



## **SUNY Future of Work Centers**

*Funding Available: Up to \$3.0 million*

### **Purpose**

The Future of Work Centers, funded through the NYS Budget 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 with priority given to programs that align with SUNY Reconnect.

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

#### 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.
  - While more than one industry sector may be supported it is recommended that colleges limit the number and present a focused application.
- Describe how this proposal advances SUNY’s policy goals to expand the use of credit for prior learning.
- Outline how some or all programs will be designed/enhanced to meet PT TAP and Workforce Pell funding guidelines.
- 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.

- Locate and 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 Workforce Development and Upward Mobility in collaboration with the Office of Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline.

Allowable use of funds may include (Note: each of the below should be a reasonable amount, prioritizing program development and training activities):

- 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 if not supporting the cost of faculty/trainers. Funding should credit the student's account not be paid as a scholarship to the student.
- Supporting staff to oversee grant activities.
- Supporting staff to attend training and conferences directly tied to program recruitment and learning opportunities for program improvement.
- Paying for exams or tests required to obtain a credential.
- Providing applied and/or experiential learning opportunities for students (i.e. internships, practicums, service learning, etc.).
- 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.
- Limited funds may be used for food at marketing/outreach events.

Capital expenses (e.g., equipment of \$10,000 or more, building renovations, major facility upgrades) are not allowable. Limited funds may be used for equipment and supplies essential to implement and sustain the training program. This may include instructional materials, classroom or lab supplies, and equipment required to operate the program.

Giveaways and promotional items are not allowable expenses.

**Eligibility:** All 30 SUNY community colleges are eligible to apply. Applications may propose a single college "stand-alone" model or a consortium model with one college applying as lead with one or more additional campuses as partner(s). Consortium applications will be reviewed favorably as will applications that align with SUNY Reconnect high need industries. Colleges with open Job Linkage/Future of Work Center applications may apply if the project is not for duplicative work. A college may apply individually and as a member of a consortium.

**Award Level:** Up to \$3 million 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 \$1.5 million.

**Application:**

[Application Link](#)

[Budget Template Link](#)

**Deadline:** Thursday, March 19 at 9:00 AM\*

**Reporting:** Awarded institutions will furnish a bi-annual report. Reports must include a narrative and measurable metrics on:

- Partnerships
- Courses/programs developed/enhanced
- Microcredentials and other stackable credentials
- Marketing/outreach initiatives
- Program participant outcomes, such as:
  - Applied learning opportunities
  - Training enrollment and completion
  - Registration for additional training at college
  - Job placements
- Budget/financial status

College must be able to provide both unique and duplicated data for each student that enrolls and completes any grant activity, be it credit or non-credit.

Lessons learned and all curriculum developed/enhanced must be shared through the SUNY Open Access Repository (SUNY SOAR).

**More Information:**

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\*Deadline extended from the original March 16th due date.