The Chancellor’s Office Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD) is pleased to announce the first in a series of Request for Applications (RFA) under the unifying framework of Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy framework, as was approved by the Board of Governors in November 2012.

Over 13 Critical Conversations across California were conducted to inform the framework and deployment of the funds. Key themes reflected in this RFA series are as follows:

- Targeting workforce-related incentive funds towards priority and emergent sectors important to California's regional economies.
- Staffing key talent roles that serve as first contacts for industry and our system, including Sector Navigators and Regional Consortia Chairs. These roles facilitate in-region and multi-region coordination of training activities.
- Mobilizing community college training capacity by scoping grantees to collaborate with in-region colleges active in the sector.
- Applying common metrics and accountability measures on outcomes that drive student success and meet industry's need for skilled workers.
- Providing Technical Assistance and flexible mini-grants to support faculty coming together to update curriculum for industry needs.

"In prior years, we ran these RFAs at-large," notes Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan. "This year, our process gives much greater consideration to how California's regions plan to drive their economies and the role of community colleges in delivering the skilled workforce aligned with those priorities." California Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Tim Rainey agrees, "Action is at the regional level. Our career pathways need to stair step students into good jobs in sectors that drive California’s economies."

More on sector strategies can be found in the newly released 'State Sector Strategies: Coming of Age' report by the National Skills Coalition.

These RFAs are for 2013-14 funds. Only community colleges can apply as lead applicants.

The first release of the RFAs is located here: http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/WorkforceandEconDev/WEDDRFAs.aspx

For bidding information, visit the Bidders Conference Calendar.

For historical background, visit RFA MeetUps, RFA FAQ, and RFA Process.

Regards,

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