

CSAC



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

Update on the Golden State Education & Training Grant Program

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Program overview

- Established in 2021-22 State Budget to provide grants to dislocated workers seeking to enter an educational or training program administered by a public institution of higher education or a qualified provider on the Eligible Training Provider List
- \$500 million in one-time funding, through a hybrid of federal and state funding
- Displaced workers receive one-time grants of up to \$2,500
- Priority for individuals with at least one dependent child under age 18

Context for displaced workers

- **Pre-pandemic:** changes in nature of work displacing individuals from many industries, emerging sectors require some degree of postsecondary education or training
- **COVID-19 pandemic :** acceleration of change in workplaces, rapid displacement of many workers with most acute impact on those in fields requiring less formal education
- **Post-pandemic:** how can educational and social support systems facilitate re-skill or upskilling of individuals impacted by workplace changes?

Role of financial aid

- Growth industries seeking individuals with training or education that may not require a degree
- Educational institutions are increasingly partnering with training providers, employers, and labor unions to develop pathways into these career
- Many such programs are often not eligible for federal or state financial aid

How can individuals care for themselves or a family while also acquiring the skillsets needed to more fully participate in new economic opportunities?

→ Need for assistance that can help individuals access these programs and address their living expenses while re/upskilling

Program design principles

- First, understanding the needs of this population and new “user profile”
- Second, focus on systems change & catalyzing greater support for these individuals in accessing educational or training programs
- Third, respond to the urgent needs of displaced workers while also designing a new program that can inform future efforts

Understanding the population

- Commission leadership and staff engaging education and workforce leaders to understand how this program can fit within, reinforce, and advance other initiatives
- Convening held on October 15 to solicit input based on initial program design concepts
- Lumina Foundation supporting ongoing discussions among an informal advisory panel that will provide expertise from national and state workforce program practitioners

Stakeholder feedback

- Focus initial “quick start” outreach on key populations often excluded from traditional financial aid:
 - Students enrolled in academic programs that applied for financial aid with a displaced worker in their household
 - Students enrolled in academic programs that applied for financial aid and indicating they are participating in CalWORKS
 - Individuals enrolled in pre-apprenticeship programs at a community college or
 - Students in non-credit or adult education courses at a community college
 - Individuals enrolled in a “High Road Training Partnership Program”

Stakeholder feedback

- Utilize a streamlined, short-form application for participants, processed on a rolling basis
- Maximize the support provided to eligible individuals
- Develop means to identify workforce training providers with a “demonstrated track record”
- Leverage investment to reinforce partnerships between higher education, workforce training providers, and community-based organizations

Future target populations

After targeting the “quick-start” populations identified in prior slide, efforts would shift to focus on:

- Individuals enrolled in workforce/CCC partnership programs
- First-time participants in programs on the Eligible Training Provider List not already included in prior phases
- High-priority populations identified by the CA Workforce Development Board:
 - English language learners
 - Homeless and housing insecure individuals
 - Justice-involved individuals
 - Immigrants
 - People with disabilities
 - Veterans

Lumina Foundation support

- Lumina Foundation providing support to convene an informal advisory group, in addition to external consultant retained for program development
- Workforce and education experts from the National Skills Coalition, UNITE-LA, and California Competes all participating
- Other agency and educational leaders will be engaged in process on a regular basis to inform launch and implementation of program

Next steps

- Finalize application to share with students that have indicated on their aid application that they have an individual displaced from employment or are participating in CalWORKS
- Advise institutional partners when applications are first sent to targeted students, likely in January
- Identify additional data sources that will allow for the identification of other programs on the Eligible Training Provider list that meet the “demonstrated track record” criteria