

What is Strong Workforce?

Strong Workforce Program (SWP): More and Better Career Technical Education to Increase Social Mobility and Fuel Regional Economies with Skilled Workers

To develop more workforce opportunity and lift low-wage workers into living-wage jobs, California took a bold step in 2016 to create one million more middle-skill workers. At the recommendation of the California Community College Board of Governors, the [Governor and Legislature approved the Strong Workforce Program](#), adding a new annual recurring investment of \$200 million to spur career technical education (CTE) in the nation's largest workforce development system of 114 colleges.

Grouped into seven areas targeting student success, career pathways, workforce data and outcomes, curriculum, CTE faculty, regional coordination and funding, this leading-edge state economic development program is driven by “more and better” CTE. The “more” is increasing the number of students enrolled in programs leading to high-demand, high-wage jobs. The “better” is improving program quality, as evidenced by more students completing or transferring programs, getting employed or improving their earnings.

Timeline

The Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) is in the planning stage for Round 3 investments. Regional Joint Ventures (RJVs) are regional projects into which individual colleges can invest their regional funds. Investments can be in the form of coordination funds to support the operation of the RJV, or locally-aligned investments that enable colleges to spend their regional funds locally in order to contribute to the goals/objectives of the RJV.

The BACCC has asked that all RJVs be finalized by August 31, 2018.

Metrics

SWP is performance-based funding. Allocations are determined based on the following metrics.

Increase Quality

- Enrollment in CTE courses & programs

Improve Quality

- Skills gained
- Completion (degrees and certificates)
- Transfer rates
- Employment rates
- Employment in field of study
- Earnings
- Median change in earnings
- Proportion of students who attained living wages