



Updated

DATE: April 14, 2020 Update

TO: Presidents, Chief Instructional Officers, Chief Student Services Officers, and Career Education Deans

San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges

FROM: San Diego-Imperial Regional Consortium

**Regional Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Request for Applications (RFA)
College-Based Retention and Success Acceleration Project**

This project is being updated to augment the funding with an additional \$50,000 per college for a total of \$100,000 available for each college. The augmentation is intended to provide additional support to career education programs in transitioning to online education.

Please complete the forms attached with the details about your College-Based Retention and Success Acceleration Project Plan. This will be used as a scope of work for the contract with your college. This is also the information needed to submit a Strong Workforce Plan in the statewide system NOVA.

These funds must be spent by December 31, 2020. The region will ask for preliminary budget report on September 30, 2020 to assess investment progress. If progress is not being made, funds will be reallocated to other colleges.

If you have questions about the scope of this RFA, feel free to contact Mollie Smith at mollie.smith@gcccd.edu or Sally Cox at sally.cox@gcccd.edu. If you have questions about the RFA process and details, please contact Sue Fisher at sue.fisher@gcccd.edu or (619) 644-7095. Please complete this application by May 10, 2020.

Regional SWP Request for Applications College-Based Retention and Success Acceleration Project

Context and Purpose of the RFA

The San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges serve a population that has critical economic as well as educational needs. In San Diego County, 12% of the population lives in poverty; in Imperial County, that number is almost 24%. Further, nearly 28% of the regional population lives below the “self-sufficiency” standard. While unemployment overall is around 4%, it is more than 13% for African-Americans and more than 9% for Latinx. Fourteen percent of San Diego adults over the age of 25 lack a high school diploma; in Imperial County, that number is 33%. These adults have little opportunity to advance beyond low-wage jobs. Despite past reforms, the colleges are not yet meeting student needs. College completion rates range from 42% to 56% in the region’s colleges, and attainment of a living wage after exit remains low – 62% for Career Education students and only 33% for General Education students who do not transfer.

Retention and Success Acceleration Project

The purpose of this funding is to accelerate college-based initiatives that increase the retention and success of career education students. A minimum of \$50,000 should be dedicated to supporting colleges in their transition to online career education. These projects must support the region in improving Strong Workforce metrics including:

- Students with a noncredit workforce skills gain
- Students who completed 9+ CTE units
- Students who earned a noncredit certificate over 48 contact hours, a CCCCCO approved CTE credit certificate, associate degree, ADT, CCC bachelor’s degree or apprenticeship journey status
- Students who reported that their job is closely or very closely related to their field of study
- Median annual earnings for non-transfer exiting students, in the first year after exit
- Students who exited but did not transfer who attained the living wage for a single adult in the county where the college’s district office is located

Examples of aligned initiatives might include the Regional SWP Student Retention, Success and Completion Project, Work-Based Learning, Job Placement Case Management and Pathway Navigation; Guided Pathways implementation with a focus on career education programs; activities that close the equity gap in career education or other existing college initiatives that support the metrics listed above. A minimum of \$50,000 should be dedicated to supporting colleges in their transition to online career education.

These funds cannot be used to supplant activities or free up expenses in already budgeted activities. These funds may not be used to pilot new activities or one-time activities that are not sustainable.

Funding Details

Up to \$100,000 per college is available, a minimum of \$50,000 must be dedicated to the transition to online career education. Funds must be spent by December 31, 2020. The region will ask for preliminary budget report on September 30, 2020 to assess investment progress. If progress is not being made, funds will be reallocated to other colleges.

Project Outcome

This regional investment will increase student retention and success with the long-term impact of increasing SDICCCA career education completers job placement and wages and reducing the middle-skill wage gap.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTIONS BELOW

Description of proposed project:

Describe the project or activity you plan to accelerate. How does this project increase student retention and success? How will additional funding help to make this project more effective or come to fruition more quickly?

Start date:**End date:** December 31, 2020

Budget:

Please provide a detailed budget. A minimum of \$50,000 must be dedicated to transitioning to online career education.

Detailed Budget (Funding must be invested by December 31, 2020): *Please detail the budget items under by object code.*

Object	Classification	Itemized List of Budgeted Expenses	Total
1000	Instructional Salaries		
2000	Non-instructional Salaries		
3000	Employee Benefits		
4000	Supplies and materials		
5000	Other Operating Expenses and Services		
6000	Equipment		
Total Program Costs			

Indirect is not permitted on this project.

Please include with your application, an email chain with approvals from the CE Dean, CIO and President.