

# Education Career Pathway Request for Proposals

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please complete the survey at [Intent to apply \(CTRL+Click to follow the link\)](#) if you anticipate applying for the CTE Educator Pathway Grant. This will help us to know how many grants we may receive.

These questions will be updated as we receive them until May 14, 2020.

**1. How much are individual grant awards for each year?**

Individual grant awards for fiscal year 2020 can be up to \$249,000, awards for FY 2021 can be up to \$249,000, awards for FY 2022 can be up to \$166,830, and awards for FY 2023 can be up to \$82,170. The total award is subject to availability of funds and will not to exceed \$996,000 over the lifetime of the grant.

**2. Who can teach the education courses in the Education Career Pathway?**

A person must have a Professional Educator License with secondary education/senior high endorsement in order to teach in the Education Career Pathway.

**3. Is the cost of graduate school tuition that a teacher pays to earn a master's degree and qualify to teach in the dual credit arrangement with a community college an allowable expense?**

Yes. The tuition that a career and technical (CTE) teacher pays in pursuit of a master's degree for the purpose of becoming eligible to teach a dual credit course is an allowable expense.

**4. Can the funds be used to pay salary and benefits for an Education Pathways instructor at a high school or career center?**

No. Salaries are not allowed to be paid, only stipends. It is recommended that the salary and benefits be part of the matching funds in the grant as they become available to ensure sustainability.

**5. When applying, especially on budget detail, is the budget detail just for FY 2020?**

The budget detail is for FY 2020. If funding is continued, you will submit budgets each year for continuation. However, ALL activities, goals, and outcomes should be detailed

in the application for the 3.5 years of the grant with a timeline. The budget for FY2020 should address all needs for the first year of the grant.

**6. Are districts currently participating in the Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois (SEPI) grant/program eligible to apply for this grant?**

Yes. Districts participating in SEPI may apply, if they are expanding their program. A district must apply through an eligible recipient: An administrative agency of a regional vocational systems forms under a cooperative agreement, a public community college, a technical institute operated by a state university or a state agency having administrative control and direction of a program of vocational education.

**7. Can Area Career Centers apply?**

Career centers cannot apply on their own. They can be served by a grant submitted by an eligible applicant.

**8. Are we allowed to use the in-kind match as part of our indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services?**

No. None of the program funding can be used as a match for the funding. The match will need to come from outside of the program.

**9. How will funding be distributed and how is the match calculated?**

Distribution is based on the amount of the original budgeted funds, which is up to \$249,000 for each year per applying entity not to exceed \$996,000 for the life of the grant. All of this is subject to availability of funds.

For example, if an applicant is awarded a full grant amount of \$249,000, the match would look like:

Fiscal Year	Grant Award	Match Amount
2020	\$249,000	\$0
2021	\$249,000	\$0
2022	\$166,830	\$82,170
2023	\$ 82,170	\$166,830

**10. I understand that 20 priority points (out of a possible 120) are targeted to rural and/or Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools. I have checked the lists, and some of our elementary schools fall into Tier 2, but none of our high schools do. We are a suburban region (northern suburbs of Chicago). How realistic is it that our region could obtain the grant?**

The Tiers are based on the Evidence Based Funding formula. Only districts are identified in a Tier. The list is linked in the application. Applications will be scored. It is possible to receive a grant award without priority points.

- 11. The revised grant submission date is May 22nd, with a projected notification of acceptance around June 22nd. The information notes that any expenditures prior to notice of acceptance is at the school or region's risk. *Will the FY20 grant be extended a full year, as are all state grants? Otherwise, I don't know how it is possible to get grant funds expended in such a short time (June 22-30). Could you clarify?***

All State funded FY 2020 grants will be extended to June 30, 2021 once an approved budget is received. The end date will be the first of either June 30, 2021 or the date of submission of the final expense report to ISBE.

- 12. Can you please explain a bit more about the allocation amounts? Depending on your reading of the grant you could believe in a couple of scenarios. Is it that CPS may be eligible for \$249k per school (meaning that if we apply for 9 schools) our allocation for the first FY would be over \$2.25 million or is it that we can apply for up to 9 schools and we would get a maximum amount of \$250k total. We are finding it challenging to plan for activities/expenses if we don't have a concrete amount for the allocation.**

The total grant cannot exceed \$996,000 over the life of the grant. You can apply for up to 9 schools, but the total award cannot exceed the maximum.

- 13. Can you please clarify the timeline? In the FAQ and other docs, it says we would get an FY20 allocation, but FY20 is nearly over. Are we to assume that the FY20 amount can be spent in FY21 due to all state grants being extended or will the first year now be FY21. Our question is also around the planning year - if we apply now will our planning year be the remaining part of FY20 or moved to FY21?**

The timeline is:

- The first year of the grant will have an end date of June 30, 2021 to be used for planning purposes and implementation.
- The second year of the grant will be July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021 to be used for implementation purposes.
- The third year of the grant will be July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 to be used for implementation purposes.
- Fourth year of the grant will be July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to be used for implementation purposes.

- 14. Can you please talk a bit more about the student information that will need to be collected for ELIS? We're having some trouble responding to the question about our plan to develop protocols when we don't know what will be needed.**

For the data that will need to be reported on, please refer to the "REPORTING REQUIREMENTS" outlined specifically in the grant application. Students that are in the Educator Pathway must register for an ELIS account through ISBE. The account is a free account that will allow for student's information to be retained at ISBE.

- 15. Can you please provide more information about the match, including what sources we can use for that amount (can we use Perkins/CTEI/other grant funds to cover the match amount)?**

The matching requirement can be both, in-kind and real, and must come from a source outside of the grant funds and used towards the Education Pathway program. For example, a district that pays the salary for the teacher teaching a course in the Education Career Pathway would be considered matching funds.

- 16. Can you also expound on what would happen if a district is awarded the grant but cannot continue to participate after a few years (meaning that the district would not be around for all five years)?**

Over the course of the four-year grant cycle, applicant will need to report on deliverables and milestones. If the applicant is not able to meet the deliverables or milestones, technical assistances will be provided by ISBE to help the applicant achieve the timeline goals. It is the expectation if an entity applies for the grant they are able to sustain the Education Career Pathway without new funding after the grant ends.

- 17. The FAQ document says that you can spend money on instructor salaries. We are wondering if the grant can cover non-CTE teacher salaries as it relates to student supervision during practicum? For example, a CTE education student is placed into an eight-week internship at an elementary school. Their supervising teacher during that WBL opportunity is not the CTE, but another district teacher that will be expended to work outside of their contracted time to supervise that student.**

Stipends are an allowable expense. Salaries are not allowed.

- 18. May we use funds from this grant to cover student-related travel for learning opportunities (like if we wanted to take students to a downstate university to meet with their school of education for a 2-day intensive learning experience.**

Districts can seek reimbursement of student travel funds via grant funds. These same travel expenses cannot be reimbursed as part of the school's transportation reimbursement at the same time they are being covered by grant dollars. No overnight

travel is allowed for students.

- 19. Can we use funds on former students? For example, an outgoing education senior will attend a 4-year university to study teaching. During the summer we may want to provide practicum opportunities for that former student at a district level to keep them engaged with the district and hire them upon their college graduation.**

If the former student is hired as an employee; only school employees' stipends are allowed as an expense. Their practicum must be connected to the Education Career Pathway to qualify as an allowable expense.

- 20. "Will I able to subgrant funds, or will all funds need to be managed through the EFE system."**

Yes, a subgrant of funds can be given to the district.

- 21. Can CTEI/CTE grant funds usually allocated to schools be used to meet the matching requirement for two years of the grant?**

Yes, for CTEI funds. Matching requirement can be both in-kind and real and must come from a source outside of the grant funds and must be used in the Education Pathway program. More information will need to be gathered before approval can be made to use CTE Perkins federal funds.

- 22. One of the high schools in my EFE is interested in partnering with another area high school in another EFE to submit one CTE Ed Career Pathway RFP. Is this permissible?**

Yes, it is permissible to create a consortium of school districts to offer the Education Career Pathway program through an EFE or Community College.

- 23. We operate CTE regional programs in partnership with our local community college. We use community college instructors. We are starting an Education program beginning next school year. We don't pay straight college tuition for this, we have a funding formula that we use and then bill the school districts on a per student basis, much like an area career center. If we were to receive this Education pathway grant, would we be able to use the funds to cover the tuition cost for our education students?**

Yes, you may use these funds to cover tuition costs for the students enrolled in the Education Pathway.

**24. In looking at the FAQs regarding this grant, the impression is given that teacher salaries would be an allowable expenditure.**

Teacher salaries are not allowable. Stipends are allowable.

**25. Is this grant not subject to the same supplanting guidelines as our other grants?**

The CTE Educator Pathway grant is state funded and supplanting only applies to federal grants. However, district should avoid supplanting to plan for program sustainability after the grant ends.

**26. Am I able to use the grant to expand current PEL teachers into CTE licensed teachers?**

No. These funds are for recruiting and preparing high school students for a career in the field of Education. These funds can be used for professional learning for the educators teaching or wanting to teach courses in the Education Career Pathway.