FAQ: CTE Data Unlocked Technical Assistance and Funding

What kinds of technical assistance and funding are available?

Each college is eligible for both 10 hours of technical assistance and $50,000 to support the use of data in decision-making for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Technical assistance will be providing during the 2016-17 academic year. Funding can be spent at any point before June 30, 2019.

What types of technical assistance will be provided?

20 CTE Data Unlocked Experts are working one-on-one with community colleges to support data usage. Most colleges have elected to use this technical assistance in the context of filling out the Strong Workforce Program local share template, including:

- Clarifying the funding requirements
- linking the college to other support providers based on local priorities
- Examine available data on program outcomes and support the process of benchmarking future outcomes
- Support colleges in planning for the use of the $50,000, based on what was learned through the Strong Workforce Program process

Colleges can also use the technical assistance to address issues like better access to data, improving the ability of practitioners to understand this information, and supporting the use of data in college practices.

What types of expenses are allowable for the $50,000?

The funds are intended to augment the technical assistance to deep the college's integration of CTE data into local and regional activities like program review, planning, and accreditation. For example:

- Hire a consultant or pay for faculty release time to pull and format data from statewide data tools to support local and regional processes like program review, accreditation, and planning

- Hire a communications consultant to develop outreach and educational planning materials based on data found in the LaunchBoard, Salary Surfer, and other tools

- Hire a consultant to support the process of examining TOP code assignments and to develop recommendations on how to make the assignment more consistent within and across colleges

- Hire a consultant to gather stories on skills-builder students and analyze skills-builder pathways, to provide a deeper understanding of these students, course clusters, and outcomes

- Support integration of the CATEMA system, including faculty stipends to support the development of processes with K-12 partners and A&R offices to gather and process information on articulated courses and credit by exam

- Improve response rates for the CTE Outcomes Survey, such as purchasing services that can provide updated contact information for former students or providing faculty stipends to develop communications plans to clarify the importance of the survey to students

Colleges can also propose other uses for the funds that meet the goals of the program.

How do I access technical assistance and funding?

Colleges submitted a brief questionnaire in June 2016 describing how they planned to use the technical assistance and funding. Colleges can adjust how they focus their technical assistance and change how they use the funding, based on what they learn from the technical assistance process.