



December 2024



## 2025 California Community Schools Empower Summit June 12-13, 2025 Fresno, CA

We are excited to announce that the Community Schools Empower Summit 2025 will be in FRESNO!

The **Request for Proposal (RFP)** is OPEN! Submissions are due by January 10, 2025. Find out more about the RFP and submit your proposals [HERE](#).

Let's **ELEVATE** and **CELEBRATE** the amazing work happening in the Central Valley!

## CCSPP Cohort 4 Request for Application is OPEN!

The CDE recently opened the application process for Cohort 4 of the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP). This will be the final round of funding to support the establishment of new Community Schools. Applications are due by **February 7, 2025**. For schools interested in applying, the CV R-TAC is available to provide guidance throughout the application process.

**Request for Applications  
Implementation Plan (Optional)**

## Strategic Community Partnerships

The Fresno CV R-TAC was proud to host our recent Community of Practice, which focused on the vital role of **Strategic Community Partnerships** in advancing the Community Schools strategy. These partnerships are essential in supporting a broad continuum of priorities—from expanded learning opportunities to integrated student and family supports—by fostering trust and collaboration among schools, families, and community organizations.

The event featured a robust agenda, including sessions on network building and in-depth explorations of the work done by the **Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning** and the **FCSS Safe & Healthy Kids Department**. A highlight of the day was the World Café, where participants engaged directly with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) representing sectors such as Health and Wellness, Economic and Financial Literacy, Family Engagement, Food Security, and Youth Mentorship and Support Services.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Community-Based Organizations who presented and participated, enriching our partnerships and inspiring our work. To learn more about the incredible organizations involved, please click [HERE](#). Additionally, the **Community Schools Resource Network** serves as a valuable tool enhance partnerships within your local context.



# TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL- EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN

**Taft Union High School** is utilizing part of their Community Schools grant to add school social workers at each high school. Taft Union High School's social worker is Deflina Duarte, and **Buena Vista High School's** social worker is Sonya Adams. Together they are working on family engagement, connecting families to vital resources such as food, clothing, assistance with childcare and housing, removing barriers students are facing, individual and group counseling, and many more activities to help students be ready to learn.

One example is **The Panther Closet**. The Panther Closet, an initiative at BVHS High School, provides essential resources like toiletries, clothing, and snacks for students in need. Developed by social worker Sonya Adams and school counselor David Ahumada, it addresses the challenges faced by students from socio-economic backgrounds. Funded by anonymous donors and matched by Chevron, the Closet aims to boost student confidence, health, and academic focus. Located in Sonya's office, it creates an inclusive environment for all students.



## CV R-TAC UPDATES

### Leadership Development Series

The CV R-TAC empowers students, educators, and families through leadership development rooted in community engagement. By integrating Imago's leadership training, it nurtures visionary, collaborative leaders who foster thriving school environments and strong connections. This train the trainer series is **FREE** to all CS grantees. Find out more [HERE!](#)

### Capacity-Building Progress Gauge

The CV R-TAC had developed a progress monitoring tool to help support and capture the implementation progress of the CCSPP strategies. Contact the CV R-TAC if you interested in learning more, or click below to access the gauge.

[Capacity-Building Progress Gauge](#)

**Contact Us**  
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### CV R-TAC EVENTS

Keep up-to-date with upcoming professional learning opportunities, networking events, and technical support.

[FCSS Calendar](#)

[KCSOS Calendar](#)

### CV R-TAC WEBSITES

[FCSS Community Schools](#)

[KCSOS Community Schools](#)

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