

## Constellation of Support

A Capacity-Building Technical Assistance Initiative

*CALL FOR STATE OR SYSTEM AGENCY TEAMS*

Student-Ready Strategies (SRS) and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) are pleased to announce the launch of **Constellation of Support: A Capacity-Building Approach to Institutional Change** – a three-year initiative supported by the ECMC Foundation to enhance professional capacity and implement student success reforms.

Despite decades of research and innovation identifying high-impact practices in higher education, their adoption at the institutional level—both statewide and nationally—remains inconsistent. This is largely due to the already stretched capacity of institutional professionals. For states, institutions, and individuals to fully realize the benefits of increased postsecondary attainment—such as higher incomes, greater job security, increased civic engagement, and improved health outcomes—these capacity challenges must be addressed.

SHEEO agencies play a crucial role in supporting institutions through this process, balancing state-level priorities with local control for campus leaders. *Constellation of Support: A Capacity-Building Approach to Institutional Change* provides structured, sustained assistance to help institutions drive meaningful, lasting change.

### Initiative Overview

Over the next three years, this project will assist two selected state or system agencies in coordinating institutional teams as they implement new student success strategies.

Each selected agency will:

- Identify a common student success priority for at least eight participating institutions.
- Recruit institutions to engage in structured capacity-building support.
- Serve as a cohort coordinator to facilitate learning and implementation.

Participating institutions will engage in Student-Ready Strategies' Capacity-Building Technical Assistance model, which includes:

- **In-Person Workshops:** Six-member institutional teams will attend three workshops over 18 months, gaining actionable knowledge and collaboration time.
- **Quarterly Expert Coaching:** Institutions will receive synchronous, structured coaching focused on progress and implementation.
- **Asynchronous Support:** Teams will use Constellation, SRS's virtual technical assistance platform, to receive ongoing support and customized implementation resources.

### About the Project

The **Constellation of Support** project streamlines change management, aligning with in-person workshops and allowing institutions to customize their approach. It also alleviates administrative burdens by generating implementation documents—including policy language, slide decks, student handouts, and other essential materials—saving institutional professionals approximately 500 hours of work.

### Strategies Supported

The Capacity-Building Technical Assistance model currently supports the following student success strategies:

- Credit for Prior Learning
- Corequisite Support/Developmental Education Reform
- Multiple Measures Placement for Gateway Courses
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Reform
- College Affordability through Open Educational Resources
- Comprehensive Institutional Policy Reform

### Funding and State Support

Each participating institution will receive a **\$20,000 discretionary subgrant** to cover project-related costs such as workshop travel or faculty/staff release time.

To recognize the critical role of state and system agencies as cohort coordinators, SRS will provide direct **technical assistance** to these agencies. This includes a **legislative, policy, and process review** to ensure that state policies align with institutional strategy implementation, further reinforcing systemwide impact.

### How to Participate

State or system agencies interested in serving as cohort coordinators should submit a letter of interest by **5:00 p.m. PST on March 31, 2025**. The letter should address:

- How participation in the **Constellation of Support** initiative aligns with the state- or system agency's current or future student success priorities.
- A demonstrated commitment to institutional transformation, such as policy changes, strategic planning, or institutional demand.
- A plan for identifying and engaging at least eight institutions, with a focus on those most in need of capacity support.
- Key challenges in supporting institutions with student-ready policies and how participation in this initiative can help address them.
- A list of three to five proposed state team members (names, titles, and organizational affiliations) who will lead and coordinate this work.

Letters should be three to five pages and should include confirmation of the SHEEO's support for the agency's participation.



### **Submission and Selection Process**

Letters should be addressed to:

Dr. Josclynn Brandon

Vice President of Operations and Partnerships, Student-Ready Strategies

**Email:** [info@studentreadystrategies.com](mailto:info@studentreadystrategies.com)

**Deadline:** March 31, 2025

SRS and SHEEO will review submissions and notify selected state or system agencies by April 11, 2025.