



TO: City Manager Alan Flora
City of Clearlake

FROM: President Lizette Navarette
Woodland Community College (WCC), Lake County Campus

RE: Proposal: Clearlake Reconnect and Recovery Support Initiative

I. Executive Summary

The Clearlake Reconnect and Recovery Support Initiative is a comprehensive effort to help adult learners in the City of Clearlake return to higher education through targeted outreach, recovery-informed educational support, and personalized case management. This initiative advances the Reconnect @WCC program by developing noncredit onboarding modules tailored for individuals in or emerging from substance use recovery and by funding a dedicated staff position to coordinate the Recovery Scholars Club and provide case management services. Together, these components are designed to lower barriers to college access and success—particularly for adults navigating economic hardship, addiction recovery, or major life transitions. The first phase of Reconnect @WCC focuses on supporting adults in re-entering postsecondary education through incentive grants or free tuition for returning learners. This proposal builds on that foundation by addressing systemic challenges through improved adult learner onboarding, targeted recovery supports, and institutional redesign of course pathways. By embedding adult learner-centered design principles across affordability, flexibility, advising, and re-enrollment systems, the Reconnect and Recovery Support Initiative transforms early pilot efforts into a sustainable institutional framework. Its goal is to remove structural barriers, accelerate degree completion for working adults, and promote long-term educational recovery and resilience. Ultimately, Reconnect @WCC represents a strategic shift from isolated interventions to a comprehensive, institution-wide commitment to adult learner achievement - positioning WCC as a regional leader in equitable access and socio-economic mobility for adults.

II. Program Rationale and Need

The City of Clearlake continues to face systemic challenges that affect educational attainment, including economic instability, substance use disorder, and limited access to supportive services. Many residents have started college but never finished, while others

aspire to enroll but lack the confidence, information, or recovery resources to begin. Research shows that adults in recovery benefit significantly from structured, stigma-free educational environments and holistic support services. By aligning the City’s community health priorities with WCC’s educational mission, this program will provide a powerful pathway to economic mobility and wellness for Clearlake residents.

III. Program Components

1. Promotion and Outreach: Reconnect @WCC

Through this partnership, we seek to re-engage adult learners who have some college experience but no credential, supporting their return to higher education and completion goals.

Activities:

- Launch a targeted community outreach campaign through local radio, social media, and community-based organizations in Clearlake.
- Provide informational materials emphasizing flexible course options, financial aid, and recovery-friendly learning environments.

2. Noncredit Onboarding Modules: Recovery and College Success

WCC aims to design and implement noncredit modules that equip adult learners—particularly those in recovery—with the skills and confidence needed for college-level success.

Content Areas:

- Substance Abuse Recovery Foundations: Wellness, self-advocacy, relapse prevention, and building a support network.
- College Success Strategies: Time management, technology use, communication skills, and goal-setting.
- Career Readiness: Identifying career goals, aligning education with workforce needs, and connecting to community resources.

Delivery:

- Modules will be offered in flexible, hybrid formats—online and in-person—allowing learners to participate according to their recovery and life circumstances.

3. Staff Support for the Recovery Scholars Club and Case Management

To maximize the reach and effectiveness of Reconnect @WCC, WCC seeks to create a dedicated staff role responsible for coordinating the Recovery Scholars Club and providing personalized guidance to students in recovery.

Responsibilities:

- Facilitate weekly Recovery Scholars meetings and peer-support activities.

- Provide confidential case management and referrals to counseling, financial aid, and recovery services.
- Partner with local organizations (e.g., Lake County Behavioral Health) to align student support with community recovery initiatives.
- Track student progress and maintain data for grant evaluation.

IV. Budget Summary

Category	Description	Estimated Cost
Promotion & Outreach	Marketing, events, materials	\$10,000
Noncredit Modules	Curriculum development & facilitation	\$20,000
Recovery Scholars Staff Role	Salary & benefits (part-time)	\$50,000
Total Estimated Request		\$80,000

V. Evaluation and Reporting

Program success will be measured by:

- Enrollment rates for adult learners.
- Number of participants completing noncredit onboarding modules.
- Retention rates of Recovery Scholars participants.
- Annual progress reports will be submitted to the City of Clearlake.

VI. Conclusion

The Clearlake Reconnect and Recovery Support Initiative provides a unique opportunity to combine education and recovery as twin engines of community revitalization. With the City’s investment, Woodland Community College Lake County Campus can help Clearlake’s adult learners reclaim their futures through recovery, education, and connection.