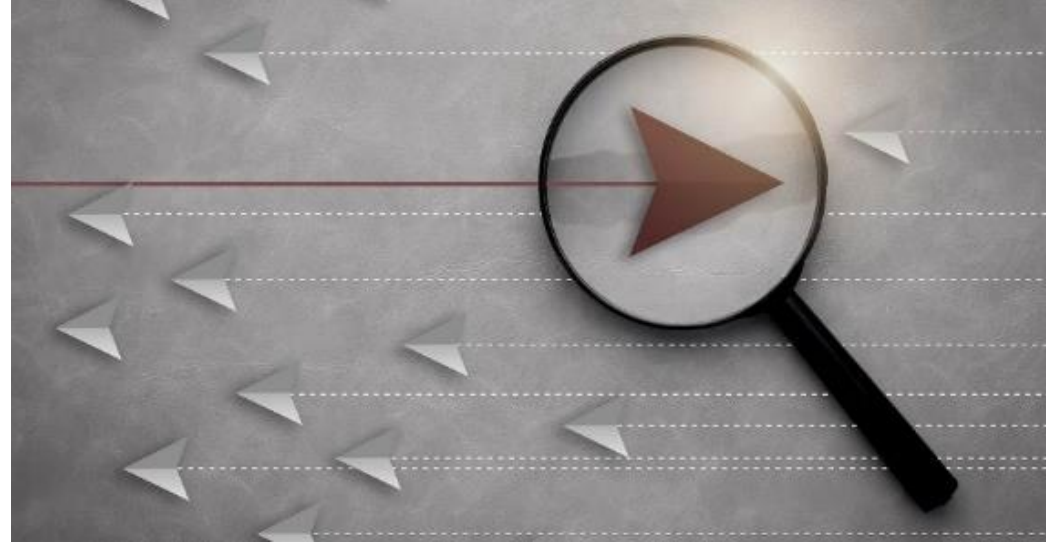


**Career Connect Washington:
Regional Network RFP
Bidders' Conference**

July 15, 2019

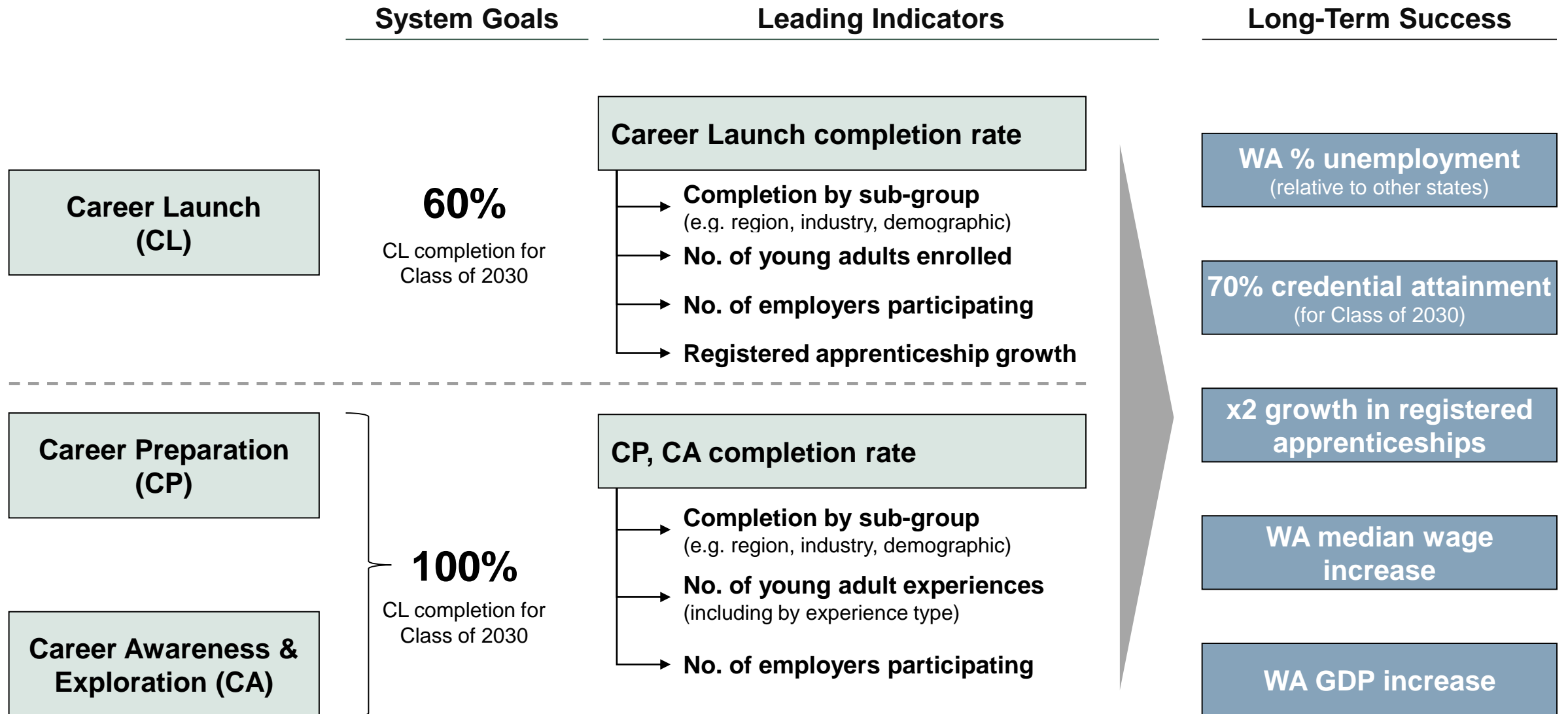
**CAREER
CONNECT
WASHINGTON**

Vision for career-connected learning in Washington



Every young adult in Washington will have **multiple pathways toward economic self-sufficiency and fulfillment**, strengthened by a **comprehensive state-wide system for career-connected learning**

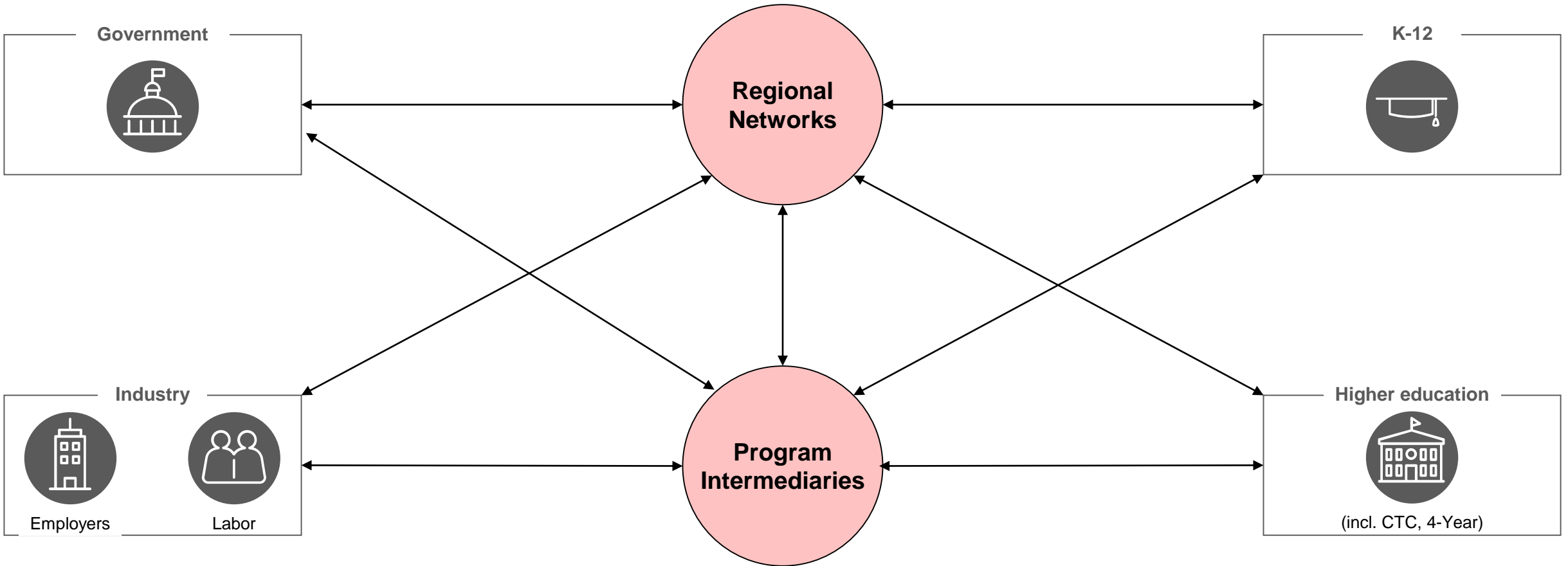
Our North Star: Enable all WA young adults to experience career connected learning and increase postsecondary credential attainment



Regional networks and program intermediaries provide the necessary connections

Employment

Education



Goals of the RFP

The role of the Regional Networks is to convene and support Career Connect Intermediaries and other local partners in the region, help them achieve their outcomes related to Career Launch endorsement and participation of young people in Career Launch, Career Preparation, and Career Exploration and Awareness activities, and ensure equitable inclusion of youth of color, low income youth, youth from rural communities and youth with disabilities.

Funding will support regional networks to convene and manage cross-industry, cross-sector partnerships that will lead to the expansion of career connected learning (CCL) opportunities that meet their region's needs; to develop regional strategies to pursue growth of CCL programs; serve as primary point-of-contact and navigator for career connected learning within their region; and consolidate regional data and report key learnings to the Career Connect Washington Work Group, among other responsibilities.

Funding will support one Regional Network per Educational Service District.

Minimum Qualifications

- The Bidder must be licensed to do business in the State of Washington or provide a commitment that it will become licensed in Washington within thirty (30) calendar days of being selected as the Apparent Successful Bidder.
- The Bidder must provide evidence that it has experience performing the role of a regional network or substantially similar role, as defined in section 1.7 and achieve objectives described in section 1.3. Such Bidders may include but are not limited to: regional education networks, school districts, educational service districts, higher education institutions, workforce development councils, chambers of commerce, industry associations, joint labor management councils, multiemployer training partnerships, economic development councils, and nonprofit organizations.

Qualifying regional network applicants must demonstrate:

- The ability to convene a cross-industry, cross-sector network as soon as possible after receiving funding
- Regional knowledge of existing CCL programs and gaps and opportunities in region
- Status as a trusted partner of industry and education stakeholders and demonstrated ability to convene these stakeholders (demonstrated by letters of support from these stakeholders)
- A track record of success with career connected learning and aligned initiatives
- Commitment to equity, including the ability to convene communities of color, low-income communities, students/parents, and disability community (demonstrated by letters of support from these stakeholders)
- Commitment to sharing best practices with other regional networks across the state

Deliverables

Regional networks shall:

- Convene a board of educators, employers, and community leaders (or multiple boards, should the regional needs dictate that). The board will meet a minimum of four times per year
- Develop regional strategies to pursue growth of career connected learning programs and meet the goals described in Background Information (Exhibit A)
- Serve as a primary point of contact and navigator for businesses, parents, intermediaries, and students
- Support the entire Educational Service District area either directly or via work with partners in expanding existing career connected learning opportunities, growing new programs, providing wrap around services to students, and reaching out to underserved communities.
- Assist businesses, educators and intermediaries in obtaining Career Launch endorsement for new and existing programs
- In coordination with partners, conduct local events to highlight the profile of Career Launch, Career Preparation, and Career Awareness opportunities
- By June 30, 2020, in partnership with appropriate Career Connect WA Cross-Agency Work Group sub-committees, develop a catalog of all regional Career Launch programs, their capacity, and performance on equity targets. Keep the catalog updated throughout the duration of the contract.
- Contribute to the state-wide inventory that identifies existing support programs to promote equitable participation in career connected learning, including resources for populations to reengage with educational opportunities.
- With assistance from the Data & Measurement Sub-Committee of the Career Connect WA Cross-Agency Work Group, consolidate regional data and report key learnings to the Work Group.

Proposal

The RFP includes mandatory and scored requirements. Please see the RFP document starting with page 12 for the details.

Items in Section 3, Proposal Contents, marked “mandatory” must be included as part of the proposal for the proposal to be considered responsive; however, these items are not scored. Items marked “scored” are those that are awarded points as part of the evaluation conducted by the evaluation team.

In your proposal, we are asking you to describe your plan for convening and managing a regional, cross-industry, cross-sector network that will lead to the expansion of career connected learning opportunities

- Network design (30 points)
- Partnerships (30 points)
- Track record of success (20 points)
- Equity (20 points)

Proposal (continued)

Regional Network Design (MS 30 points possible)

Describe your approach to:

- Developing a unified regional system (please see Exhibit A) to pursue growth of Career Awareness and Exploration, Career Preparation, and Career Launch programs.
 - Working with the Career Connect WA Education Service District Coordinators to support growth of career connected learning in your region
 - Understanding the diverse needs of students, employers, and K-12 and post-secondary educators in your region
 - Building trusting relationships and convening key stakeholders from across sectors and industries
 - Serving as the primary point-of-contact, coordinator, and navigator within the region
 - Consolidating regional data and report key learnings to the Career Connect Washington Work Group
-
- What is your expected timeline and ongoing cadence for convening your regional network?
 - What is your expected timeline for developing your region's Career Connected Learning strategy?
 - Describe any other critical components of your plan that will help the review committee understand your proposal.

Proposal (continued)

Partnerships (MS maximum 30 points possible)

- Who are your key education and industry board members?
- Describe roles and responsibilities for each partner and attach letters of support.

Track Record of Success (MS 20 points possible)

- Describe your organization's specific qualifications for and experience convening and managing regional network.
- Include bios of team members.

Equity (MS 20 points possible)

- Describe your organizations commitment to equity, including the ability to convene communities of color, low-income communities, students/parents, and disability. How will you demonstrate this commitment through your role as a Regional Network?
- What is the proportion of low-income students, students from rural areas, out-of-school youth, students of color, and students with disabilities in your general student populations?

Funding

\$100,000 per award for FY 2020 and \$100,000 per award for FY 2021, total not to exceed \$1,800,000.

We anticipate making 9 grants – one per region – of \$100,000 for fiscal year 2020. Awardees are eligible for an additional \$100,000 extension for fiscal year 2021 if they can demonstrate that they were able to successfully meet objectives and deliverables of the fiscal year 2020 grant.

All funds are General Fund – State

Period of Performance

The period of performance of any contract resulting from this RFP is projected to be on or about

September 30, 2019 through June 30, 2020

with an option to extend to June 30, 2021 if grantee is able to demonstrate that they are successfully meeting objectives and deliverables of the fiscal year 2020 grant.

Cost Proposal

As part of your application, please identify all costs to be charged for performing the activities described in the Proposal Part of the application.

Please use Exhibit G – Budget Template to identify budget categories and describe expenses within each budget category.

Schedule of Activities:

Issue Request for Proposal Via WEBS (Washington's Electronic Business Solution)	July 10, 2019
Bidders Conference	July 15, 2019, 11:00-12:00
Bidders Submit Questions To RFP Coordinator	By 2:00 p.m. PST July 19, 2019
ESD Responses To Bidder Questions Via WEBS	July 24, 2019
Bidder Proposals Due	By 4:00 p.m. PST Aug 15, 2019
Announce Apparent Successful Bidders Via WEBS	Sept 1, 2019
Projected Contract Work Begins	Sept 30, 2019

Questions?

The RFP Coordinator is the sole point of contact for this procurement

Please direct all communications to:

Jessy Nations

esdgpbids@esd.wa.gov

360-902-9460

ESD will respond to all questions in writing by COB July 24, 2019