them with local public partners, training providers, and private sector employers to accelerate economic mobility for individuals that experience employment barriers.

Women in the Skilled Trades. \$15 million ongoing GF to support the Women in Construction Unit at the Department of Industrial Relations, intended to support women and nonbinary individuals in the skilled trades sector.

Empowering Opportunity Youth:

- **NextUp Program.** \$30 million ongoing Prop 98 to expand the NextUp Program to support foster youth students attending community colleges.
- **CA Youth Leadership Corps.** \$60 million one-time GF to expand CYLC which would provide earn-and-learn training opportunities and resources for underserved students of color, immigrant youth, and opportunity youth who are experiencing poverty and are facing barriers to education and employment. An additional \$10 million one-time to expand the existing program to create a pipeline for community-based immigration legal services and other immigrant rights and social and climate justice organizations.
- **CA Youth Empowerment Commission.** \$1.5 million ongoing GF to establish the Commission, intended to empower underrepresented youth ages 14-25 with opportunities to engage in California's civic process with a focus on education, social services, workforce development, and public safety.
- **Emergency Medical Services Corps.** \$60 million one-time GF to create opportunities for underrepresented youth and fill a critical workforce need in the healthcare field.

For any questions, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.