



December 31, 2021

Dear County Superintendents:

## **Request for Applications: Ethnic Studies Professional Development**

The California Department of Education (CDE) Educator Excellence and Equity Division is pleased to announce that the Request for Applications (RFA) for the Ethnic Studies Professional Development (ESPD) project is now available.

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$5 million to the CDE, in collaboration with the executive director of the State Board of Education (SBE), to contract with a County Office of Education (COE) or a consortium of COEs to provide professional development and resources to support local educational agencies (LEAs) offering new or expanded ethnic studies courses.

The CDE is seeking applications in order to select a COE or consortium of COEs to contract with the CDE to:

- (1) Provide professional development and regional training for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to support creation or expansion of ethnic studies course offerings, including but not limited to courses that use the ethnic studies model curriculum adopted pursuant to *Education Code (EC)* Section 51226.7.
- (2) Provide access to an online repository of resources to support ethnic studies courses. This includes the collection and review of materials to be made available for educators to use in implementing the ethnic studies model curriculum adopted pursuant to *EC* Section 51226.7.

The CDE seeks a COE or consortium of COEs with demonstrated expertise in developing and delivering high-quality professional learning in ethnic studies. The contractor shall support LEAs by performing all of the following functions:

- Creating, collecting, and curating resources for educators, administrators, and paraprofessionals working to support new or expanded ethnic studies courses.
- Providing professional learning that is content-focused, incorporates active learning, supports collaboration, uses models of effective practice, provides

December 31, 2021

Page 2

coaching and expert support, offers feedback and reflection, and is of sustained duration.

- Facilitating an ongoing statewide professional network that:
  - Convenes professional learning communities that include educators, administrators, and paraprofessionals; and
  - Draws upon resources from institutes of higher education to support professional learning needs.

The CDE and the SBE shall select the successful applicant on or before April 1, 2022. The successful applicant will then enter into a \$5 million contract with the CDE for the purposes outlined in the RFA, covering a contract period that ends on July 30, 2026.

To be eligible for this RFA, COEs must submit an official Intent to Apply by **January 12, 2022, at 4 p.m.** Submitting an Intent to Apply does not require the applicant to submit an application in response to this RFA. Applications received without proof of submitting the Intent to Apply by the deadline will not be considered for funding.

All applicants must submit a complete application, including all required components, to the CDE by **4 p.m. on February 7, 2022.** Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications **will not** be scored or considered for approval.

A technical assistance webinar to review all parts of the RFA will take place on **January 4, 2022, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** Register in advance for this webinar at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sPGTWKv6Rca2aKn\\_c-OTDw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sPGTWKv6Rca2aKn_c-OTDw).

For additional information and links to the online Intent to Apply survey and the application, please visit the ESPD RFA web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fq/fo/r12/ethnicstudiespd21rfa.asp>.

If you have questions regarding this RFA, please contact Sarah Smith, Education Programs Consultant, Professional Learning Innovations Office, at [ESMCPD@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ESMCPD@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Cheryl Cotton, Deputy Superintendent  
Instruction, Measurement, and Administration Branch