

# WORKFORCE SERVICES INFORMATION NOTICE

Number: WSIN15-40

Date: April 6, 2016

Expiration Date: 5/6/18  
69:01:mw

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR FUND 3.0—REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The California Workforce Development Board (State Board) and Employment Development Department are pleased to announce the availability of up to \$5.7 million in funding to accelerate employment for California job seekers through the Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF) 3.0. The WAF 3.0 will support projects that bridge education and workforce gaps for targeted populations and build workforce system capacity through the following:

- **Collaboration** among partners in the development of service delivery strategies and alignment of resources to better connect disadvantaged and disconnected job seekers to employment.
- **Innovation** that creates new or adapts existing approaches or accelerates application of promising practices in workforce development and skill attainment.
- **System change** that incentivizes the adoption of proven strategies that are sustained beyond the grant period.

The WAF 3.0 will also support projects that accelerate skill development and employment for individuals with barriers to employment, including the long-term unemployed, returning veterans, low-income workers, disconnected youth, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, and CalWORKs participants.

### Project Goals

- Improve labor market and skills outcomes for target populations through the development of strategies that fill gaps, accelerate processes, or customize services to ensure greater access to employment opportunities.
- Implement, replicate, and scale successful innovations that emerged from the previous WAF projects.
- Create new models for service delivery and funding alignment that can be replicated across the state and tailored to regional needs.
- Leverage state investment with commitments from industry, labor, public, and community partners.

### Eligible Applicants

This Request for Applications (RFA) is open to new applicants as well as current or previous WAF grantees, as specified in the RFA.

*The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

Eligible applicants include Local Workforce Development Boards, labor organizations, K-12 education entities, community colleges, adult schools, county social service agencies, community-based organizations, business-related non-profit organizations, and workforce intermediaries. A for-profit private business or a for-profit consortium of businesses can be a partner on the Project Team, but cannot be the lead applicant.

### **WAF 3.0 Project Activities**

The WAF 3.0 is looking for projects that will create partnerships and prototype innovative strategies in order to bridge the educational and workforce gaps that exist for target populations, as well those that will implement promising models and practices for workforce service delivery infrastructure.

Through this RFA, the State Board will fund four types of WAF 3.0 projects:

1. New Accelerator Projects
2. Innovation Impact Projects
3. Innovation Network Projects
4. Accelerator 3.0 Technical Assistance and Support

### **Significant Dates**

New Accelerator and Innovation Impact applications are due **April 25, 2016** by 3 p.m.

Innovation Network and Accelerator 3.0 Technical Assistance and Support applications are due **May 2, 2016** by 3 p.m.

For more information on the WAF 3.0 projects and application requirements, please refer to the RFA Notice on the State Board [Initiatives](#) website.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief  
Central Office Workforce Services Division