



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:

Alexis Takagi

Proposal Title: *no more than 50 characters*

Data Literacy Outreach Tools

- 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?

In alignment with Cradle to Career's (C2C) Community Engagement Plan and its broader mission to serve as California's primary provider of actionable data and research, incorporating comprehensive data literacy tools and resources within C2C's outreach and communications materials will empower individuals

to understand and utilize data effectively. This initiative will foster greater social and economic equity by equipping stakeholders with the skills to interpret and apply data insights, as well as the resources to effectively communicate insights derived from data to others, ultimately expanding access to essential tools for navigating the education-to-employment pipeline.

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

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System connects individuals and organizations with trusted information and resources, offering insights into critical milestones from early care to K–12, higher education, skills training, and employment. The data system is designed to “empower individuals to reach their full potential and fosters evidence-based decision-making to help California build a more equitable future.” To ensure that all Californians are utilizing the C2C's data system effectively, I propose that data literacy tools and resources be embedded into Cradle to Career's community engagement outreach efforts.

Data literacy empowers communities by providing individuals with essential skills to understand and use data effectively in their personal, educational, and professional lives. For example, high school students and their families can use these tools to ensure that they are meeting milestones as they explore post-secondary options while enabling practitioners to leverage data more effectively to serve their communities. Given that C2C already champions a student-centered design, data literacy tools and resources integrated into outreach materials will facilitate increased usage of C2C's data and subsequent data dashboards, prompting greater access to the public to leverage the data in their own lives and the communities they serve. Secondly, considering that data literacy tools are already being created by the C2C staff such as a data dictionary, this proposal suggests that a strategic campaign is developed to intentionally inform the public about these tools and how to apply the data in their own lives. Furthermore, the implementation of data literacy skills can strengthen feedback loops with data users by fostering a deeper understanding of how data informs decision-making processes. Through empowering data users with these skills, we aim to create a more responsive and adaptive ecosystem that supports continuous improvement and innovation across educational and professional pathways.

[Who would implement this action?](#)

The Cradle to Career Data System Office would implement this action with support from the three boards. There is potential for partnerships with educational institutions and non-profit organizations focused on data literacy

that can also be leveraged. These collaborations can subsequently enhance the reach and impact of the initiatives, ensuring that diverse communities, reflective of California's diverse student population, have access to the resources and information they need to utilize and make sense of the data. One avenue to integrate data literacy skills and tutorials is C2C's outreach plan, including Community Conversations and blog posts.

What this looks like in practice:

1. Integrate workshops and training sessions in Community Conversations providing an overview of data literacy guides (e.g. how to interpret and analyze data), emphasizing their practical applications in academic research, everyday decision-making, and fostering a data-informed community culture. This can also include developing interactive modules that allow participants to practice data skills in a hands-on manner or YouTube tutorials that individuals can follow at their own pace.
2. Once an online repository of tutorials, interactive modules, and resources such as the data dictionary are developed, create outreach materials that uplift and inform the public on how to leverage these tools. Outreach materials should refrain from using research or academic jargon to increase accessibility and demonstrate to the public C2C's commitment to democratize data and empower individuals to make informed decisions.
3. Establish an online forum where participants can ask questions, share insights, and discuss topics with others

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

California currently lacks a unified system for information across early education, K-12 schools, colleges, social services, and employment, resulting in fragmented data that complicates planning and student transitions. This disjointed approach hinders comprehensive analysis of outcomes across Californians' lives from early childhood through adulthood.

To address these challenges, the California Cradle-to-Career Data System aims to consolidate and provide actionable information to communities and families. Centered around empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and promoting evidence-based decision-making, the system's mission is to deliver data-informed tools for students to reach their college and career goals while offering insights into education and workforce outcomes.

This initiative seeks to foster a more equitable future for California through integrated, accessible data. Moreover, C2C aims to design a user-friendly system to empower its users. Strengthening the capacity of data users through these tools can lead to more effective community development initiatives driven by data.