



Community Engagement Advisory Board Proposal Form

Instructions:

Per the [Governance Manual](#) proposal forms submitted will address significant gaps regarding feedback loops with data users, evidence-based decision making and analytical capacity, and equitable access to actionable information. Please note there should only be one proposal per form.

Name:

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Proposal Title: no more than 50 characters

Data for Decisions: Communities of Practice

- ☒ By checking this box, I understand that I will be presenting my recommendation 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?

Cradle-to-Career (C2C) should establish a *Data for Decisions: Communities of Practice* initiative that strengthens the use of C2C data (e.g. data dashboards) through partnerships with educational institutions, student-serving organizations, and practitioners. By embedding C2C within existing student support networks and engaging end users in the development of data-informed resources, the initiative would increase awareness, improve data literacy, and support more informed educational and career

decision-making across California.

For example, this could include the development of counselor conversation guides that help practitioners incorporate C2C data into student advising conversations, infographics that highlight key trends and disparities, blog posts from guest contributors or interviews with external organizations leveraging C2C data in their work, listening sessions or think tank style discussions, and short “Know Your Data” explainers that build data literacy by helping students and communities better understand topics such as transfer pathways, completion outcomes, and career opportunities. Together, these resources would translate complex data into clear, actionable information tailored to the needs, experiences, and decision-making contexts of the communities they serve.

A community of practice framework would allow C2C to approach this work as a collaborative learning model rather than a one-directional dissemination effort. Through intentional engagement with students, practitioners, educators, and community organizations, C2C can create spaces where stakeholders not only learn how to use C2C data, but also share their experiences, identify challenges, and contribute feedback that strengthens the continued development of C2C resources. This approach recognizes that those closest to students and communities bring valuable expertise about how data can be translated into meaningful action. C2C can build a network of data-informed partners who become champions and ambassadors of the data system. This model supports the democratization of data by ensuring that C2C resources are accessible, relevant, and responsive to the diverse needs of Californians, while creating a continuous feedback loop between users and C2C to improve the system over time.

Who could benefit from this action?

This initiative would benefit multiple stakeholder groups across California's education-to-workforce ecosystem while advancing C2C's commitment to

democratizing access to data and ensuring that more Californians are aware of and able to engage with the resources available through C2C. Students, including prospective, current, transfer, first-generation, and historically underserved students, would gain greater access to understandable information that supports informed educational and career decisions. Counselors, advisors, faculty, transfer professionals, and career services staff would receive practical resources to confidently integrate C2C data into their work. Community-based organizations and college success programs, such as Puente, TRIO, EOPS, Umoja, would also benefit by having tailored tools that support the communities they serve. By expanding engagement, this initiative would help ensure that C2C's resources reach a broader audience and that data becomes a shared tool for advancing equitable educational and career outcomes across California.

Who would implement this action?

The initiative would be led by the Cradle-to-Career staff in partnership with K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, and student-serving programs across California. C2C staff could coordinate the development of toolkits, facilitate communities of practice through community conversations, and facilitate opportunities for students to engage with the data, while campus practitioners and organizational partners would integrate the resources into advising appointments, workshops, classrooms, and other existing student engagement opportunities.

What this could look like in practice:

- **Embedding C2C into Existing Student Touchpoints:** Rather than relying on students to independently discover the dashboard, C2C resources would be integrated into the programs and offices students already trust and regularly engage with. Potential partners could include college counseling offices, Transfer Centers, Career Centers, Financial Aid Offices, First-Year Experience courses, Student Success Centers, Puente, TRIO, EOPS, Umoja, MESA, AVID, and Guided Pathways programs. To

support this integration, C2C staff could conduct intentional outreach to student-serving organizations and invite representatives to participate in existing C2C community conversations, where they can learn about available data tools, share how they currently use data to support students, and identify opportunities for collaboration. C2C could also establish dedicated office hours or engagement sessions for organization representatives to ask questions, receive guidance on navigating C2C resources, and explore how the data system can support their specific programs and communities. Through these relationship-building efforts, partners would be better positioned to incorporate C2C resources into advising appointments, workshops, orientations, classrooms, and other student engagement opportunities, helping students make informed decisions about their educational and career pathways.

- **Developing a Practitioner Resource Toolkit:** C2C could create practical resources that help counselors, advisors, faculty, and student support professionals confidently incorporate data into conversations with students. Examples could include counselor conversation guides on how to discuss transfer outcomes, explain earnings data in a student-centered way, help students interpret completion rates, use equity data to identify opportunities rather than deficits, and explore multiple college and career pathways. Incorporating a storytelling component that features student narratives alongside the data can also help practitioners contextualize quantitative findings, humanize outcomes, and connect the data to the lived experiences of students.
- **Launching a Student and Practitioner Co-Design Challenge:** Inspired by the C2C Lesson Plan Challenge, C2C could invite student groups, campus programs, and community organizations to use C2C data to develop resources tailored to their communities. Potential deliverables could include resource guides, infographics, social media campaigns, workshop curricula, transfer planning tools, career exploration activities,

and peer mentoring resources. This participatory approach would ensure resources are intuitive, culturally responsive, and reflective of the experiences of the students and communities C2C serves.

- **Pairing Data with Student Voice:** To make data more meaningful and relatable, C2C resources could incorporate lived experiences alongside dashboard findings. Dashboards provide important trends and outcomes, while student narratives help contextualize the data through illustrating the experiences behind the numbers. Examples could include student testimonials accompanying transfer outcome data, first-generation student perspectives on navigating college decisions, short narratives illustrating different educational pathways, and practitioner reflections on how data informs their work with students. Together, data and storytelling can support stakeholders understand the context behind the numbers and encourage more student-centered use of the C2C data dashboards and tools.

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

This proposal directly advances C2C's mission of providing actionable information that helps Californians make informed decisions about education and career pathways. While C2C has made significant progress in developing accessible data tools, this initiative focuses on ensuring those resources are actively used by embedding them within trusted student support systems and partnering with the practitioners who guide students throughout their educational journeys. By positioning C2C as a tool that can support students in navigating educational pathways, exploring opportunities, and making informed decisions about their futures, this initiative aims to increase engagement and investment from both students and practitioners in C2C's work.

Additionally, this proposal creates meaningful opportunities to gather feedback from users and incorporate their experiences into the continued

development of C2C resources. By centering collaboration, accessibility, and student voice, the initiative supports C2C's vision of creating a more equitable and transparent education-to-workforce pipeline in which all Californians have the information, resources, and support needed to achieve their educational and career goals.