

**Summary of the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative  
Success Center  
Foundation for California Community Colleges**

**Goal:** To establish an infrastructure to help provide students from California Community Colleges more consistent and equitable opportunities to earn credit for learning and skills they acquire outside of college classrooms.

**Who:** This work focuses on better serving the following populations:

- 2.5 million workers age 25+ in California with some college but no degree, who might return for reskilling or certificate/degree completion (see page 2);
- More than 30,000 veteran and military students currently enrolled in colleges;
- 1.7 million veterans living in California who might re-enter higher education;
- Thousands of K-12 students who participate in dual enrollment, AP/IB, CTE pathways, and Linked Learning who can benefit from more consistent statewide policies to grant credit for their learning.

**What:** The Success Center at the Foundation for California Community Colleges, in partnership with the Chancellor's Office, received a \$1 million grant from the Lumina Foundation to develop the infrastructure and resources needed to improve credit for prior learning (CPL) in the California Community Colleges. This work supports the system's Vision for Success. The grant period is from November 2017 to April 2019.

**How:** The central strategy to achieve this is the development of a cross-role, cross-sector Advisory Committee whose members will meet throughout the grant period to:

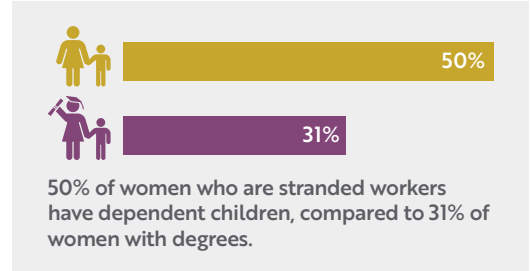
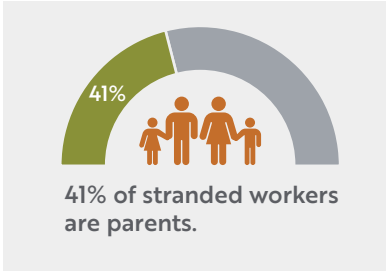
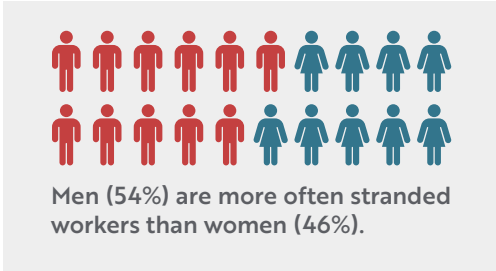
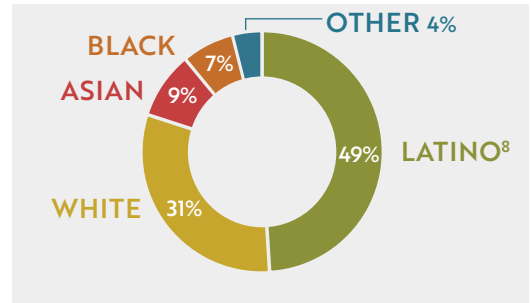
- 1) identify barriers to adoption and scalability of CPL systemwide;
- 2) draft proposed regulatory changes and model board policies that encourage more frequent and consistent award of credit for prior learning across campuses;
- 3) identify pathways (such as healthcare or criminal justice) through which we might pilot grant-funded enhanced credit for prior learning programs in 2019; and
- 4) explore opportunities to leverage the Online Education Initiative or the online college to improve prior learning assessment.

Other strategies include:

- Providing opportunities for stakeholders to learn from national experts about CPL, such as the American Council on Education, and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning;
- Facilitating site visits to military and workforce training facilities;
- Curating resources about CPL for faculty, staff, and administrators through the Professional Learning Network;
- Hosting workshops for faculty to learn about CPL and share practices;
- Partnering with a CPL work group that was recently formed in the California Community Colleges Curriculum Committee (5C).

# WHO ARE CALIFORNIA'S STRANDED WORKERS?

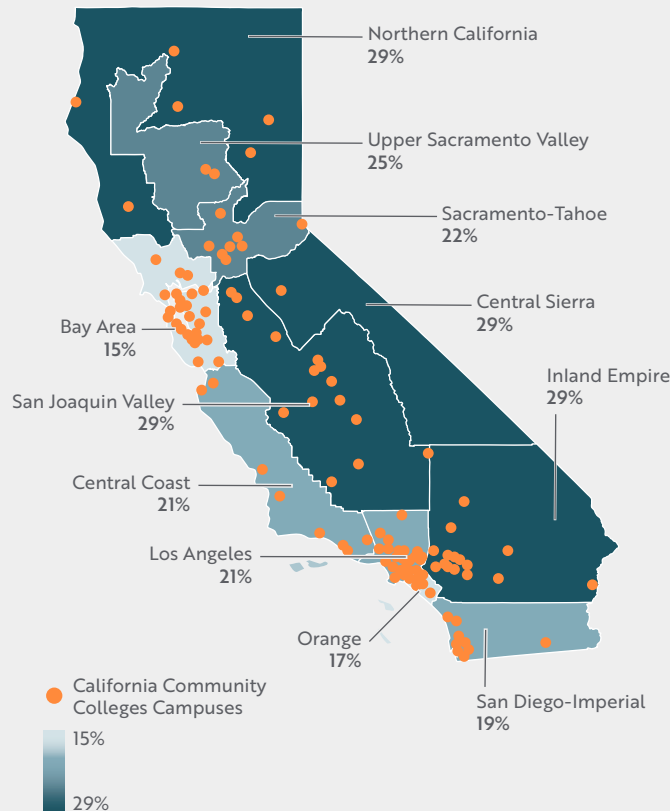
- » 2.5 million adults aged 25-34 who have graduated from high school but have not completed a postsecondary degree
- » A diverse group of workers across all industries in the state
- » Adults who face barriers in career development and wage growth as new technologies emerge and economies favor workers with degrees



## WHERE ARE THEY?

Most stranded workers live in urban regions. However, rural regions like Central Sierra, Northern California, and the Upper Sacramento Valley have much higher concentrations of stranded workers and far fewer educational facilities.

Figure 1: Concentration of Stranded Workers by Region



## WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW?

- 54% of stranded workers work full-time.
- 45% are employed in retail; educational, social and health services; and food services.
- 93% live in regions with high rates of broadband access and adequate internet speeds.<sup>1</sup>
- They are more likely to face economic hardship.
  - 4% received public assistance compared to 1% of their peers with degrees.
  - 25% did not have health insurance compared to 7.4% statewide.<sup>2</sup>
  - 58% earned less than \$25,000 annually compared to 34% of their peers with degrees.

Unless otherwise noted, all calculations are based on California Competes' calculations of American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 2016 five-year estimates for Californian adults, aged 25-34.

<sup>1</sup> California Public Utilities Commission. (2016, December 31). Wireline broadband deployment.

<sup>2</sup> Center for Disease Control. (2016). Health insurance coverage: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January-June 2016.