California Community Colleges

Zero Textbook Cost Grant Program updates

Chad Funk, Program Specialist

cfunk@cccco.edu

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Topics

- 78052 quick overview
- Acceleration grants review process
- Grant allocations to date & coordination efforts underway to avoid duplication
- Survey sent to non-applying colleges
- Technical assistance & support
- Reporting preparations

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Article 4. Zero Textbook Cost Grant Program (78050 – 78052) Key Components

- The Chancellor shall distribute grants of up to two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) for each degree developed and implemented within the district that contributes to the overall elimination, or significant lowering, of textbook costs for students

- The Chancellor's Office shall ensure that a grant does not result in the development or implementation of duplicate degrees for a subject matter to avoid duplication of effort and ensure the development and implementation of the greatest number of degrees for the benefit of the greatest number of students.

- Develop degrees with sustainability considerations after grant funding is exhausted, including how content is updated and presented.

- Develop and implement a minimum of one degree for each grant received

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Article 4. Zero Textbook Cost Grant Program (78050 – 78052) Key Components (continued)

- Prioritize the development and implementation of a degree from an existing associate degree for transfer and, to the extent possible, prioritize the adaptation of existing open educational resources through existing open educational resources initiatives, or elsewhere, before creating new content.

- All open educational resources used as learning materials for a degree developed pursuant to this section shall be added to the California Digital Open-Source Library established in Section 66408.

- Ensure that the degree developed and implemented is clearly identified in college catalogs and in class schedules.

- Colleges strive to implement degrees within three academic years of receiving funding, or sooner, as determined by the Chancellor's Office.

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ZTC Acceleration Grants review process

Steps in the review process:

1. Program plan complete and assurances were indicated
2. Uniqueness of program against known potential duplicate program plans or existing programs in the field
   a) Curriculum examined when necessary for duplication issues when degree and/or TOP codes were similar
3. Quality of college's sustainability plan
   a) Follow-up questions with colleges underway with allowable changes
4. Reasonable and justifiable budget
   a) Follow-up questions with colleges underway with allowable changes
5. Considerations underway to support colleges using collaborative groups when duplication could be an issue
6. Discussions about program plans and insights from ZTC-familiar CCCCO professionals when additional reviews are needed

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Decision Tree:

- "Strong" in each category – award notification

- "Strong" in each category but deeper review – once completed, then award notification

- "Strong" in most categories but budget questions – colleges being contacted. Explanation of reasonable and justifiable expenses, then award notification

- "Moderate" in one or more categories – additional reviews and contacts with colleges as needed. Responses that move college into strong status, then award notification

- "Moderate" potential for degree duplication, then colleges notified of issue. Awards will require confirmation of willingness to collaborate with other college(s) to avoid duplication of effort

- "High potential" for duplication, then colleges will be notified. Next steps of guided coordination cohort with other colleges being developed.

- Significant issues with program plans (incomplete plans, insufficient sustainability plan, unreasonable budgets, other issues) will be recommended to work with the Technical Assistance Provider

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Grant allocations to date & non-duplication efforts

Progress of reviews so far . . .

- 21 colleges have received notifications of awards

- 39 program plans have been approved

- $5,147,569 in funds approved

- Colleges in each region of the State; small, medium & large; rural, suburban and urban have received awards

- Status updates will occur periodically via the ZTC listserv and at the October 27th ZTC Office hour

- Reviews are ongoing and award notifications can be sent at any time when reviews have been completed and approved

- Philosophy . . . how do we get to "yes"

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Survey sent to non-applying colleges

Survey Questions

Basic college and personnel identification questions, then:

- We would like to apply for a ZTC Acceleration Grant if there are future funds available
- We were not aware of the opportunity to apply for ZTC Acceleration Grants
- We do not have the capacity at this time to develop and implement ZTC Acceleration Grants
- We do not have the support of key constituencies to develop and implement ZTC Acceleration Grants
- We were not able to identify a possible ZTC program pathway that is non-duplicative
- We are not able to support the sustainability of a ZTC program pathway beyond the grant funding
- We have not yet fully utilized our ZTC Implementation Grant funding and are not ready to request more
- We are not interested in applying for a ZTC Acceleration Grant
- Additional information about college's willingness and/or readiness to apply for and implement a ZTC Acceleration Grant (if not indicated above)

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Low number of data responses so far, however . . .

- 9 responses have been received from identified personnel at colleges for the survey

- 2 colleges have reached out indicating that their institution's lead was unavailable and requested if they could still participate by requesting an extension

- More time needed to obtain survey results and explore options to support colleges that may have an interest to participate in ZTC pathway development at a later time

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Technical Assistance and Support

ZTC Drop-In Office Hours

Ongoing ZTC Drop-in Office Hours

- Last Friday of the month from 9:00am - 10:00am
  - ➤ October 27
    - Via Zoom: https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/87302202896

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Contact Information

- Please subscribe to the ZTC mailing list for updates and information about the program: ZTC@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET

- For questions about the ZTC Acceleration Grant Program or Program Plan Submission: ztctap@canyons.edu

- For questions about payment and reporting processes: ZTC@cccco.edu
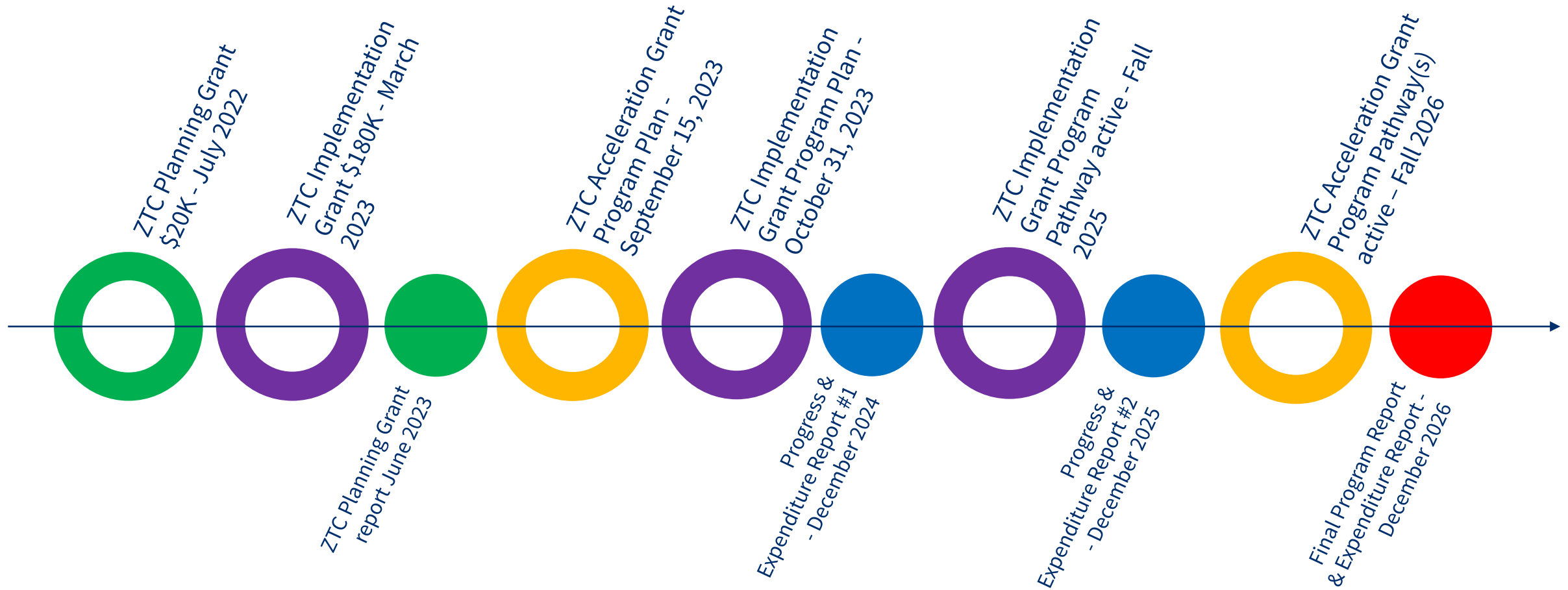
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ZTC Professional Development – Started Summer 2023

- 4-week, facilitated online courses

- Collaboration with CVC's @ONE

- Facilitators are faculty from across the CCCs

1. Making the Case for ZTC: Pathways to Equity

2. Building a Team: Training OER Support Specialists

3. Teaching with OER and Open Pedagogy for Equity

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Research, Reporting & Evaluation

ZTC Degree Grants Program Timeline Overview

ZTC Planning Grant $20k - July 2022

ZTC Implementation Grant $180K - March 2023

ZTC Planning Grant report June 2023

ZTC Acceleration Grant Program Plan - September 15, 2023

ZTC Implementation Grant Program Plan - October 31, 2023

Progress & Expenditure Report #1 - December 2024

ZTC Implementation Grant Program Pathway active - Fall 2025

Progress & Expenditure Report #2 - December 2025

ZTC Acceleration Grant Program Pathway(s) active – Fall 2026

Final Program Report & Expenditure Report - December 2026

Progress Reports & Content

- Number of ZTC degree/CTE certificate program pathways developed and implemented, and the number of degrees/CTE certificate pathways that significantly lowered textbook costs

- Total OERs developed and curated within each district, disaggregated by college (course- and section-level data)

- Estimated annual savings to students $$

- Number of students who completed a zero-textbook-cost degree program
  - ➤The RP Group
  - ➤CA Ed. Code 78052

- Total open educational resources accessed

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Progress Reports & Content (cont.)

- Quantitative surveys about experience of developing and implementing ZTC pathways

- Collaboration efforts to avoid non-duplication evidences

- Qualitative interviews about recommendations to improve development and implementation of ZTC pathways

- Partnering with The RP Group for data analysis

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Thank you!

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