



SUNY Future of Work Centers

Funding Available: Up to \$3.1 million

Purpose

The Future of Work Centers, formerly known as Job Linkage, will be established by SUNY community colleges in partnership with private sector and community-based organizations. The Centers will create new short-term, non-degree and degree-eligible credential programs to quickly address employer skill needs and prepare job seekers, especially those from underrepresented communities, for careers in high-growth industries.

Each Future of Work Center will be supported by start-up funds for a three-year period to develop curriculum in concert with regional businesses and deploy innovative marketing to target employers and prospective students.

Strategic Criteria

Awards will be made on a competitive basis within the SUNY system. Multiple community colleges may partner in a “hub and spoke” model with one college applying and assuming the lead role. The proposed coverage area can cross multiple Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions.

Proposals must:

- Create new and enhance existing short-term, non-degree and degree-eligible programs, stackable credentials, and microcredentials that quickly address local employer skill needs, particularly for middle/high-skill occupations and/or high-growth industries.
- Partner with employers to ensure programs directly address local employer needs and demonstrate how employers will be involved in curriculum development and review.
- Summarize the college’s current successful initiatives in workforce development and explain how this initiative will build and scale these programs.
- Outline marketing strategies to target employers and attract students, including partnerships with community-based organizations and other entities.
- Identify supportive services that will contribute to positive outcomes for trainees.
- Include a budget describing how funding would be used.
- Articulate a plan that leads to financial sustainability, including milestones with revenue targets, that outlines how the program will financially operate following the third year of funds.
- Give preference to serving social equity candidates and/or locate/target at least some programming within low-income communities or underserved business districts.

Proposals and awards will be coordinated and administered by SUNY System Administration via the Office of Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline.

Allowable use of funds may include:

- Supporting business engagement professionals, faculty and best-in-class curriculum developers to create or enhance short-term workforce education training including:
 - non-degree training,
 - degree-eligible courses/programs (certificate, AOS, AAS),
 - stackable credentials, and/or
 - microcredentials.
- Engaging faculty and trainers to teach new/enhanced courses and/or covering the cost of training for students in eligible training programs.
- Paying for exams or tests required to obtain a credential.
- Providing applied and/or experiential learning opportunities for students.
- Providing stipends for applied learning opportunities.
- Providing holistic student supports for participants in training such as:
 - Academic services that support student success (advising, tutoring, mentoring, etc.), and
 - Other supportive services for students while in training (transportation, childcare, food security, etc.).
- Deploying innovative marketing to target employers and prospective students.

Capital expenses are not allowable; however, limited funds may be used for equipment and supplies necessary to run the program.

Eligibility: All 30 SUNY community colleges are eligible to apply. Applications may propose a single college “stand-alone” model or a “hub and spoke” model with one college applying as lead with one or more additional campuses as partner(s). Consortium applications will be reviewed favorably.

Award Level: Up to \$3.1M is available to award funds to be used for a period up to three years, with a minimum award of \$500,000 and a maximum award of \$1.5M.

Application:

[Application Link](#)

[Budget Template Link](#)

Deadline: August 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM with awards made in fall 2023.

Reporting: Awarded institutions will furnish a bi-annual report to the SUNY Office of Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline. Reports must include a narrative and measurable metrics on:

- Partnerships
- Courses/programs developed/enhanced
- Microcredentials and other stackable credentials
- Marketing initiatives
- Program participant outcomes, such as applied learning opportunities and training completion
- Job placements
- Budget/financial status

Lessons learned and curriculum will be shared with other SUNY community colleges.

More Information:

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