QUANTUM CALIFORNIA

QUANTUM FAST CHALLENGE

LEARNING LAB CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Quantum FAST Challenge

Technical Assistance Webinar #1

The Quantum FAST Challenge

- A new competitive grant opportunity to support the growth of California's quantum industry and strengthen its talent pipeline.
- Partnership between the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and the California Education Learning Lab.
- Up to $2.7 million in funding, with individual awards ranging from $50,000 to $500,000, to support projects over an 18–24 month implementation cycle.

QUANTUM CALIFORNIA
QUANTUM FAST CHALLENGE
LEARNING LAB CALIFORNIA

About GO-Biz

- Point of contact for economic development and job creation efforts
- Offers services to business owners, communities, and site selectors
- Has a broad range of teams focused on combination of services, policy, and program management

business.ca.gov

California's Business Ecosystem

Within GO-Biz, we have a number of teams that are here to support you and your business across a variety of industries.

Business Investment Services

California Competes

Community and Local Equity Grants

Energy and Climate

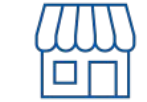
Film Commission

Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank

Innovation and Emerging Technologies

International Affairs and Trade

Regional Economic Development


Small Business Advocate

Supply Chain

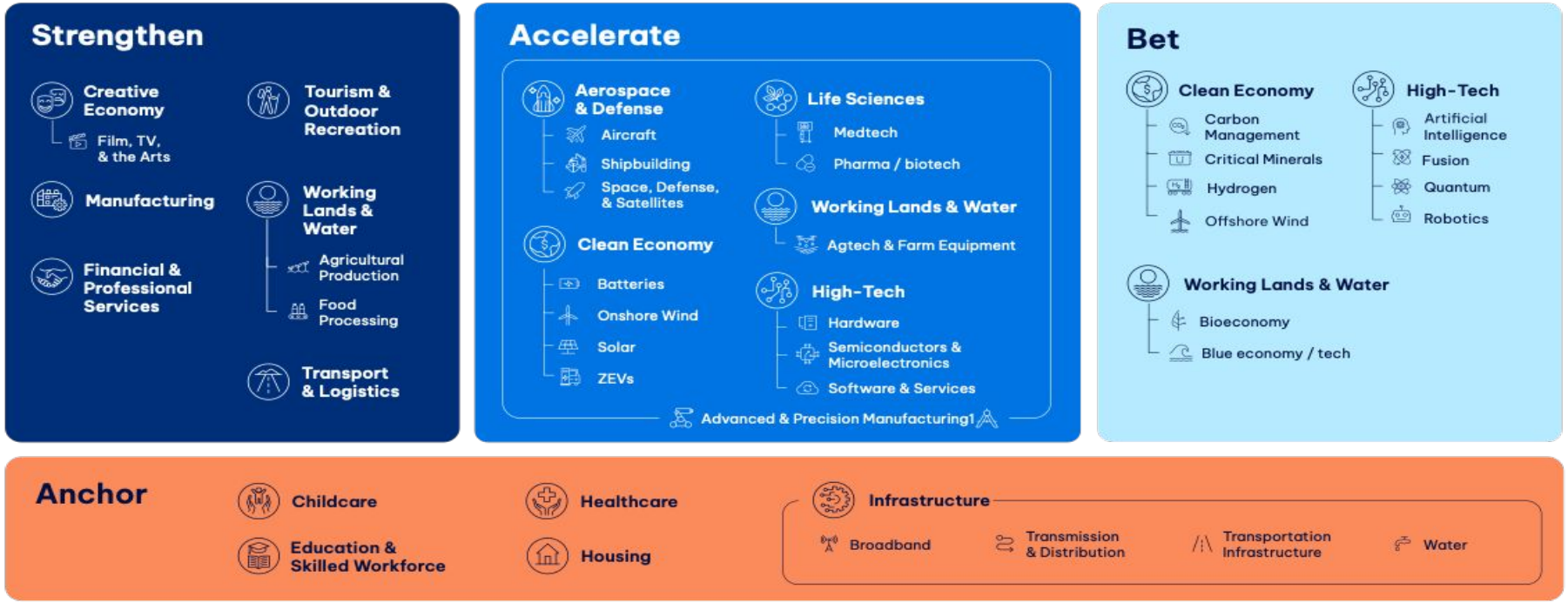
Visit California

California Jobs First

- Statewide data-driven business, economic, and workforce strategy for California
- Regional investment and sector development across State
- State subdivided into 13 regions

jobsfirst.ca.gov

California's Diverse and Dynamic Economy is Reflected in its Strategic Sectors



1. High-value advanced and precision manufacturing play a major role in many of the sectors and subsectors within the 'Accelerate' category

Source: August-October 2024 working discussions with GO-Biz and LWDA, Lightcast, Moody's Analytics, MIT Living Wage, Pitchbook, US Cluster Mapping Project, California Jobs First Regional Plans Part 2, meetings with California Jobs First Regional Collaboratives conveners

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Quantum California

- Launched Fall 2025 with GovOPS, LWDA, & UCOP @ UC Berkeley
- Turn California's quantum research lead into companies, jobs, and growth in California
- Connect universities, national labs, industry, and investors around shared quantum ecosystem

Quantum California

- Three statewide convenings with 400+ stakeholder submissions from 80+ organizations
- Direct business services to 40+ quantum firms, spanning incentives, site selection, and permitting
- Multiple ongoing statewide programs and initiatives aimed at building workforce and investment

The California Education Learning Lab and its Approach

Innovation

Award grants to test and enhance innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Community

Foster collaboration across public higher education systems and build a learning network among faculty

Theory And Research

Contribute to the science of human learning through funded projects and disseminate findings to faculty and other stakeholders.

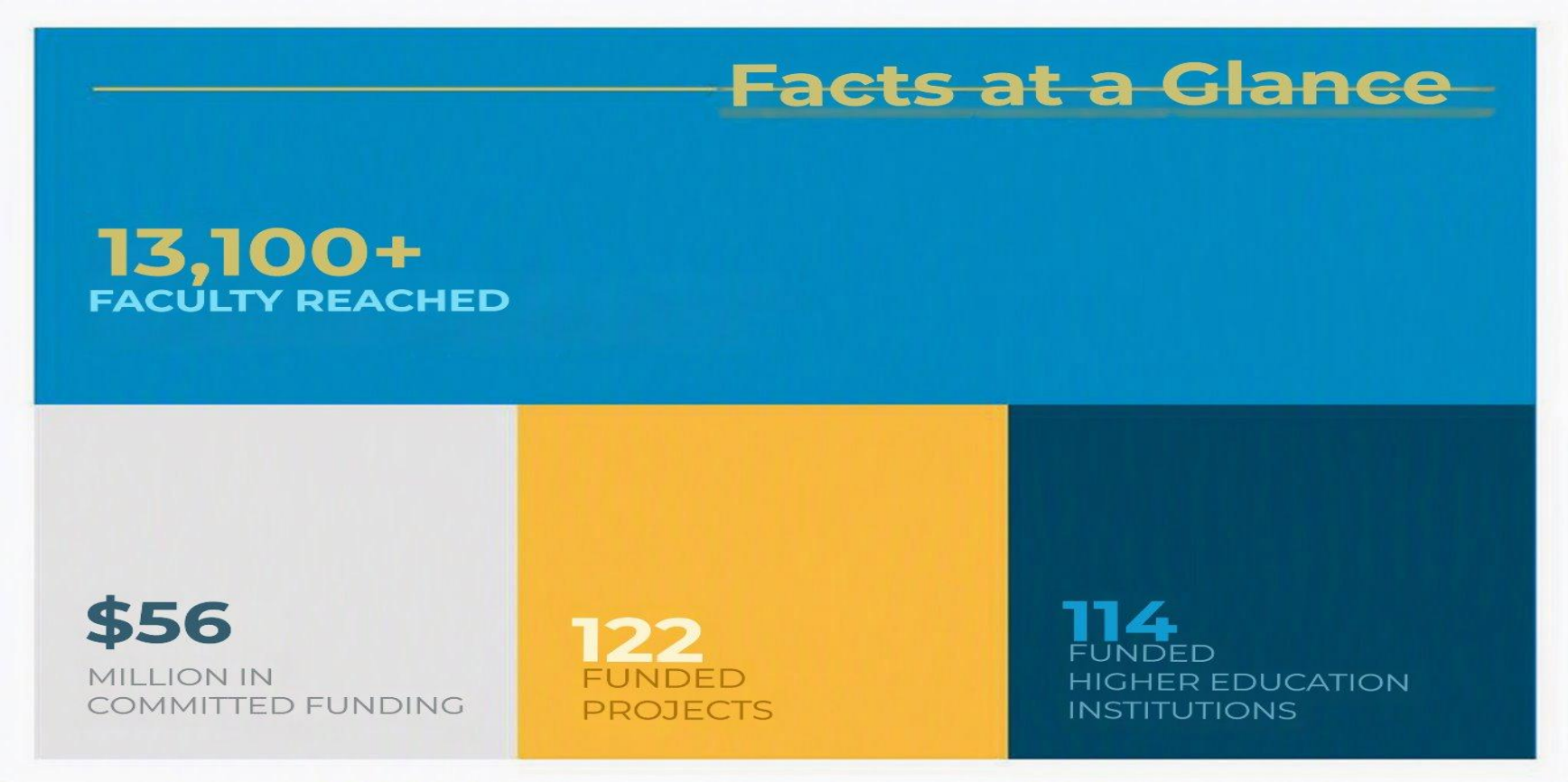
Educational Practice

Collect and promote data-driven teaching and learning practices.

Educational Policy

Leverage data and findings from Learning Lab projects to influence California educational policy.

The California Education Learning Lab by the Numbers



Quantum FAST Funding Priorities

1. **Education and workforce development projects** that build the talent pipeline (especially at the certificate, undergraduate, and master's level) California's quantum technologies require.

2. **Applied use-case demonstrations** that pair faculty researchers and students in California's public higher education segments with industry partners to produce documented, publishable results and/or intellectual property.

Application Tracks

Track 1: Expand access to quantum-relevant hands-on experiences

Track 2: Build entry points to the quantum workforce for learners in adjacent fields

Track 3: Advance quantum innovation, applications, and use-case demonstrations

Track 4: Wildcard!

Key Eligibility Requirements

- Projects must be led by faculty or administrators from UC, CSU, or California Community College (nonprofit institutions and national labs may participate in project teams as subawardees).
- Projects must include at least two letters of recommendation with their full proposal.
- Proposals applying under Tracks 1, 2, or 4 must strengthen the quantum talent pipeline at the certificate, undergraduate, or master's level.

Grant Amounts

- **Up to $100,000** for projects that prototype curricula, learning materials, and pedagogical approaches at a single institution.
- **Up to $250,000** for projects that implement and scale their approach across multiple institutions, or that lead to applied use-case demonstrations.
- **Up to $500,000** for projects that include multiple tracks and strong intersegmental collaboration.
- **Grants over $100,000 ($250,000 for Track 3 projects) must include intersegmental collaboration.**

Milestones and Timeline

- **Technical Assistance Webinar #2**: September 11, 2026, Noon PT
- **Statement of Intent Due**: **October 1, 2026, 5:00PM PT**
- **Full Proposal Due**: **October 20, 2026, 5:00PM PT**
- **Notification of Awards**: Late November 2026
- **Projects Commence**: February 1, 2027

Statement of Intent

- **The Statement of Intent is required.**
- Application Grant Portal will be available on August 10 on the Quantum FAST webpage.
- Applicants will hear within a few business days if they can proceed to the Full Proposal, or if there are eligibility issues that need to be resolved.

Key Quantum FAST Features: Industry and Jobs First Engagement

- Quantum FAST seeks to advance greater collaboration among faculty, higher education, and the quantum industry.
  - Applicants are encouraged to form cross-sector partnerships with private industry, relevant nonprofits, and workforce organizations.
  - Applicants are encouraged to secure at least a 25% industry match, based on the total amount of funding requested. The industry match may be either financial or in-kind.
- Applicants are encouraged to engage with their Jobs First regional convener.

Additional Funding Opportunity

California Workforce Development Board: Accelerator 14 Grant Program

- $3 million in funding to support workforce development partnerships in Quantum and Fusion
- Supporting partnerships between employers and educational institutions developing scalable, replicable career pathways
- Accelerator 14 Webpage: https://cwdb.ca.gov/cwdb-home/grant-information/accelerator-14/

Q & A

- Please also see our FAQs on the Quantum FAST webpage!

Thank you!

Website: https://calearninglab.org/grant/quantum-fast/

Email: quantumca@calearninglab.org

Sign up for updates: Quantum FAST mailing list