

California is in a Growing Workforce Crisis

California needs **TWO MILLION** more degrees and certificates to meet today's workforce needs, promote economic mobility for its residents and remain competitive. [Source](#)

- Classrooms are closing as the state experiences a widening teacher shortage gap with 75% of school districts short of the needed fully trained teachers and increases in teacher retirements. [Source](#)
- Just last year, there was a 30% gap in the number of teachers receiving credentials that are needed to keep up with staffing according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- Growing shortages of essential health care workers to fill the daily needs of patients – including a shortage of over 40,000 registered nurses. [Source](#)

5.1 MILLION California adults over 25 years old intend to enroll in higher education within the next two years. [Source](#)

Yet current college capacity does not meet our state's workforce demand and needs — forcing more Californians to leave the state. [Source](#)

California is Failing Adult Learners

- **California ranks last in the nation with 57% of adults in need of higher education.** (Source: Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey 2018-2019)
With 6.8 million Californians 25-64 with a high school diploma but not a college degree.
- The **need to overcome financial barriers and provide 24/7 flexibility** in educational courses are the biggest changes needed to enable California adults to return or enroll in a higher education program.
- Adults with some college experience but no degree cite the **single most common reason for stopping their education is the need for flexibility** and difficulty of balancing school and work. [Source](#)
- If these barriers are addressed, **50% of these adult learners expressed strong interest in returning or enrolling in higher education.***

Time to Prioritize Higher Education Opportunities for Adult Learners

- Eliminate barriers for financial support by creating an Adult Learner Workforce Opportunity Grant specific to adult learners who need 100% flexibility to earn a degree or credential.
- The grant will open opportunities to adult learners who need financial relief and the flexibility to learn around their work and family schedules.
- Support Legislation to Create the Adult Learner Workforce Opportunity Grant.

For more information, go to www.CAL-Network.com.

* Heart+Mind Strategies completed n=1065 interviews with a representative sample of Californians with some or no college matching age, gender, and ethnicity of the US Census for California. Additional oversample interviews were conducted with key groups, including: veterans, single mothers/fathers, foster children, rural residents, low-income rural residents, Asians, 1st and 2nd generation immigrants. Respondents participated via an online survey conducted June 15 to July 20, 2021.