

WORKFORCE SERVICES  
**INFORMATION NOTICE**

Number: WSIN14-41

Date: April 23, 2015

Expiration Date: 05/23/17

69:184:df:17392

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR FUND 2.0—REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The California Workforce Investment Board (State Board) and the Employment Development Department are pleased to announce the availability of up to \$3 million for grants to develop and implement projects that accelerate employment for California job seekers. The Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF) 2.0 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 uses these sub-grants to incentivize adoption of proven strategies and innovations that are sustained beyond the grant period.

The WAF 2.0 will support projects that accelerate skill development and employment for individuals with barriers to employment, including the long-term unemployed, low-income workers, disconnected youth, veterans, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, parents involved in family reunification, and CalWORKs participants.

### **Project Goals**

- Improve labor market and skills outcomes for the target groups through the development of strategies that fill gaps, accelerate processes, or customize services to ensure greater access to workforce services and employment opportunities.
- Create new models for service delivery and funding alignment that can be replicated across the state and tailored to regional needs.

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

- Implement, replicate, and/or scale successful innovations that emerged from WAF 1.0 projects.
- Leverage state investment with commitments from industry, labor, public, and community partners.

### **Eligible Applicants**

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

#### New WAF Projects

Eligible applicants for this funding category include local workforce boards, labor organizations, K-12 education entities, community colleges, adult schools, county social service or child welfare agencies, community-based organizations, business-related non-profit organizations, and workforce intermediaries.

#### Existing WAF Projects

Eligible applicants for funding category include past or existing WAF grantees, or any named partner in those projects, with the exception of for-profit private business, or a for-profit consortium of businesses.

### **Applications are due May 21, 2015 by 3 p.m.**

For more information on this funding opportunity and its requirements, please refer to the RFA Notice for the [WAF 2.0](#) on the [State Board's website](#).

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