

# Orange County K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP)

## FAQ Sheet

Q) *What is the intent of this funding?*

A) K12 SWP funds are intended to help each LEA think strategically about improving **career pathway development** in **collaboration** with our OC regional partners. The Request For Applications states, "High-value applications shall encompass a collaborative regional approach in order to reduce duplication: including the participation of multiple K12 institutions through existing relationships, community colleges, workforce partners, Adult Education programs, special education programs (including workability), and community-based organizations."

Q) *How much funding has been allocated to Orange County?*

A) Orange County has been allocated a total of **\$12.8 million** to be dispersed annually. This funding is **ongoing, with annual renewal**.

Q) *Who will be taking the lead on the regional consortium application?*

A) The Orange County Department of Education will leverage **the OC Pathways Consortium** (originally initiated as a result of the Career Pathway Trust funding in 2014) and submit the regional application on behalf of all participating districts.

Q) *How did these initiatives get developed?*

A) Over the last 6 months, regional convenings have been organized using **human-centered design thinking** strategies to capture the breadth of Orange County needs and priorities. We have also assessed the career pathway development status of each LEA through regional surveys and personal conversations. As a result, the first eight OC Initiatives are **broad** and meet **foundational pathway improvement priorities** versus being sector-specific. It was determined that pathway development throughout Orange County varies significantly and this first set of initiatives aim to address and lessen such disparities.

Q) *What is the match requirement for each LEA?*

A) While match requirements are still being clarified by the Chancellor's office, indications are that by participating in a consortium application **each participating district will be responsible for a 1:1 match**. If an LEA chooses to apply on their own, they will have to meet the match requirement specified by the legislation.

Q) *Do I have flexibility in how I use the funding my LEA receives?*

A) Yes. Each Initiative will have suggested "strategies" for participating LEAs. However, each LEA can use the funds they receive with some flexibility as long as they meet the **general accountability measures** determined by the Initiative Task Force.

Q) *What support will my district receive if we decide to take part in an Initiative?*

A) Each Initiative will be facilitated by a taskforce and a taskforce lead that will provide support to participating districts. For Initiative #1, the **taskforce and lead** will work with each district's **Career Counseling Coordinator**, hired with K12 SWP funding.

Q) *How long is the funding for each Initiative available?*

A) OC Pathways Consortium will organize each Initiative by a **24-month cycle** with the intent to renew funding (the funding is ongoing). Each Initiative will receive renewed funding as long as it meets the measurable outcomes set.

Q) *How is Initiative 1 (Advancing Career Counseling in Orange County) unique?*

A) The first initiative aims to fund a **Career Counseling Coordinator** to be hired by each LEA. By opting in to the first initiative, your district will have a **Coordinator-level** person who will manage and support district program improvement activities in line with the K12 Strong Workforce Program.