

EDUC8 Concept Presentation

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ICOC/ARS Meeting
December 11, 2025

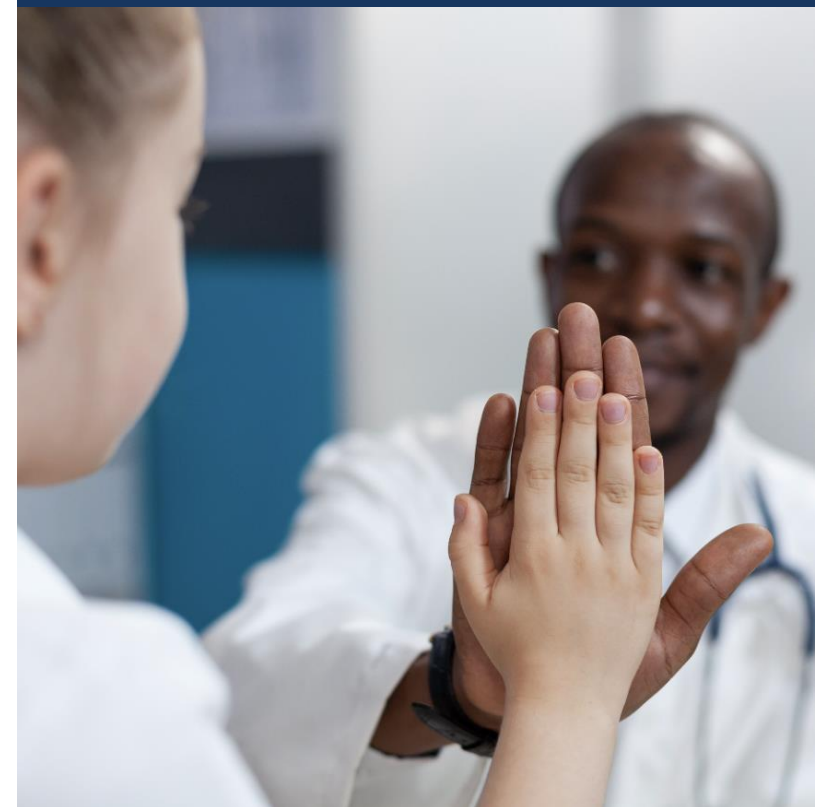


EDUC8 | Concept Outline

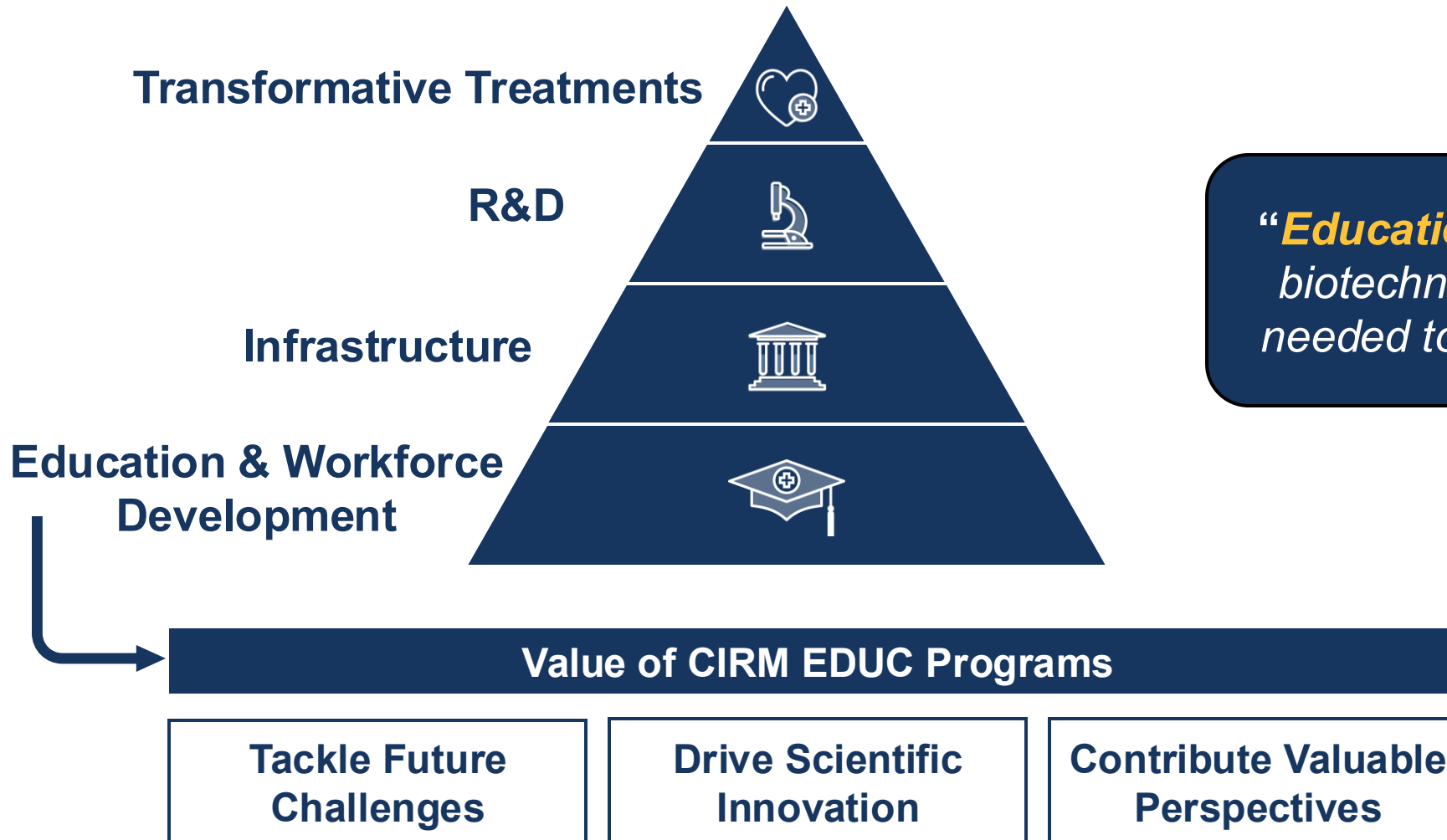
1. Background
 - Overview of Mission and EDUC Programs
 - Bridges and COMPASS: Impact and Value
 - Rationale for EDUC8
2. Objective and Approach
3. Scope and Activities
4. Award Structure and Budget
5. Eligibility
6. Timeline
7. Summary and Request for Motion

Our Mission

Accelerating world class science to deliver transformative regenerative medicine treatments in an equitable manner to a diverse California and world



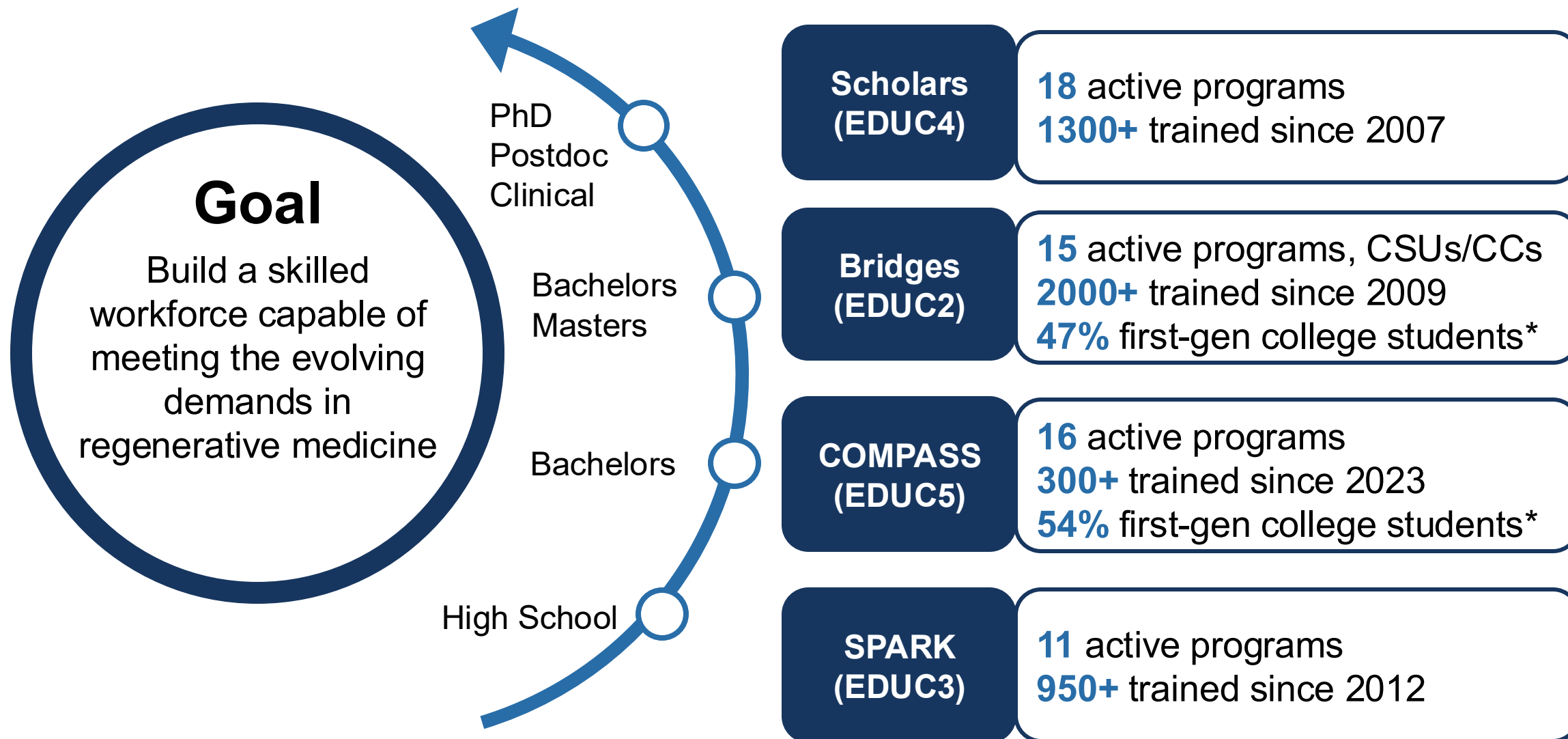
Education & Workforce Development are Key to Mission



*“**Education Programs** build the biotechnology workforce that’s needed to generate new cures”**

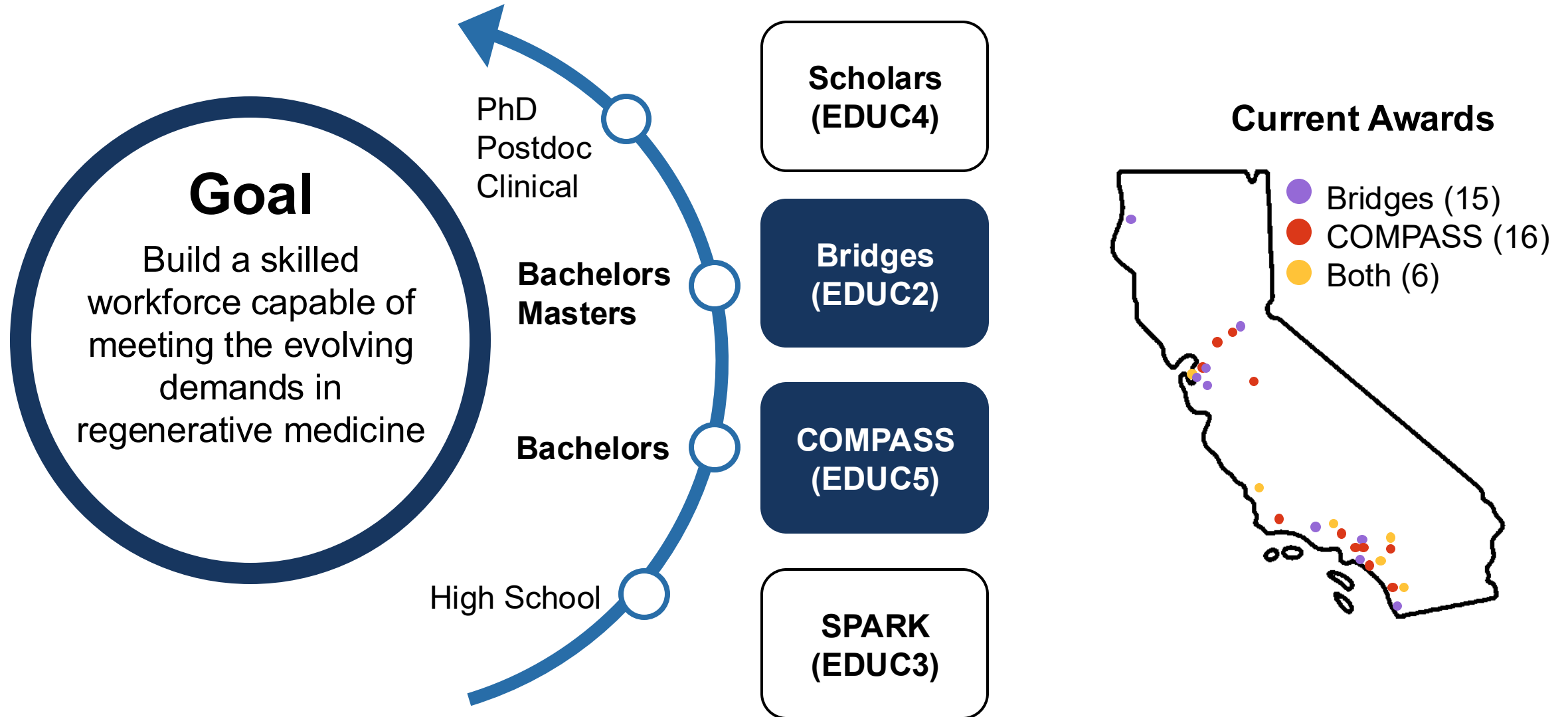
* The Stem Cellar. 7/21/25: “20 Years of CIRM: Building the Workforce”

CIRM's Current Portfolio of Training Programs



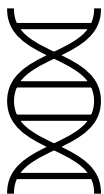
*Data as of Summer 2024; % of those who reported

Bridges & COMPASS Train Undergrad to Masters



Majority of Trainees Remain in STEM Fields

Bridges Alumni Outcomes (83% STEM*)



37%

Academic
Research



31%

Biotech
Industry



24%

Higher
Education

Workforce Development Network



90+

Internship Host
Sites/Labs



49

Biotech
Industry Hosts



800+

Mentors

*85% reporting, data from 2024

Trainees Innovate and Expand Scientific Knowledge

“[Trainees] have impacted the design of our clinical protocol in progress for IND submission.”
-Karen Aboody, MD, COH PI



Discovery



Translation



Clinical

“[A Trainee] helped seed our histology core and get that off the ground.”
-Kathy Ivey, PhD, Tenaya (CIRM Scholar Alum)



500+

Bridges and COMPASS
publications in peer-
reviewed journals

Continuing Bridges and COMPASS Programs is Essential

	2026				2027			
	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Continuity in Programs	Current Bridges							
	Current COMPASS							

Propose to Re-launch Programs with Updates

Preserve Program
Continuity

Respond to Funding
Challenges

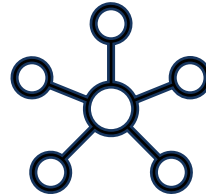
Implement
Improvements

Key Insights from Active Bridges & COMPASS Programs



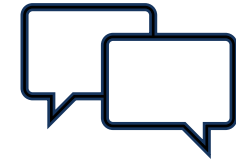
Evolving Demands of the Field

- Expanded array of internship opportunities
- Hybrid/multidisciplinary skillsets



Integration with Other Programs

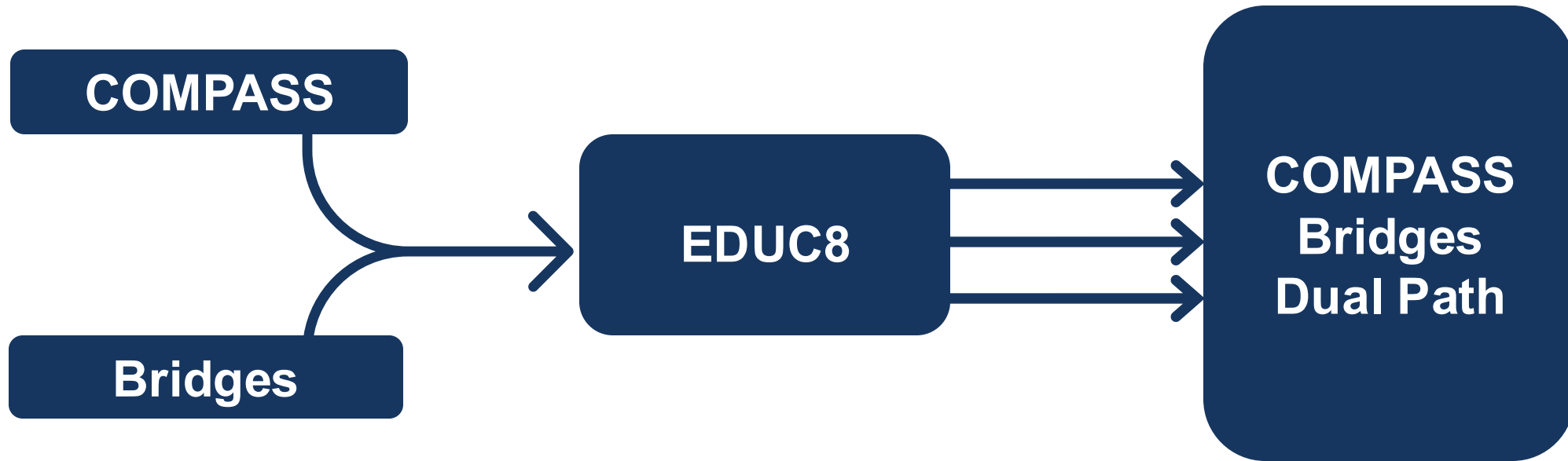
- Increase efficiencies for existing programs
- Integrate with CIRM's infrastructure and scientific programs



Feedback from Awardees

- Maintain current programs and leverage synergies
- Implement flexibilities
- Simplify administrative burdens

Introducing the EDUC8 Umbrella Program



EDUC8 is an **umbrella mechanism** to support, update, and improve the Bridges (EDUC2) and COMPASS (EDUC5) programs

EDUC8 | Objective

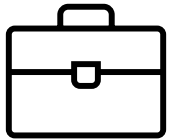
Prepare undergraduate through master's level students for careers in regenerative medicine by identifying and supporting untapped talent and developing well-trained, adaptable, and committed professionals for the regenerative medicine workforce

EDUC8 | Approach



Degree Integration

Integrated into an institution's specific degree/certificate



Structured Mentorship & Professional Development

Specific coursework, mentoring, and professional development guidance



Hands-on Experience

Paid internships, patient & community engagement, conference attendance

High-Level Goals

- **Career Exploration**
Promote exploration and expand access to careers in regenerative medicine
- **Career Readiness**
Promote efficient transition to careers in regenerative medicine

EDUC8 | Scope

What We Are Keeping: Required Elements and Activities

Trainee Activities

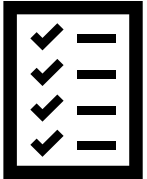
- Patient/Healthcare Engagement
- Community Outreach and Education, including Science Communication to Public
- Mentoring and Professional Development
- CIRM Trainee Conference

Administrative Activities

- Innovative and strategic Trainee Recruitment Plans
- Alumni Tracking and Engagement Plan
- Mentor Training and Best Practices
- Knowledge and Resource Sharing

EDUC8 | Scope

What We Are Adding



1 Expanded Scope of Internship Types

- 2 Instill Key Skillsets and Competencies
- 3 Leveraging Inter-Program Efficiencies
- 4 Administrative Efficiencies

Examples:

Project Management

Regulatory, Manufacturing

Data Science

EDUC8 | Scope

What We Are Adding

1 Expanded Scope of Internship Types



2 **Instill Key Skillsets and Competencies**

3 Leveraging Inter-Program Efficiencies

4 Administrative Efficiencies

Examples:

Time Management

Public Scientific Communication

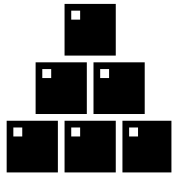
Research Ethics

Data Sharing

EDUC8 | Scope

What We Are Adding

- 1 Expanded Scope of Internship Types
- 2 Instill Key Skillsets and Competencies



3 Leveraging Inter-Program Efficiencies

- 4 Administrative Efficiencies

Examples:

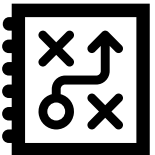
Joint activities for early and late-stage trainees

Collaboration with INFR programs

EDUC8 | Scope

What We Are Adding

- 1 Expanded Scope of Internship Types
- 2 Instill Key Skillsets and Competencies
- 3 Leveraging Inter-Program Efficiencies



4 Administrative Efficiencies

Examples:

Unified guidance

Faster program execution

Lower administration burden

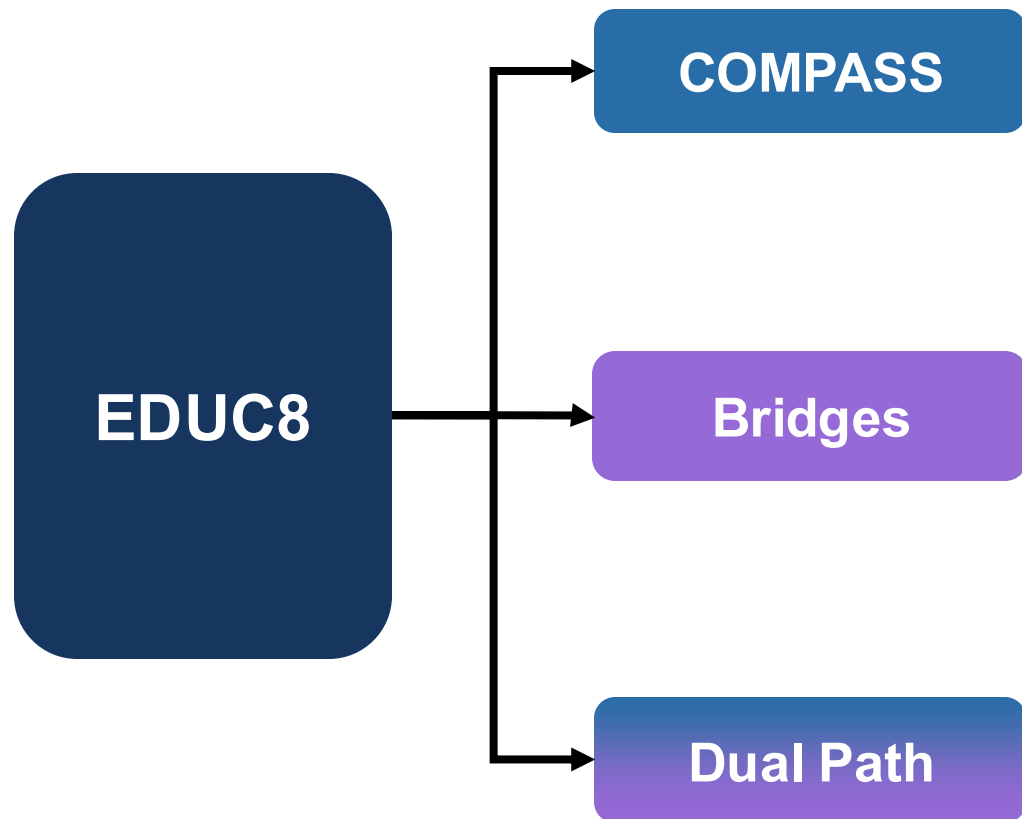
EDUC8 | Overview of Structure

EDUC8 structure enables continued support for Bridge and COMPASS programs, with an added opportunity to create a flexible and accelerated path

Applicant Considerations



EDUC8 | Structure



- Supports early-stage untapped talent
- 2-3 month internships
- Applicant institutions with Bachelor's programs

- Supports late-stage, career-ready trainees
- 6-12 month internships
- Applicant institutions without CIRM Major Facility or Regenerative Medicine research infrastructure

- Supports both COMPASS and Bridges-type trainees
- Potential for trainees to transition from COMPASS to Bridges under one mechanism
- Specifics depend on applicant proposal



EDUC8 | Maximum Award Budgets by Chosen Path

Total Award Costs (5 years)	Bridges (based on 10 trainees/yr)	COMPASS (based on 10 trainees/yr)	Dual Path (based on 20 trainees/yr, 10:10)
Direct Costs*	\$4,215,000	\$2,995,000	\$6,385,000
Overhead	\$373,500	\$242,000	\$533,000
Total Award Amount	\$4,588,500	\$3,237,000	\$6,918,000

* Breakdown in memo

Per Trainee Investment Per Year	Bridges	COMPASS	Dual Path
(Max)	\$91,726	\$64,740	Varies by Proposal \$64,740 – \$91,726

Based on analysis of true categorical expenditure growth and cumulative CPI% increase since 2021; 20% increase for EDUC8 Budget compared to Current Bridges and COMPASS awards. Cohort = 10 for individual tracks; 20 for Dual Path.

EDUC8 | Team & Institution Eligibility

	EDUC8- Bridges Path	EDUC8-COMPASS Path
Institution	Cal State Universities and Community Colleges* with an accredited certificate, undergraduate and/or master's programs in biology-relevant discipline	CA academic institutions with accredited bachelor's degree programs in biology-relevant disciplines
All		
Program Director	Must commit $\geq$ 5% effort	
Required Expertise	Outreach and Recruitment, Mentorship	
Co-Director	Must commit $\geq$ 5% effort (only required for Dual Path programs)	
Applications	May only apply for one EDUC8 award per cycle	

*Institutions without CIRM Major Facilities, Shared Labs from Proposition 71

EDUC8 | Timeline

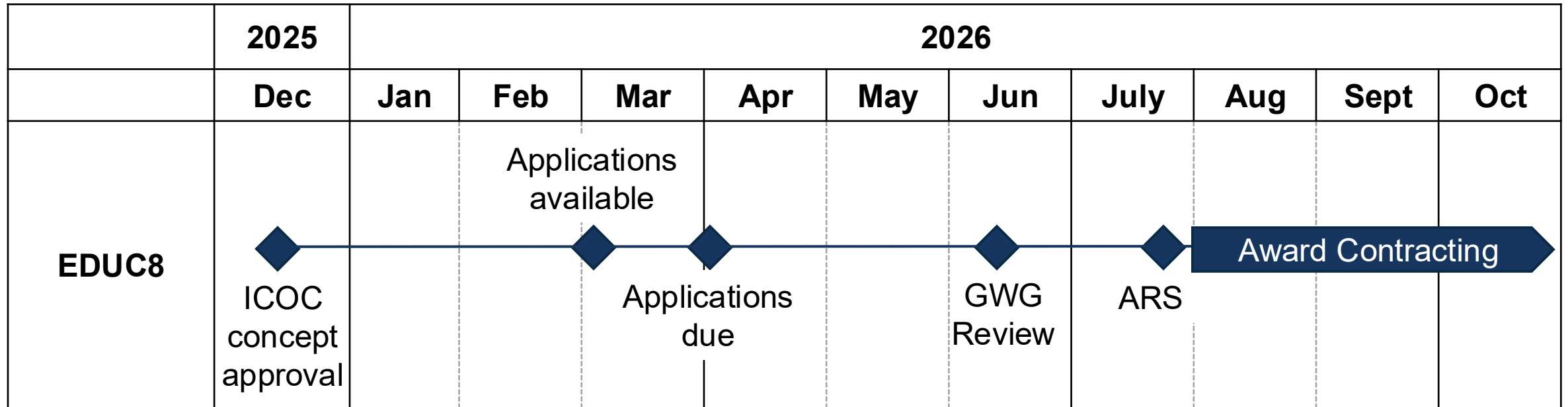
	2026				2027			
	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
EDUC8	EDUC8 Cycle 1				EDUC8 Cycle 2			
Continuity in Programs	Outgoing Bridges			New EDUC8				
	Outgoing COMPASS							New EDUC8

Two Cycles capture:

- Updates and improvements for existing Bridges and COMPASS Programs
- Long runway for new applicant program development
- Possibility of resubmission for programs that need improvement

EDUC8 | Timeline

Cycle 1 (FY26 – 27)



EDUC8 | Program Summary

	EDUC8
Paths	COMPASS-type, Bridges-type, or dual path training programs
Recurrence	Annual for 2 cycles (2026, 2027)
Max Duration	5 years
Applicant	California undergraduate/masters institutions
Leadership and Expertise	Program Director, Mentorship/Outreach Facilitators; Co-Director for dual path programs only
Max Award* (total cost)	Bridges Only: Up to \$4.58M; COMPASS Only: Up to \$3.23M Dual Path: Up to \$6.91M
Awards/Year	15-18 Awards, 2026 Cycle 15-18 Awards, 2027 Cycle
Anticipated Trainees	1500-2500
Max Projection	\$99M Cycle 1; \$99M Cycle 2

* Pending final adjustments by CIRM Grants Management

EDUC8 | Request for Motion

CIRM requests ICOC approval of the proposed EDUC8 Training Program, with an allocation of \$198M to support:

- Up to 36 Awards in 2 funding cycles (FY26 and FY27)
 - \$99M/cycle; unspent funds from Cycle 1 rolls over to Cycle 2
- 1500-2500 Trainees
- \$3.2M- \$6.9M* per individual award