



Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants, Round Two (SCC2) and Round Three (SCC3)

Program Description

The second and third rounds of the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants program (referred to as SCC2 and SCC3) aim to help people in marginalized and underrepresented populations overcome barriers to participating in, and completing, career and technical education programs they need to connect with quality jobs. The purpose of the grant program is to increase the capacity and responsiveness of community colleges to address identified equity gaps and meet the skill development needs of employers in in-demand industries and career pathways, as well as the skill development needs of marginalized and underrepresented workers.

Authorizing Legislation and Funding

Section 169(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorizes the SCC program. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 appropriated \$45 million for the SCC2 program and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 appropriated the SCC3 program at \$50 million; both use Dislocated Worker National Reserve funding. The second and third rounds of SCC grants used Funding Opportunity Announcement [FOA-ETA-22-02](#); Amendment Two extended the FOA to SCC3.

On September 7, 2022, the Department awarded 13 SCC2 grants to seven consortia of colleges and six single institutions, with four-year awards ranging from approximately \$1.6 million to \$5 million. On February 17, 2023, the Department announced 15 SCC3 grants to eight consortia of colleges and seven single institutions, with four-year awards ranging from approximately \$1.6 million to \$5 million.

The 28 grants proposed results-driven designs to work in a range of industry sectors. Twenty-one grants focus on a single sector and seven focus on multiple sectors. Industry sectors represented among grants include:

- Healthcare, including Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing (12)
- Information Technology (10)
- Advanced Manufacturing (7)
- Supply Chain, including Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics and Distribution-Materials Management (3)
- Construction (1)
- Clean Energy (1)
- Education (2)

SCC2 and SCC3 applicants had the opportunity to apply for Additional Evaluation Funding to conduct a rigorous study focused on their proposed equity gap goals. West Virginia University at Parkersburg

received additional funding under SCC2 to support a longitudinal outcomes evaluation that will study the applicability of a promising model to nursing programs in rural locations. The model is designed to help students stay in school and graduate with an associate degree quickly.

Grantees

SCC2 and SCC3 lead grantees are community colleges that applied as a consortium of colleges undertaking capacity building and systems change through one of three specific lenses: state-level, labor market, or affinity-focused, or as a single institution undertaking capacity building at that institution. Both single institutions and consortia work with required workforce development system partners and required employer partners. For both rounds, all awarded institutions are Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges or Universities, other Minority-Serving Institutions, or Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program colleges.

Program Design

All programs incorporate the core elements of advancing equity, accelerated career pathways, results-driven project design, sustainable systems change, and third-party evaluation. Each grantee developed five customized performance outcomes—three capacity-building outcomes and two equity performance outcomes—that are specific to their grant and flow from their equity gap analysis.

The SCC2 and SCC3 program's focus on capacity building and systems change builds on the lessons learned through the Department's past investments in community colleges, specifically the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program.

Eligible Participants

Eligible participants, or students, include a broad spectrum of adult workers—dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce—as well as older youth who are new entrants to the workforce. Additionally, through a focus on addressing equity gaps, these grants will target historically marginalized or underrepresented students and communities—specifically, people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, and justice-involved individuals—in their career pathway approach. The focus on building the capacity to offer accelerated career pathways to quality jobs will also benefit other students, such as veterans and military spouses, among others.

For more information, please visit [the Strengthening Community College Training Grants page](#).