



Skills for CA Policy Update

October 2022

On September 30th, Governor Newsom took final action on all pending measures that were passed by the Legislature. Various bills signed into law 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, investments in training to expand the health care workforce, measures to address climate justice and housing affordability, and increased career tech education opportunities.

Throughout the legislative session, the Skills for CA team worked hard to elevate the Network's [policy priorities](#) at the State Capitol. Specifically, the Network focused on various legislative and budget efforts that center workers of color, access to a social safety net for working families, support industry partners to stabilize and strengthen California's workforce, and empower opportunity youth who continue to face education and employment barriers. Many of the victories accomplished were included in the final [2022-23 State Budget Act](#), a total of \$300 billion investment. Some of the Network's priorities in the budget include a commitment to revamping the state's student financial aid system, investments to expand apprenticeship programs, financial relief for small businesses, and investments in health care and food security for immigrant communities. In addition to the budget, many of the [Skills for CA Summit Action Agenda](#) items that we advocated for during the legislative office visits in May are funded in the state budget. For more information on the enacted state budget, please see the CA EDGE Coalition's budget overview [here](#).

As we close another successful legislative session, the work is far from done. Entering the 2023 legislative cycle, the Skills for CA Network remains committed to working alongside our partners, the Legislature, and Administration to chart a path towards economic mobility that centers racial 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 workers of color, women, opportunity youth, and undocumented immigrants, as well as empower them with resources to secure family-sustaining jobs; while supporting our industry partners to keep businesses open and strengthen our economy.

Below is a list of the Network's bills and budget priorities that were accomplished this legislative year.

Budget Accomplishments

The Skills for CA Network advocated in support of various budget items in the areas of education and training, workforce development, and bolster an inclusive economy. View the Network's [budget letter](#) with the specific items that we advocated for throughout the year. We are excited to report that many of these items were included in the final budget agreement:

Investments In Education And 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 Puenta Project.
- ❖ **Dual Enrollment.** \$200 million one-time Prop 98 funding over 5 years to expand dual enrollment opportunities tied to student support services.
- ❖ **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 (GF) are available. If fully implemented, it would address longstanding structural inequities within the student financial aid program by removing barriers, such as the removal of the GPA verification – expanding 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 undocumented students.

Social Safety Net Investments For Underserved Communities

- ❖ **CA Food Assistance Program (CFAP).** \$35 million GF, increasing to \$113.4 million annually in 2025-26 to expand the CFAP program to Californians 55 and older, regardless of immigration status.

- ❖ **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.* The Network 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).
- ❖ **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 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.
- ❖ **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.

Priority Legislation

- ❖ **[AB 1746 \(Medina/McCarty\)](#) Cal Grant Reform.** This bill would have addressed long-standing structural inequities within the student financial aid Cal Grant program by removing barriers and expanding access to underserved students and adult learners. Modernizing the financial aid system will help to rebuild the state's workforce pipeline and fuel California's economic recovery.
Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee but commitment included in the state budget
- ❖ **[AB 1705 \(Irwin\)](#) Equitable Placement and Completion at Community Colleges.** This bill will remove barriers to certificate and degree completion by ending lengthy remedial sequences and placing students directly into transfer-level English and math coursework that is appropriate to their pathway, while also coupling these courses with co-requisite supports, as needed, to enable

student success. This is a critical lever in meeting the education and workforce goals of the state.

Status: Chaptered

- ❖ **[AB 2847 \(E. Garcia\)](#) Excluded Workers Pilot Program.** This bill would have provided critical unemployment insurance benefits to excluded immigrant workers in California who could not access these benefits due to immigration status. The proposal would provide undocumented immigrants experiencing unemployment with \$300 per week for up to 20 weeks.
Status: Vetoed by the Governor. Full veto message [here](#).

- ❖ **[AB 2670 \(McCarty\)](#) CA Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises Program (RISE).** This bill will create 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.
Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee but \$25 million included in the state budget to fund this effort.

- ❖ **[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.
Status: Held. Placed on the Senate's inactive file.

- ❖ **[AB 102](#) & [AB 2617 \(Holden\)](#) Dual Enrollment.** These bills will strengthen and expand dual enrollment programs by offering structured, well-sequenced pathways that count toward certificate and degree requirements by awarding students dual credit for college courses and credit toward high school graduation requirements, coupled with support services.
Status: AB 2617 was held in Senate Appropriations Committee but \$200 million was included in the state budget to fund this effort. AB 102 was chaptered into law.

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