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**Technical Assistance Provider:**

**California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Apprenticeship Support Network**

Apprenticeships are the gold standard of the “earn and learn” educational model. Apprenticeship training is uniquely designed to bring front-line workers, who often are displaced, into secure, high-skill jobs with strong wage progression.

The California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Apprenticeship Support Network, whose work is informed by Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy and the Strong Workforce Program, develops tools, materials, events and workshops to assist CAI grantees in creating robust, sustainable apprenticeship programs.

CAI is a multifaceted effort designed to:

- support pre-apprenticeship programs that target underserved populations
- accelerate quick development of apprenticeship programs that are new or recently approved in priority and emerging industry sectors
- create new, innovative registered apprenticeship programs

As partnerships are the cornerstone of successful apprenticeship programs, the CAI technical assistance team offers individualized coaching and employer engagement support, identifies effective practices and delivers practical, evidence-rich and user-friendly reports, products and technical assistance. All of this lays the foundation for a next-generation California apprenticeship system, characterized by cultural competence, a commitment to equity, workplace and industry diversity and excellence throughout.

The CAI Apprenticeship Support Network team leverages virtual and in-person convenings to build momentum and deepen partnerships. These interactions are essential in facilitating collaborative peer and expert learning opportunities, sharing, ideation and problem-solving, so cross-institutional learning can take on new dimensions.

The CAI Hub, a virtual community of practice (CoP), allows the technical assistance team to take a peer-centered approach to providing assistance. It provides additional opportunities for grantees to share ideas

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and resources, ask and answer questions, participate in critical conversations, document best practices and organize and publicize events.

Formative evaluation and related technical assistance are needed components of initiatives like the CAI because they provide an infrastructure for continuous improvement and making informed adjustments to the program model as it develops. This real-time feedback enables programs to improve and to adapt to changing conditions. Evaluation also helps build an evidence base over time so that policy changes can be well-informed and public dollars well spent.

The CAI Apprenticeship Support Network is in direct alignment with the “more and better” career education strategy of the Strong Workforce Program. The team is dedicated to increasing the number of students enrolled in programs leading to high-demand, high-wage jobs and to improving program quality, leading to more students becoming employed and improving their earnings.

### Key Contact

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*Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy invests in California’s economic growth and global competitiveness through industry-specific partnerships, education, training and services that contribute to a highly skilled and productive workforce. <http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu>.*

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 114 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges>, or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.*

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