

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Competitive Grants Strategy Update**

**Background:** In June of 2024, the System Office initiated a concerted focus on securing competitive federal grants, led by a newly created Director of Grants position. The goal in the first year was to apply for at least \$10 million in competitive federal grants. This goal was achieved. However, competitive federal grant programs are currently undergoing changes that may affect their structure and administration. As a result, federal funding priorities or administrative oversight may shift. For instance, certain grant programs might transition from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor.

The Director of Grants has analyzed competitive federal grants and identified the most relevant to community colleges:

1. Currently Stable: Federal competitive grants currently stable and supported for continuation:
  - Economic Development Administration (EDA)
  - Department of Navy (DON) (STEM) Education and Workforce Program
  - Department of Labor (DOL) Apprenticeship Grants
2. Future Possibilities: Federal competitive grants to monitor and pursue:
  - Military
  - Apprenticeships
  - Technology Pipeline
  - Skilled Trades Workforce
  - Artificial Intelligence Workforce

With this in mind, the System Office is adopting a more diversified strategy for grant acquisition led by the Director of Grants. The goal is to successfully apply for at least \$15 million in grants over the next year consisting of: (1) Select competitive federal grants considered currently stable and future possibilities; (2) competitive state grants to offset lost federal funds and build braided funding models; and (3) private grants and funding from philanthropic foundations in collaboration with the NCCC Foundation, aligned with its multiyear campaign goal. We aim to secure awards for at least 50% of actively considered applications, excluding any opportunities withdrawn or canceled by the funder.

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