FAQ: CTE Data Unlocked Technical Assistance and Funding

What kinds of technical assistance and funding are available?
Each college is eligible for 10 hours of technical assistance and $50,000 to support the use of data in decision-making and planning for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Technical assistance and funding will become available in September 2016. 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?
Technical assistance can be accessed on a number of issues including securing better access to data, improving the ability of practitioners to understand this information, and supporting the use of data in college practices. For example, technical assistance could include:

- Onsite training on how to use the LaunchBoard in the context of local program review, accreditation, and planning activities, including:
  - Overview training, where participants learn about statewide CTE data tools and engage in hands-on exercises related to program review, accreditation, and planning
  - Deep dive training into a scenario such as program review, planning, or accreditation, where participants do hands-on work to find data in statewide tools and apply it to local processes
  - Training with a specific department or program, where participants examine outcomes in various statewide data tools
  - Training with student services professionals, faculty, and deans on using employment data for educational planning and to strengthen support services

- Technical support to pull and format data from statewide data tools to support local and regional processes like program review, accreditation, and planning

- Technical support to develop a CTE profile for the college that documents the following information for high-enrollment programs: participation levels, student characteristics, milestone attainment, success outcomes, and employment and earnings data, benchmarked against regional and statewide figures.

- Technical support to examine TOP code assignments and identify data points that are missing from the LaunchBoard, leading to recommendations on how to improve data quality in statewide tools

Colleges can also request other types of technical assistance that address local concerns.
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?

All colleges are eligible, provided that the send a team to trainings that will be held between March-May 2016. Seven trainings, hosted by the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative, will be held in regions across the state. An additional training will be held at the joint CCCAOE/CIO/CSSO conference on April 20. College representatives can attend training at any of these locations.

Colleges also need to submit a brief questionnaire describing how they plan to use the technical assistance and funding to their regional consortia chair. This questionnaire is due June 1, 2016.

Who should attend training?

A senior administrator, such as the CEO, CIO, or CSSO, must attend the morning portion of the regional training or the preconference session. A practitioner who will be responsible for working with statewide data tools, such as a CTE dean, senior faculty member, or IR director, must attend the full day of regional training or the preconference plus two LaunchBoard breakout sessions at the CCCAOE/CIO/CSSO conference. Colleges are strongly encouraged to send teams that include more than two people.
Where can I get more information?
See the dates and descriptions for regional training, plus find more information about the CTE Data Unlocked initiative at: http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/LaunchBoard/CTEDataUnlocked.aspx

Or, send an email to launchboard@cccco.edu.