

Memorandum

To: The Application Review Subcommittee of the ICOC
From: CIRM Leadership Team
Re: CIRM Team Recommendations: EDUC8 (Bridges/COMPASS Umbrella)
Date: September 24, 2026

Executive Summary

This memo summarizes the CIRM program staff funding recommendations for applications submitted to the EDUC8 for consideration by the Application Review Subcommittee (ARS) on September 24, 2026

These recommendations reflect the outcomes of the first of two planned EDUC8 funding cycles, which began with submission of 20 EDUC8 applications in April of 2026. The 20 include proposals from institutions with current Bridges or COMPASS awards that are seeking to extend, enhance, or combine their programs in alignment with CIRM's Strategic Allocation Framework. CIRM also received applications from institutions with no previous track record of CIRM funding for undergraduate level training proposing what would become entirely new additions to CIRM's EDUC portfolio.

From the submitted pool, the GWG and CIRM recommend funding of 17 applications that enhance CIRM's EDUC portfolio by supporting workforce development programs for students from diverse regions of the state and from different education landscapes, including community colleges, teaching universities and academic research institutions. While 3 applications are not recommended for funding at this time, CIRM believes feasibility concerns raised by GWG can be addressed and a revised submission considered in the 2nd EDUC8 application cycle, which is anticipated in 2027.

I. Background

Introduction

The role of CIRM staff during the Application Review Subcommittee (ARS) meetings is to assist the ARS in making well-informed funding decisions by providing programmatic context alongside the outcomes of the Grants Working Group (GWG) recommendations. In developing these recommendations to ARS, CIRM evaluated all applications consistent with the following CIRM funding recommendation framework presented to the ICOC (March 2026):

1. Available program budget
2. GWG score & comments
3. Programmatic factors
4. Prior awardee performance
5. New information available to CIRM after GWG review

Summary of Program Budget Considerations

Available Program Budget (Annual)	\$ 99,000,000
Budget Utilization – GWG Recommended	\$ 90,540,769
Budget Utilization – CIRM Recommended	\$ 90,540,769
Remaining Program Budget	\$9,330,157*

* Remaining budget will roll over to allocation for next EDUC8 2027 Cycle (\$99M + rollover)

II. Proposal

After a review of all applications, the CIRM team recommends:

1. To **fund** all 17 GWG-recommended applications with a median score of 85 or higher: EDUC8-20332, EDUC8-20269, EDUC8-20295, EDUC8-20303, EDUC8-20287, EDUC8-20328, EDUC8-20270, EDUC8-20315, EDUC8-20284, EDUC8-20297, EDUC8-20299, EDUC8-20272, EDUC8-20324, EDUC8-20264, EDUC8-20314, EDUC8-20370, EDUC8-20435.
2. To **not fund** the application that received a median score below 85: EDUC8-20282. The CIRM team encourages applicants, including those with withdrawn applications, to address GWG concerns and submit a revised application in the upcoming 2027 EDUC8 funding cycle.

Summary of Funding Recommendations

Application	Median Score	Scores to fund	Scores not to fund	CIRM Recommendation
EDUC8-20332	98	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20269	96	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20295	95	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20303	95	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20287	93	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20328	93	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20270	92	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20315	92	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20284	90	13	0	Fund
EDUC8-20297	90	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20299	90	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20272	88	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20324	86	14	0	Fund
EDUC8-20264	85	15	0	Fund
EDUC8-20314	85	9	5	Fund
EDUC8-20370	85	11	3	Fund
EDUC8-20435	85	10	3	Fund
EDUC8-20282	70	0	15	Do not fund

Note: Two additional applications were withdrawn from consideration following GWG review and are not included in the table.