

This program will use a two-phase grant process. Collaboratives should use this self-assessment checklist to evaluate which grant phase is most appropriate. To be competitive for Phase 1, it is strongly recommended that collaboratives meet all or nearly all of the following criteria:

- The collaborative is knowledgeable about other consortia doing similar work in its CERF region and has made contact with leaders of these consortia to explore the possibility of collaborating on a grant application and expanding its service area or population.
- The collaborative has a convening organization that facilitates and manages the activities of the collaborative. The convening organization does not need to be the same entity as the fiscal agent.
- The collaborative has a fiscal agent that is able to execute contracts and process payments in an efficient manner.
- The collaborative has been in operation for at least three years and has made demonstrable progress toward some identified goals.
- The collaborative has a steering committee that includes executive level participants from the partner entities and meets regularly. At least 25% of this committee's members represent local employers, or the collaborative has a clear plan for expanding to meet this requirement for the purposes of this grant application.
- The regional collaborative currently has signed formal written agreements among each of the required education partners:
 - A campus of the University of California, which can include a UC Extension
 - A campus of the California State University
 - A California Community College District
 - At least one K-12 school district or county office of education
- The K-12 school district (or districts) participating in the collaborative should be currently using the transcript-informed college and career guidance tools provided by the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) as part of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, or be moving toward adoption of these tools in order to comply with the requirements of this grant program.

We recommend that only those collaboratives that meet all or nearly all of the above criteria apply for a Phase 1 grant in Spring of 2022. Other applicants are encouraged to apply for a Phase 2 Planning grant in Fall of 2022 and a subsequent Phase 2 Implementation grant in Fall of 2023.

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