



The Education Trust–West

# Request for Applications for a Community of Practice Focused on Equitable Course Placement and Completion at California Community Colleges

Application Deadline: June 28, 2024

## Purpose of Solicitation:

EdTrust-West is committed to dismantling the racial and economic barriers embedded in the California education system. Through our research and advocacy, EdTrust-West engages diverse communities dedicated to education equity and justice and increases political and public will to build an education system where students of color and multilingual learners, especially those experiencing poverty, will thrive.

EdTrust-West will launch a community of practice equity initiative focused on equitable course placement and completion in mathematics and will provide practical technical assistance to support teams (cohorts) of administrators, faculty, institutional research and planning professionals, staff, and student leaders from at least 10 California Community College campuses. The Community of

Practice (CoP) will take place in the Fall 2024, followed by two Implementation Institutes in the Spring 2025 to support and strengthen efforts to advance equitable placement and completion policies.

Selected campus teams will engage in a CoP model and will meet across (4) four facilitated CoP sessions between September 2024 through December 2024 to develop a Blueprint for Equity Plan (i.e., an action plan) to be completed by participants at their respective campuses. After the completion of the CoP sessions, participants will participate in two Implementation Institutes (March 2025 and June 2025), where each team will present on progress made on the implementation of their plans and strategize with other participating teams.

## Overview and Background:

Since 2001, EdTrust-West has been partnering with school districts and county offices of education by providing tools and services to help educators transform policies, practices, and systems to create access to rigorous and relevant course supports students need to thrive. The primary

engagement with districts is a Systemic Equity Review and Blueprint for Equity Planning Process. EdTrust-West is leveraging this experience to support a similar process at the community college level.

## The Opportunity:

The community of practice equity initiative will help community colleges to develop and execute strategies to effectively and equitably implement equitable course placement and completion reforms in mathematics, to improve outcomes for students of color and multilingual students.

Selected colleges will participate in a cohort community of practice (CoP) model, which involves working alongside representatives from other colleges, with the guidance of facilitators, to share knowledge and experiences. The program will provide a structured process for college teams to develop and implement a comprehensive Blueprint

for Equity Implementation Plan. The Blueprint for Equity Planning Process is a multi-phased research and facilitation process to help identify the systemic barriers that limit student success and develop action plans for change.

#### This includes:

- ▶ Data collection and analysis to understand the needs of the target population.
- ▶ Expert presentations and coaching from practitioners and researchers.
- ▶ Time for planning and collaboration using provided templates, tools, and resources.

#### Eligibility:

Teams from colleges in the California Community College system are eligible to apply for the Community of Practice. Please visit the California Community Colleges [website](#) to view a comprehensive list of community colleges. Priority will be given to teams from colleges serving rural communities and colleges in Los Angeles County. Teams

#### Award:

While no direct funding will be provided to colleges to participate, we estimate colleges will receive in-kind technical assistance valued at \$75,000 per team. We will cover transportation expenses for participation in the in-person sessions on September 23, 2024, March 12, 2025, and June 4, 2025.

#### Selection Criteria:

Colleges will be selected based on their commitment, demonstrated need, and capacity to engage.

#### Apply Here:

<https://forms.gle/DvNGFAW9ugpTJ6UdA>

Contact Us: For questions regarding the content of the Community of Practice, email Denise Luna at [dluna@edtrustwest.org](mailto:dluna@edtrustwest.org) or Camille Medrano [cmedrano@edtrustwest.org](mailto:cmedrano@edtrustwest.org).

- ▶ Facilitated feedback and consultations from facilitators and peers.
- ▶ A Blueprint for Equity Plan (i.e., an action plan).

#### Participating teams will participate in:

- ▶ An in-person kick-off session at the [EdTrust-West's Equity Forum](#) on Monday, September 23, 2024, in Oakland.
- ▶ Three virtual sessions on Tuesdays, October 22, November 12, and December 17, 2024, for the Los Angeles cohort, or Thursdays, October 24, November 14, and December 19, 2024, for the rural cohort.
- ▶ Two in-person Implementation Institutes on March 12, 2025, and June 4, 2025.
- ▶ Participants will be reimbursed for travel costs for the in-person events.

can include three to six members, including administrators, faculty, institutional research and planning professionals, pathways coordinators, AB 705 coordinators, staff members working on equitable course placement, and student leaders.

#### Selected participating teams will receive:

- ▶ College-level data reports and analysis
- ▶ Presentations and coaching from expert practitioners and researchers
- ▶ Facilitated feedback and consultations from facilitators and peers
- ▶ Time for guided planning and collaboration using provided templates, tools, and resources
- ▶ Cohort peer learning to produce A Blueprint for Equity Plan (i.e., an action plan)
- ▶ Registration and travel reimbursement to attend Day 1 of EdTrust-West's Education Equity Forum on Monday, September 23, 2024, in Oakland, CA.

#### Timeline:

- ▶ Request for Application Issue Date: May 1, 2024
- ▶ Informational Webinar for Interested Applicants: You are invited to a Zoom webinar, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 11:00 AM. Register in advance for this webinar: [https://edtrust.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SDrr8tVXS5-02tdl1Hf1Tw](https://edtrust.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SDrr8tVXS5-02tdl1Hf1Tw)
- ▶ Priority Deadline: May 29, 2024
- ▶ Final Deadline: June 28, 2024
- ▶ Decision Notification: Early July 2024
- ▶ Public Announcement: End of July 2024
- ▶ Implementation period: September 2024 to December 2024 (Community of Practice); January 2025 to June 2025 (Implementation Institutes)