

Career Exploration and Career Development Experience Grant FAQs

Eligibility

- None of my districts is at or below the 70% adequacy benchmark—can my system still participate?
 - If you have no schools that qualify by this benchmark, please look at:
 - Elementary schools near it/relatively lower than others
 - Alternative schools at or below the 70% adequacy benchmark
- I have more than five districts at or below the 70% adequacy benchmark—how should I choose which schools participate? (Note: maximum of five schools)
 - Poll schools for willingness to participate, what their ideas are and prioritize
 - Choose schools with a common plan or outcomes, or age concentration
 - these are just ideas, and not all-inclusive
- What if I don't have schools that want to participate?
 - Participation in this grant is not required. Adjustments will be made to allocations based on the number of participating districts.

Allowable costs

- Can the money be used at the Career Center level?
 - If the impacted schools are those performing at or below 70%, yes
- Can districts fund career exploration software (Naviance, et al.)?
 - Yes, as long as it is a new tool for the districts and not supplanting other funding. However, we are really wanting work toward new ideas as much as possible.
- Can districts pay for marketing costs for CTE programs of study?
 - If they are a part of the larger plan to provide innovative activities toward career exploration/development, then yes.
- Can wages, stipends and expenses be paid from these funds for teachers or staff?
 - Yes, for professional or curriculum development focused on career exploration/development, or for substitute teachers so that teachers can participate in development activities.
- Can wages or stipends for student internships be paid from these funds?
 - Yes. If possible, paid as a reimbursement to the employer.
- Can student field trips be paid for with this grant?
 - If they are part of a larger learning experience and not supplanting activities that were already occurring. There should be new classroom activities tied directly to the trip.
- Can we purchase gift cards as an incentive or gas cards for students to go to internships?
 - Incentive—no
 - Cost to travel to internships—you may reimburse travel cost to/from internship site for students who fall under one of the Special Populations
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Perkins-V-Local-Uses-Funds.pdf>

The grant—planning, application, and performance

- Should the application be completed at the EFE or district level?
 - It can be completed by either, however there should only be one application per EFE system.
- Should money be divided through subgrants?
 - No, the grant is not going to be set up for subgrants. EFEs may reimburse to districts as needed.
- How much money am I allotted for my system?
 - You should have received notification on April 1 from Karen Lockhart. If you do not see this email, contact Karen please. Allocations may be adjusted if some systems elect not to participate.
- Are districts required to work with NIU EdSystems?
 - All projects will take advantage of the support and communities of practice that will be led by EdSystems. Participants will be meeting periodically to discuss hurdles, best practices, and potential for expansion. Career Development Experience activities will use the CDE [Toolkit](#) for guidance.

General

- The projects are a pilot so need to be something the district(s) are not already doing; remember the purpose is to create a bank of new resources, ideas, best practices
- No supplanting of funds for activities that are fundamentally the same as what they are doing now
- All the usual allowable rules under CTEI funds still apply