

NCSL: Maryland Collaboration

State of Colorado
Misti Ruthven
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COLORADO

Office of Economic Development
& International Trade

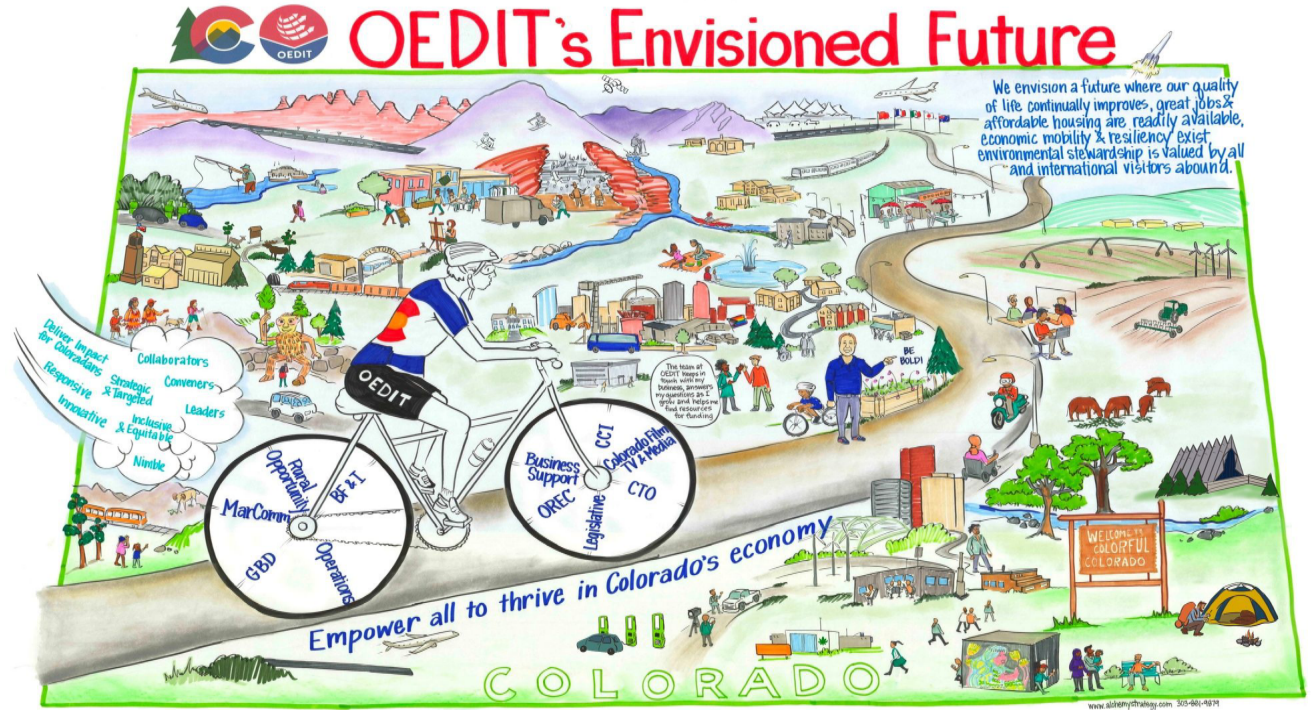
Economic Vision

Mission

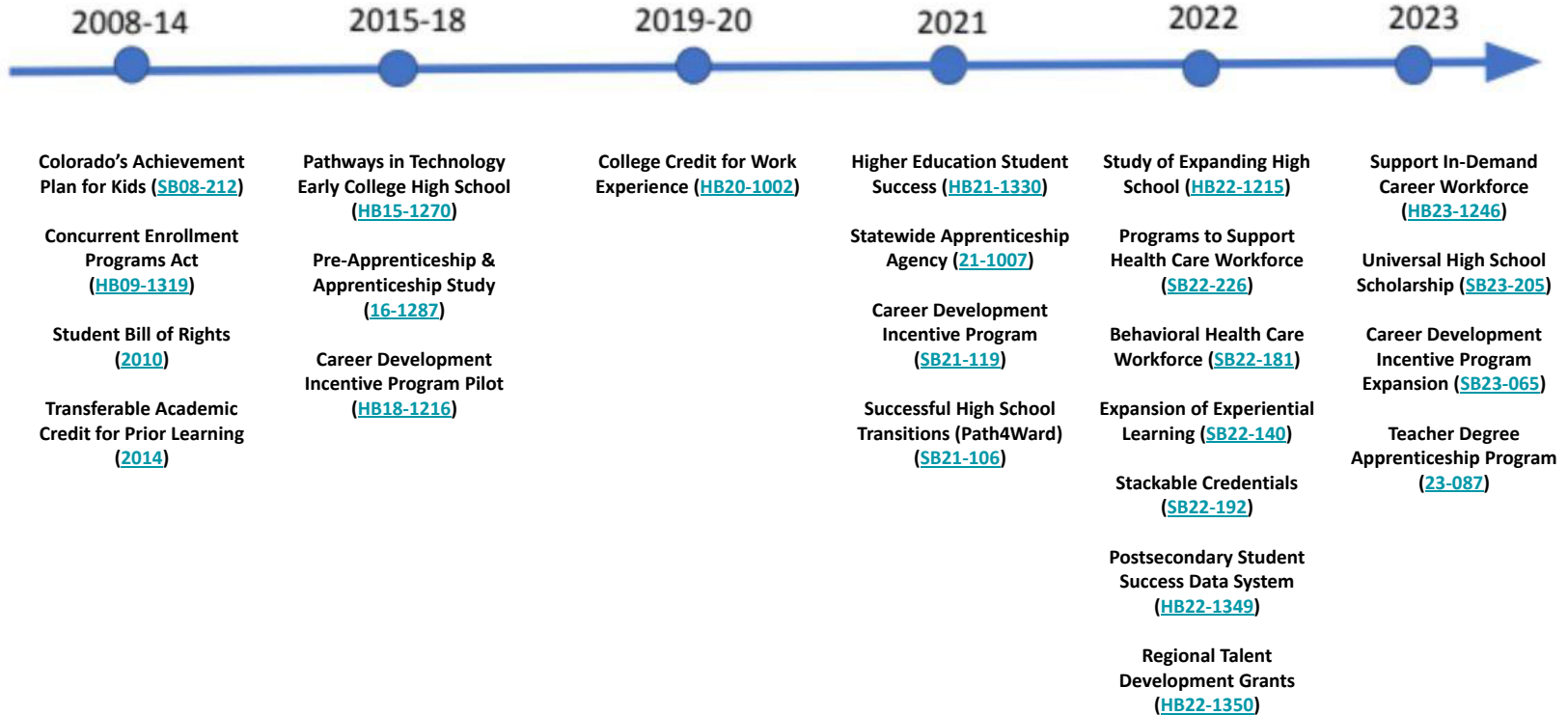
Empower all to thrive in Colorado's economy.

Vision

We envision a future where our quality of life continually improves, great jobs & affordable housing are readily available, economic mobility and resilience exist, environmental stewardship is valued by all and international visitors abound.



Colorado's Legislative Journey



Intended Goals & Outcomes

- Maximize skilled talent to fill jobs (HB22-1350)

Goals/Outcomes	Bill(s)
Early Credential Attainment	HB09-1319 HB15-1270 HB18-1266 HB20-1002 HB22-1215
Career Changers	HB21-1330 HB22-1350 SB22-181 SB22-226
Career Advising	22-165
Filling in-demand jobs	SB22-226 SB22-181 HB23-1246
Apprenticeship & Work-based learning	HB21-1007 SB22-140

Program Highlights

Care Forward (SB22-226, \$26 million)

- Train 10,000 Coloradans for in-demand health care jobs
- 6,000 trained in first year (CNA, phlebotomy, medical assisting, dental hygiene, EMT, pharmacy tech)

Career Advance (HB23-1246, \$38 million)

- Train 20,000 Coloradans for in-demand jobs (infrastructure/construction, fire/forestry, law enforcement, teaching, nursing)

Career Development Incentive Program (HB18-1266, SB21-119, SB23-065, \$10 million approx)

- Began with a few hundred students earning credentials
- Expanded over <10 years to 10,000+ students (20% of HS students)

Opportunity Now (HB22-1350, \$90 million)

- Business/education co-create talent to meet skills demand
- Focused on regional needs and in-demand jobs (infrastructure/construction, early childhood, education, health care)

Stackable Credential Pathways

Senate Bill 22-192

- ❑ 10 stackable credential pathways across 5 high-value Colorado industries by 2025
 - Behavioral Health (entry-level microcredentials)
 - Education (apprenticeship to alternative licensure)
 - Healthcare (career lattice for direct care worker advancement)
 - Cybersecurity (industry certification to college credit CPL matrices)
 - Software Development (essential durable and tech skills guidance)
- ❑ Develop a [quality credential framework](#) for Colorado
 - Defining quality non-degree credentials
 - Rubric for quality credential evaluation

Opportunity Now Program Goals

Opportunity Now will distribute a total of \$92 million across 3 grant phases, of which \$82+ million have been awarded.

1

Meet key talent needs in Colorado regions

2

Incent collaboration between education and industry

3

Match Coloradans with in-demand, living wage jobs



Opportunity Now: Timeline

Phase 1
~\$27 million grants
summer 2023

Phase 2
~\$55 m grants
spring 2024

Phase 3
Remaining funds
awarded *winter*
2025











All funds spent or
returned by
December 2026

Reporting
Summary
outcomes
due 2027

Implementation
Technical assistance through Dec 2026



Grantee Summary (Phases One & Two)

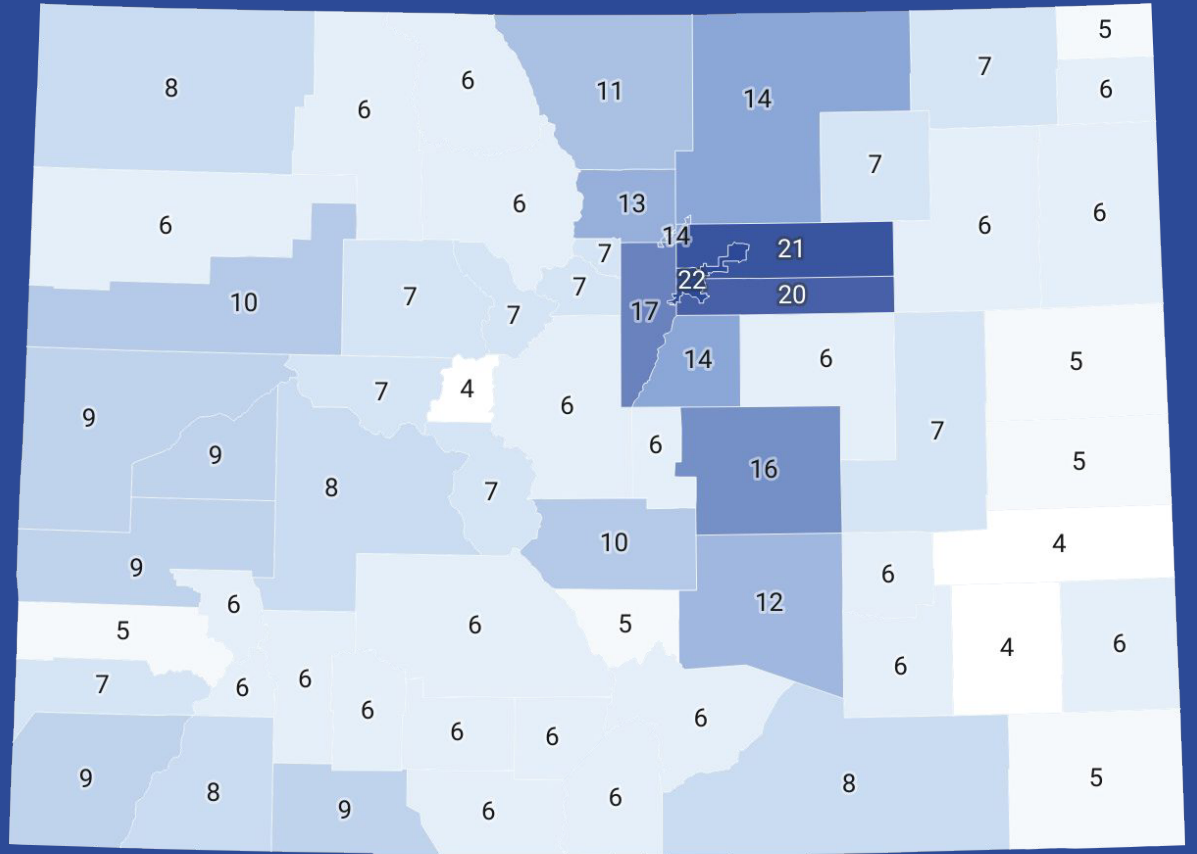
GRANT TYPES	 Number of Grantees	 Expected Learners Served	 Expected Learners Placed	 Average Grant Amount	 Grant Amounts
 SCALE Supporting the growth of evidence-based practices	14	14,677	5,360	\$2.1 million	\$36,253,197
 SEED Stimulating innovation and fostering new partnerships and solutions	30	9,360	3,916	\$1.4 million	\$44,092,562
 PLANNING Research or initial development of new programs	45			\$50,000	\$2,195,048

PARTNERSHIPS

631 total Industry and Education partners among grant recipients

** Planning grantees were not asked to report on learners served or placed.*

Geographic Reach by County





Questions?