



Connecting  
Data and Insights  
to Advance  
Equitable Futures

## Community Engagement Advisory Board Proposal Form

### Instructions:

Per the [Governance Manual](#) Section "Member Expectations and Responsibilities" Community Engagement Advisory Board members can submit a proposal form, which must be submitted to the Office one month prior to the Fall Advisory Board meeting, to address significant gaps regarding feedback loops with data users, evidence-based decision making and analytical capacity, and equitable access to actionable information. These proposals provide specific recommendations to amend the [community engagement framework](#). Please note there should only be one proposal per form.

### Name:

Mike Nguyen

### Proposal Title: *no more than 50 characters*

The CA C2C Mobile Application

- By checking this box, I understand that if my recommendation is one of the top recommendations identified by the Advisory Board, I will be presenting my idea at the Fall Advisory Board meeting.

### Nature of Proposal:

- Feedback loops with data users
- Evidence-based decision making and analytical capacity
- **Equitable access to actionable information**

### What action should be taken to address the issue?

The State of California's Cradle-to-Career Data System will develop and launch a mobile application, 'CA C2C', publicly available to all users on mobile devices. This mobile application will provide a user-friendly interface, access to tools, and data-driven insights. This mobile application will retain all

components published on the Cradle-to-Career website to ensure that Californians have increased and equitable access to all information and resources at any given time. This mobile application will be available on as many application marketplaces as possible for Californians to download and use.

### [Who could benefit from this action?](#)

The Cradle-to-Career Data System is currently at a crucial juncture in its [five-year timeline](#). In year 4, corresponding to the 2024-25 fiscal year, the System has planned to “launch universal basic accounts at CaliforniaColleges.edu for all public high school students.” In addition, the eTranscript California Task Force has provided its completed [draft recommendations](#) for moving forward for Cradle-to-Career in its work contributing to the Master Plan for Career Education, underlining the urgency of my proposal before all planned actions are set and done.

In the [2023-24 academic school year enrollment data](#), the annual CALPADS Fall 1 submission recorded an enrollment number of 1,913,982 students in public schools in grades 9 to 12, the grades of the high school level. Furthermore, [the Governor stated in 2020](#) that “Approximately one in five students in California lack high-speed Internet or an appropriate computing device at home.” According to [EdSource](#), California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has stated that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an immediate need for at least 150,000 laptop devices for public school students with the acknowledgment that California has been in a digital divide for the past several decades. Whether in a pandemic or not, California must adapt to its people’s needs and bridge this divide to ensure the disadvantaged have equal access and opportunity.

Given these extenuating circumstances for California students, the numbers are clear and tell a significant story. It is inaccessible to make Cradle-to-Career’s wealth of valuable resources and information accessible only via a website. Hundreds of thousands of students may not have access to a stable computing device, thus preventing them from reaping the benefits of Cradle-to-Career. This inequity must be addressed to ensure all students have equal opportunities.

From my personal testimony in attending a Title I K through 8th school district for nine years, I remember seeing when the iPad mini’s and Chromebooks had to be returned to the charging cart at the end of the day. Teachers would even limit assigning electronic assignments due to the fear that only some students had the opportunity to submit their work on Google Classroom. I

remember when my teachers made accommodations to the rules for when a classmate did not have any devices at home and could take their school device home that night to complete the assignment with peace of mind. This shows that not every student has a stable computing device at home. These experiences underscore the importance of making Cradle-to-Career accessible to all, regardless of their technological resources.

Moreover, it is not only about the students. Families, educators, advocates, researchers, and policymakers will have trusted information and resources only a few taps away at their fingertips, further accelerating their efforts and advancing all aspects of the quality of life for all Californians, from education to employment.

This proposal has an immense potential impact, and it is the responsibility of Cradle-to-Career's Board Members to ensure that all stakeholders, one of whom is students, have equal opportunities to access and benefit from Cradle-to-Career resources in order to reach their full potential.

#### [Who would implement this action?](#)

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System staff members will implement this action to build the 'CA C2C' mobile application. Staff members will implement this action as information from data providers becomes readily available, the user-centered design process is finalized, and front-end and back-end updates are as needed in the mobile application. Staff will ensure the application reflects the information and resources as Cradle-to-Career is on the web. The staff members will build the application with an eye on embedding strong performance, functionality, privacy, and security measures for users.

#### [How does the action relate to the mission and vision of C2C?](#)

The proposed action is in direct alignment with C2C's mission, which is "to expand access to tools and services to navigate the education-to-employment pipeline." By launching the 'CA C2C' mobile application, Cradle-to-Career provides California with a one-stop shop of vital data, tools, insights, and resources to empower its people to pursue higher education, skills education, and employment confidently and easily. On top of this, a mobile application would enhance the Cradle-to-Career brand identity and build on the continued goal of being approachable and inviting to the public.

Additionally, the proposed action is in direct alignment with C2C's vision, which

is to connect "individuals and organizations with trusted information and resources." In the long term, this mobile application will realize this vision as data is collected, tools are fully developed, and users will increasingly download the mobile application once launched. Thus, mass access to Cradle-to-Career and this power to the people "fosters evidence-based decision-making to help California build a more equitable future."

This proposal is a strategic step towards putting this technology in the hands of as many Californians as possible, advancing our mission and vision. By creating an accessible online website and mobile application, this proposed mobile application will take significant steps towards achieving increased community engagement and putting the public first in Cradle-to-Career.