



Illinois State Board of Education


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Darren Reisberg
Chairman

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

April 29, 2021

TO: Eligible Applicants

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala 
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) / REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP):**
Fiscal Year 2022 Full STEAM Ahead!

CSFA Number: 586-43-2492
CSFA Title: School STEAM Grant Program

Program Overview

Eligibility and Application Information

Eligible Applicants: School STEAM¹ grants shall be made available to public schools*, charter schools, area vocational centers, and laboratory schools in which the percentage of students classified as low income exceeds the state average during the 2019-20 school year as indicated on the [Illinois School Report Card](#). A list of eligible schools (districts) can be accessed [here](#).

*Districts may submit applications on behalf of schools, and payments will be directed through districts.

The state desires to improve equitable outcomes statewide. Thus, it encourages eligible schools to partner with their district, Regional Office of Education (ROE), Education for Employment (EFE) System, Intermediate Service Center (ISC), other local schools/districts, or local institutions of higher education and businesses to create a collaborative partnership or consortium that can assist in the development of and supports science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education. Partnership roles should be clearly defined. Each district in a consortium application must meet all the eligibility requirements outlined in this NOFO/RFP. The consortium application should be considered by districts seeking to build program capacity, strengthen and create a network of community supports for STEAM learning, increase equity and outreach in STEAM programming for disadvantaged students, and build long-term program sustainability.

NOTE: The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requires applicants to complete Pre-qualification requirements before applying for any grant. This includes completion of the Grantee Registration and Pre-qualification process through the Illinois GATA Web Portal at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>. Grant applications must be submitted by the application deadline indicated in this NOFO/RFP. Applicants are advised to complete the Pre-qualification requirements well in advance of the NOFO/RFP deadline.

¹ In the September 2019 [Education Commission of the States \(ECS\) Policy Brief](#), STEAM education is defined as “an approach to teaching in which students demonstrate critical thinking and creative problem-solving at the intersection of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.” The interdisciplinary nature of [STEAM programming](#) creates a learning environment in which students engage in creative, inquiry-based, experiential learning activities that foster analytical thinking and creativity simultaneously to bolster innovation. Dell’Erba, Mary. September, 2019, pp. 1–12, *Preparing Students for Learning, Work and Life Through STEAM Education*: Education Commission of the States Policy Brief.

Successful grant applicants will be required to complete an FY 2022 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment in the form of an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) available through the GATA Web Portal, an FY 2022 Organizational Risk Assessment through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) System, and the FY 2022 Programmatic Risk Assessment that is found within the electronic Grant Management System budget. Grant awards will not be executed until the FY 2022 ICQ Organizational Risk Assessment and Programmatic Risk Assessment are completed.

Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM): Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal or state awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal or state awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, you may do so at www.sam.gov;
- (ii) Provide a valid DUNS number (<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) in its application; and
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal, federal pass-through, or state award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal or state awarding agency. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) may not consider an application for a federal pass-through or state award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements.

Code of Federal Regulations / Title 2 - Grants and Agreements / Vol. 1 / 2014-01-01192: Guidance is found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2013-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2013-title2-vol1.pdf>.

This grant is subject to the provisions of:

- Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), 30 ILCS 708/1 et seq. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3559&ChapterID=7>
- Administrative Rules for GATA, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000 <https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/044/04407000sections.html>

Merit-Based Review and Selection Process for Competitive Grants: ISBE is required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. The full text of the ISBE merit-based review policy can be found at https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Merit_Based_Review_Policy.pdf. Applicants are advised to refer to the Merit-Based Review policy document.

Grant Award/Cost Sharing or Matching: The STEAM grant funding is approved up to \$1.1 million subject to availability of funds. Additional information regarding funding can be found under Funding Information on page 7.

Grant Period: The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2021 and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2022. Successful applicants may reapply via continuing application for up to two additional year(s). Funding in the subsequent years will be contingent upon compliance with federal and state law, state grant-making rules, passage of sufficient appropriations for the program, and satisfactory performance in the preceding grant period. No promise or undertaking made in this NOFO/RFP is an assurance that a grant agreement will be renewed, nor does this NOFO/RFP create any right to or expectation of renewal.

Submission Dates and Times/Other Submission Requirements: Proposals can be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager no later than 4 p.m. on June 14, 2021. Directions for submission are found below.

Electronic Submission: Completed proposals submitted electronically should be scanned into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures. The ISBE Attachment Manager is found at <https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>. Choose Rhonda Manalia from the drop-down menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

Grant Award Notice: It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The award letter is NOT an authorization to begin performance or expenditures. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant. Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.

Technical Assistance Session: A technical assistance session will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 13, 2021. Registration information is found at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1755012287446742544> or at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/STEAM.aspx>. Attendance is not required.

Changes to NOFO/RFP: ISBE will post any changes made to the NOFO/RFP prior to June 7, 2021, at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Request-for-Proposals.aspx>. Applicants are advised to check the site before submitting a proposal.

Agency Contact/Contact to Request Application Package: For more information on this NOFO/RFP, contact the Curriculum and Instruction Department at ITeachTalkLearn@isbe.net. *All questions asked concerning this NOFO/RFP will be responded to in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/STEAM.aspx> so all respondents can see all questions and the responses to the questions. Changes to the FAQ will not be made after June 7, 2021. Applicants are advised to check the site before submitting a proposal.*

General Information

Program Background and Description

Program Purpose:

The School STEAM Grant Program makes science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) programming available to low-income² students in disadvantaged³ neighborhoods. School STEAM grants shall be made available to public schools, charter schools, area vocational centers, and laboratory schools in which the percentage of students classified as low income exceeds the state average. Entities may find information regarding the state average on the [Illinois Report Card](#). A list of eligible schools (districts) can be accessed [here](#).

Program Background/History:

The School STEAM Grant Program is created with funds collected through the Illinois Lottery. The Illinois Lottery established a specialty instant scratch-off ticket of which a percentage of funds are used to promote school STEAM programming. More information on Illinois Lottery law can be found at <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=312&ChapterID=5>. Legislation pertaining to the School STEAM Grant Program can be found at [105 ILCS 5/2-3.119a/Sec. 2-3.119a](#).

Program Description:

Grant recipients shall use the funds to either conduct or contract with a third party to conduct programming for K-12 learners that encourages and promotes career opportunities and skill attainment in the fields of science, technology, engineering, fine arts⁴, and mathematics for students in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Eligible applicants must exceed the state low-income threshold during the 2019-20 school year. Current information on the state threshold can be found on the [Illinois Report Card](#).

Priority shall be given to programs that provide hands-on⁵ experiences and/or programs that focus on encouraging young women to enter into the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

The School STEAM Grant Program aligns with Goal 1 from ISBE's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan:

“Every child will make significant academic gains each year, increasing their knowledge, skills, and opportunities so they graduate equipped to pursue a successful future, with the state paying special attention to addressing historic inequities.” This program additionally supports Strategy 1.1: *Support best practices and continuous quality improvement, including an emphasis on equity and diversity in order to support student learning while also addressing remote and blended learning.*

The School STEAM Grant Program seeks to provide equitable programming for students classified as low income in disadvantaged neighborhoods. It also seeks to create more opportunities for young women to explore fields traditionally represented by males.

² The Every Student Succeeds Act, (ESSA), [Pub. L. No. 114-95](#) defines “low-income family” as “a family-(i) in which children are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1751); (II) receiving assistance under the program block grants to states for temporary assistance for needy families established under Part A Title IV.

³ For purposes of Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs, a disadvantaged student is one who resides in a household whose income falls below a given threshold. For the purposes of this grant program, the threshold established by U.S. Department of Agriculture's free and reduced-price lunch program was used.

⁴ The “art” in STEAM, for the purposes of this application, as supported by the [Illinois Learning Standards for Fine Arts](#) is defined as inclusive of music, dance, media, theatre, and visual art forms in which students of the arts practice active learning and application of skill development. Integration of the arts introduces students to a creative process that connects to STEM learning and is a catalyst for innovation, according to the [John F. Kennedy Center](#) for the Performing Arts.

⁵ Hands-on learning can be more clearly defined in STEAM programming as experiential learning or the process of learning by doing.

ISBE's Equity Statement: *Illinois has an urgent and collective responsibility to achieve educational equity by ensuring that all policies, programs, and practices affirm the strengths that each and every child brings within their diverse backgrounds and life experiences, and by delivering the comprehensive supports, programs, and educational opportunities they need to succeed.*

Program Objectives:

1. Increase schools' capacity to support STEAM instruction and student participation, especially among low-income students in disadvantaged neighborhoods and/or encourage young women to consider STEAM careers.
2. Build the capacity of teachers to offer and support STEAM instruction and student participation in STEAM education.
3. Support K-12 student development of key knowledge and skills that underpin STEAM programs to promote and encourage future participation in STEAM careers.
4. Increase the integration of STEAM learning environments and activities into the school curriculum that foster and promote positive development of skills necessary for collaboration, creativity and design, problem-solving, open inquiry, experimentation, and communication.

Policy Requirements:

There is no board policy for this RFP.

Performance Measures:

1. One hundred percent of all planned STEAM learning activities and opportunities must align with the program objectives of the grant to deliver quality STEAM programming that focuses on offering STEAM programs to low-income students in disadvantaged neighborhoods and/or encourage young women to consider STEAM careers.
2. One hundred percent of professional learning in preparation for STEAM instruction will focus on building the capacities of teachers to deliver quality STEAM instruction to students in a variety of methods.
3. One hundred percent of learning opportunities afforded in this program will align to the Illinois Standards for Learning in the content areas of mathematics, fine arts, and science (and the guidelines pertaining to engineering design and technology therein).

Performance Standards:

1. All planned STEAM learning activities and opportunities must equal or exceed seventy-five percent alignment with the program objectives of the grant to deliver quality STEAM programming that focuses on offering STEAM programs to low-income students in disadvantaged neighborhoods and/or encourage young women to consider STEAM careers.
2. Professional learning in preparation for STEAM instruction must equal or exceed seventy-five percent and must focus on building the capacities of teachers to deliver quality STEAM instruction to students in a variety of methods.
3. Learning opportunities afforded in this program must equal or exceed seventy-five percent alignment to the Illinois Standards for Learning in the content areas of mathematics, fine arts, and science (and the guidelines pertaining to engineering design and technology therein).

Deliverables and Milestones:

1. Semiannual report of progress to be submitted electronically as indicated by ISBE staff will include:
 - a. Review of program progress in meeting planned objectives submitted in application.
 - b. Program recruitment and enrollment data for student participants disaggregated for race/ethnicity, gender, grade level, low-income eligibility, and primary career pathway of interest.
2. A final report should be submitted electronically when the program is completed. This report shall include:
 - a. Summary of progress toward accomplishing each program objective with supporting data or data representations to include an assessment of program quality and recommendations for improvements and sustainability.

- b. Summary of program impact and recommendations based on data for future programming and engagement of K-12 students in STEAM education.
- c. Program review of effectiveness to include data points that measure success of programming and student growth in STEAM learning.
- d. Consideration of the importance of program sustainability and details of how STEAM learning will continue after the grant concludes.
- e. Student work samples that provide evidence of learning (electronic documents, virtual media, student narratives, etc.) as part of the progress monitoring and/or reporting component.
- f. Photos of students participating in the programming, if applicable (if appropriate local photo/media releases have been obtained).

Funding Information

Introduction:

Eligible applicants must meet the criteria for funding. Funding for competitive state grant awards are on a payment schedule pending budget approval and the filing of expenditure reports in the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS). Funding will be routed through school districts.

The total available funding is \$1.1 million subject to availability of funds. Priority points will be given to STEAM programs that focus on encouraging young women to enter STEAM careers and to programs that provide hands-on STEAM learning opportunities.

Awarded applications with an approvable budget are eligible to receive up to \$350,000. Awards will be determined based on the final application score inclusive of points based on a district's final Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) FY 2020 Percent of Adequacy Calculation, see table below. A district's EBF Percent of Adequacy can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfdistribution.aspx>. Click the Reports ribbon, open the FY 2021 EBF Distribution Quick Facts, download the table, view column 'K'. This document is also on the ISBE <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/STEAM.aspx>.

EBF final Percent of Adequacy	Points
100% or greater	5
81-99.9%	10
71-80.9%	15
70.9 and below	20

Grant awards will be made based on application score and are subject to availability of funds. Higher-scoring applications will have priority for awards until funding is exhausted.

Allowable Expenditures:

- Teacher stipends to plan and deliver STEAM programs, pathways, career exploration, or other STEAM activities that align with grant and program objectives.
- Professional learning for educators to implement STEAM programs. This may include partnerships with local ROEs, EFEs, ISCs, businesses, higher education, or other educational partners.
- Supplies for students, such as STEAM kits or software to achieve planned learning outcomes.
- Resources for educators and/or students to implement and support the STEAM program.
- Contracts with third-party vendors to supply STEAM educational programming.

Cost Sharing or Matching:

There is no cost sharing or matching requirement.

Eligible applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for funding. Payments for competitive state grant awards are on a monthly payment schedule and are disbursed and routed through school districts as requested by the awardee via payment schedule in the electronic grants management system pending budget approval and the filing of expenditure reports in FRIS. Reimbursements are routed through school districts.

Indirect Cost Rate:

The federal Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200 requires that grantees be provided the opportunity to seek indirect cost reimbursements based on negotiated indirect cost reimbursement rates. Rates are determined and applied as follows.

Local Education Agencies

- Local Education Agency (LEA) indirect cost rates are developed in accordance with a delegation of authority agreement between ISBE and the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The plan includes both a restricted and unrestricted rate for each individual LEA. Both the restricted and unrestricted LEA rates are

published on the ISBE website. The FY 2019 rates are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Indirect-Cost-Rate-Plan.aspx>. In the past, only the restricted rate was allowed when budgeting indirect cost reimbursements.

LEAs have the ability to seek indirect cost reimbursement at the published unrestricted rate for any program other than those identified as restricted by ED.

- Newly organized LEAs, Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, area vocational centers, charter schools, university laboratory schools, and governmental entities formed by a joint agreement among LEAs utilize either the statewide average of LEA unrestricted or restricted indirect rates as appropriate, depending on program.
- LEAs that jointly administer federal program(s) utilize either the approved unrestricted or restricted indirect cost rates for the administrative district of the joint program as appropriate, depending on program.

Non-LEAs

- Programs eligible for an unrestricted indirect cost rate; not-for-profit entities; community/faith-based organizations; and other non-LEA, non-university subgrantees utilize rates negotiated through the Governor's Office of Management and Budget centralized process in which they will have the option to:
 - o Select the 10% diminimus rate.
 - o Submit documentation supporting a rate determined through negotiation with their federal cognizant agency.
 - o Negotiate a rate.

Non-LEA, non-university grantees may initiate the unrestricted indirect cost rate negotiation process through the GATA grantee portal at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>.

- Federal programs requiring the use of a restricted indirect cost rate, not-for-profit entities, community/faith-based organizations, and other non-LEA subgrantees shall utilize the 8% default rate described at 34 CFR 76.564.
- Colleges and universities will be limited to a maximum indirect cost rate of 8% or other indirect cost rate calculated by their cognizant federal agency, whichever is less, for grants administered by ISBE.

Costs associated with Fiscal Support Services (2520), Internal Support Services (2570), Staff Support Services (2640), Data Processing Services (2660), and Direction of Business Support Services (2510) charged to the Educational Fund are properly budgeted as indirect costs.

Funding Restrictions:

This grant has an unrestricted indirect cost rate.

Reporting Requirements

Periodic financial (expenditure) reporting should be completed at a minimum of quarterly via the IWAS system. Programmatic reporting should be completed at a minimum of semiannually via the IWAS system.

Deliverables and Milestones:

1. Semiannual report of progress to be submitted electronically as indicated by ISBE staff will include:
 - a. Review of program progress in meeting planned objectives submitted in application.
 - b. Program recruitment and enrollment data for student participants disaggregated for race/ethnicity, gender, grade level, low-income eligibility, and primary career pathway of interest.
2. A final report should be submitted electronically when the program is completed. This report shall include:
 - a. Summary of progress toward accomplishing each program objective with supporting data or data representations to include an assessment of program quality and recommendations for improvements and sustainability.
 - b. Summary of program impact and recommendations based on data for future programming and engagement of K-12 students in STEAM education.
 - c. Program review of effectiveness to include data points that measure success of programming and student growth in STEAM learning.
 - d. Consideration of the importance of program sustainability and details of how STEAM learning will continue after the grant concludes.
 - e. Student work samples that provide evidence of learning (electronic documents, virtual media, student narratives, etc.) as part of the progress monitoring and/or reporting component.
 - f. Photos of students participating in the programming, if applicable (if appropriate local photo/media releases have been obtained).

Content and Form of Application Submission

Instructions: Each application must be submitted in the format outlined below to be considered complete. A complete application will include all required components (the numbered items below) and signatures when mentioned. Please use the checkboxes in front of the numbers as a checklist when assembling your completed application. It is advised to attach a copy of the completed checklist with the application.

- 1. **Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance (Attachment 1):** Include the name, address, and telephone and fax numbers of the entity; email, name, and telephone number of the contact person; Federal Employer Identification number; DUNS number; SAM CAGE Code; and all other listed information. The Application page must be signed by the official authorized to submit proposals.
- 2. **Program Narrative (Attachment 2)** maximum 10 pages: Follow the specifications found under “Program Narrative Requirements” beginning on page 11 of this RFP.
- 3. **Objectives and Activities (Attachment 3)** maximum five pages: Use the form provided to list the objectives and activities of the proposed project in a time-specific format.
- 4. **Cost-Effectiveness, Impact & Sustainability (Attachment 4)** maximum five pages: Use the form provided to complete the cost-effectiveness and sustainability components of the proposal providing details of how the tangible benefits of costs measure total effectiveness and impact of program.
- 5. **FY2022 State Budget Summary and Payment Schedule (Attachment 5):** The budget **MUST** be submitted on this form. No other budget form will be accepted. District budgets **MUST** be signed by the district superintendent. Other applicants should have the authorized official sign the form. The payment schedule should be based on the projected date of expenditures. Salaries and fringe benefits should be requested in equal intervals on the schedule. Supplies, equipment, contracted services, and professional development should be requested in the month for which the expenditure is anticipated.
- 6. **FY2022 Budget Summary Breakdown (Attachment 5A):** The Budget Summary Breakdown **MUST** include descriptions of the anticipated expenditures, correlated to the line items set forth on the State Budget Summary and Payment Schedule. The Budget Summary Breakdown should also include subcontract information, if applicable.
- 7. **Certifications and Assurances (Attachments 6 and 7):** Each applicant is required to submit the forms below. These must be signed by the official legally authorized to submit the proposal and to bind the applicant to its contents.
 - A.** Program-Specific Terms of the Grant (Attachment 6)
 - B.** Grant Application Certifications and Assurances (Attachment 7)

Program Narrative Requirements

Program narrative should align with the rubric for scoring beginning on page 14 of this RFP. Submit proposal narrative sections 1-5 below on the attachments identified for each section and clearly label each section title in your narrative submission. Program narratives should address the following criteria:

1. **Attachment 2: Priority Points (10 points total/5 points each).** All program activities must align with eligibility requirements to provide STEAM programs to eligible students. To be eligible the percentage of students classified as low income must exceed the state average during the 2019-20 school year as indicated on the [Illinois School Report Card](#). A list of eligible schools is available [here](#).
 - a. The proposal clearly articulates a focus on recruitment of female students, programming designed for female students, or designation of a majority of the available spots in the STEAM program for female students. Provide a detailed description of the program *if* the program is applying for priority points based on encouraging young women to learn and explore careers in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and art. (5 points).
 - b. The proposal's primary focus is STEAM programming that provides hands-on experiences and/or activities. Evidence is provided to show students will actively participate in the acquisition of knowledge or skills through direct practical experience in the STEAM learning activities. (5 points).
2. **Attachment 2: Need (30 points total).** Need is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose.
 - a. Program provides data substantiating a local need for or expansion of STEAM programs and provides details of all planned STEAM opportunities that align to the grant objectives.
 - b. Program presents local data on number of eligible students to be served and total number of students to be served through STEAM plan.
 - c. Program narrative outlines the staffing needs to implement STEAM program. Clearly explain if there is a need for additional staff to be hired or contracted. Brief summaries of expertise and/or biographies should be included.
 - d. Program clearly outlines professional learning needs of educators who will deliver STEAM instruction and how the need will be addressed.
 - e. Program clearly identifies the stakeholders and/or community partnership needs to support the STEAM education program and implementation. If collaboration or consortia partnerships are utilized, details are provided on the stakeholders; the proposal outlines their roles and responsibilities to fulfill the need and meet objectives.
 - f. The program plan clearly identifies resources needed to implement STEAM program (e.g., facilities, equipment, supplies, software, technology, curriculum, resource guides/texts/manuals).
3. **Attachment 2: Capacity (10 points total).** Capacity is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the program requirements.
 - a. Narrative includes the identification of the applicant's capacity to meet all programmatic needs identified in the "Need" section. This should be provided in a table format to display the individual needs with corresponding capacity statements. If applicant does not have current internal capacity to meet a specific need, a description of how the need will be met should be provided. If third-party contracts are utilized, details of the contractors' expertise, qualifications, and capacity to deliver quality STEAM educational experiences that align with the grant objectives are included.
 - b. The application clearly demonstrates evidence of the applicant's capacity to meet the grant reporting deliverables (fiscal reporting and programmatic requirements) by outlining a timeline with the specific data to be collected along with the responsible entities/personnel.

4. **Attachment 2 and 3: Quality (50 points total).** Quality is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program.
 - a. Narrative demonstrates that the proposed STEAM program creates new, expands on, or enhances current STEAM programs aligned to the grant objectives rather than duplicating educational opportunities currently existing.
 - b. Program is based on documented research that supports the proposed STEAM program from national or state guidelines, or data on STEM/STEAM education, in-demand employment data, business and industry, and/or postsecondary alignment to STEAM career pathways.
 - c. The proposal includes measurable objectives supported by activities and/or performance standards or planned benchmarks that effectively support goals of the grant.
 - d. The STEAM program provides evidence of alignment to the Illinois Learning Standards and interdisciplinary learning.
 - e. The program utilizes community partnerships to support STEAM program and performance objectives.
 - f. Program clearly provides details of the timeline for delivery of service(s).
 - g. Program describes specific objectives and/or goals of the instructional plan, including name of instructional program(s), number of courses expanded or newly offered at each site, provider/instructor, role of each partner at each site, and number of students expected to be enrolled.
 - h. Evidence is provided that demonstrates educator's knowledge, skills, and experience to deliver STEAM instruction; or the proposal cites a plan to prepare educators through quality professional development; or the proposal identifies contracted entities and their expertise to deliver STEAM education.
 - i. The program demonstrates strong alignment to the grant objectives in this NOFO/RFP and includes a plan to measure effectiveness and impact of STEAM program.
 - j. The program plan includes a process to communicate progress to ISBE.

5. **Attachment 4: Cost-Effectiveness, Impact, and Sustainability (35 points).** Cost-effectiveness, impact, and sustainability are defined as how the tangible benefits of costs measure in total effectiveness of program and continuation.
 - a. The proposal provides details of how each budgeted item supports proposed goals, objectives, activities, and outcomes.
 - b. The STEAM program plan includes a detailed budget with projected costs assigned to appropriate function/object codes. **Attachment 5/5A**
 - c. Costs are reasonable and indicate alignment to meeting grant objectives.
 - d. The proposal includes a process to measure and evaluate cost-effectiveness of budgetary decisions toward program improvement over time.
 - e. The proposal includes a process to measure and evaluate impact STEAM program has on student achievement. State the expected impact of each partnership on the success and sustainability of the program and aligned activities.
 - f. The program includes a three- to five-year sustainability plan with forecasted budget considerations that provide details of how the STEAM program will continue after the grant concludes. Examples include funding for educator salaries, supplies, software, technology, maintenance, etc.
 - g. There is evidence of community/stakeholder involvement and/or engagement to support and assist in sustaining the program.

Review Criteria

Application Review and Selection Process

Awards will be based upon the overall quality of the application. Applications are competitive. Scoring is based on the five criteria listed in the **Program Narrative Requirements** section beginning on page 11 and additional points from EBF Percent of Adequacy Calculation, for a total of 155 points possible. See **Funding Information** on page 7 for FY 2021 EBF Percent of Adequacy points for districts.

Evaluation of Proposals

Criteria	Maximum Points	% of Total Points
Section 1: Priority*	10	6.5%
Section 2: Need	30	19.4%
Section 3: Capacity	10	6.5%
Section 4: Quality	50	32.3%
Section 5: Cost-effectiveness, Impact, and Sustainability	35	22.6%
Percent of Adequacy Points	Up to 20 max	12.9%
TOTAL	155	100%

* All program activities must align with eligibility requirements to provide STEAM programs to eligible students. To be eligible the percentage of students classified as low income must exceed the state average during the 2019-20 school year as indicated on the [Illinois School Report Card](#).

Tiebreaker

In the event of a tie, the applicant with the greatest number of priority points (see Program Narrative, Priority Points Section on page 11 for more information) will be given priority. If the priority points are equal, applicants with the highest EBF Percent of Adequacy points will be given priority.

Evaluation Criteria

The rubric below will be utilized to evaluate proposals. The criteria and points for each criterion to be reviewed and scored are located in the rubric.

Following the notification of grant awards, an applicant may request copies of reviewer scores and comments by contacting Rhonda Manalia at rmanalia@isbe.net.

Proposal evaluation rubric and point values are as follows:

Not Provided	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
0	1	2	3	4	5
Proposal requirements are absent.	Proposal provides very few details to meet the project outcomes.	Proposal is unclear and lacks enough evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides moderate detail and conveys potential to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides good detail and solid evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal exceeds expectations and provides substantial evidence to meet project outcomes.

EBF Percent of Adequacy Category Distinctions	Adequacy Point Value	Applicant's Score
100% or greater	5	
81-99.9%	10	
71-80.9%	15	
70.9 and below	20	

Section 1: Statutory Priority Points		Possible Points 10
All program activities must align with eligibility requirements to provide STEAM programs to eligible students. To be eligible the percentage of students classified as low income must exceed the state average during the 2019-20 school year as indicated on the <u>Illinois School Report Card</u> .		
The proposal clearly articulates a focus on recruitment of female students, programming designed for female students, or designation of a majority of the available spots in the STEAM program for female students, and/or the program is focused on encouraging young women to learn and explore careers in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and art that meet eligibility requirements.		0 or 5
The proposal's primary focus is STEAM programming delivered to eligible students that provides hands-on experiences and/or activities. Evidence is provided to show students will actively participate in the acquisition of knowledge or skills through direct practical experience in the STEAM learning activities.		0 or 5
Section 2: Need is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose.		Possible Points 30
Program provides data substantiating a local need for or expansion of STEAM programs and provides details of all planned STEAM opportunities that align to the grant objectives.		5
Program presents local data on number of eligible students to be served and total number of students to be served through STEAM plan.		5
Program narrative outlines the staffing needs to implement STEAM program. Clearly explain if there is a need for additional staff to be hired or contracted. Brief summaries of expertise and/or biographies should be included		5

Program clearly outlines professional learning needs of educators who will deliver STEAM instruction and how the needs will be addressed.	5
Program clearly identifies the stakeholders and/or community partnership needs to support the STEAM education program and implementation. If collaboration or consortia partnerships are utilized, details are provided on the stakeholders; the proposal outlines their roles and responsibilities to fulfill the need and meet objectives.	5
The program plan clearly identifies resources needed to implement STEAM program (e.g., facilities, equipment, supplies, software, technology, curriculum, resource guides/texts/manuals).	5
Section 3: Capacity is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the program requirements.	Possible Points 10
Narrative includes the identification of the applicant’s capacity to meet all programmatic needs identified in the “Need” section. This should be provided in a table format to display the individual needs with corresponding capacity statements. If applicant does not have current internal capacity to meet a specific need, a description of how the need will be met should be provided. If third-party contracts are utilized, details of the contractors’ expertise, qualifications, and capacity to deliver quality STEAM educational experiences that align with the grant objectives are included.	5
The application clearly demonstrates evidence of the applicant’s capacity to meet the grant reporting deliverables (fiscal reporting and programmatic requirements) by outlining a timeline with the specific data to be collected along with the responsible entities/personnel.	5
Section 4: Quality is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program.	Possible Points 50
Narrative demonstrates that the proposed STEAM program creates new, expands on, or enhances current STEAM programs aligned to the grant objectives rather than duplicating educational opportunities currently existing.	5
Program is based on documented research that supports the proposed STEAM program from national or state guidelines, or data on STEM/STEAM education, in-demand employment data, business and industry, and/or postsecondary alignment to STEAM career pathways	5
The proposal includes measurable objectives supported by activities and/or performance standards or planned benchmarks that effectively support goals of the grant.	5
The STEAM program provides evidence of alignment to the Illinois Learning Standards and interdisciplinary learning.	5
The program utilizes community partnerships to support STEAM program and performance objectives.	5
Program clearly provides details of the timeline for delivery of service(s).	5
Program describes specific objectives and/or goals of the instructional plan, including name of instructional program(s), number of courses expanded or newly offered at each site, provider/instructor, role of each partner at each site, and number of students expected to be enrolled.	5

Evidence is provided that demonstrates educator’s knowledge, skills, and experience to deliver STEAM instruction; or the proposal cites a plan to prepare educators through quality professional development; or the proposal identifies contracted entities and their expertise to deliver STEAM education.	5
The program demonstrates strong alignment to the grant objectives in this NOFO/RFP and includes a plan to measure effectiveness and impact of STEAM program.	5
The program plan includes a process to communicate progress to ISBE.	5
Section 5: Cost-Effectiveness, Impact, and Sustainability Cost-effectiveness, impact, and sustainability are defined as how the tangible benefits of costs measure in total effectiveness of program and continuation	Possible Points 35
The proposal provides details of how each budgeted item supports proposed goals, objectives, activities, and outcomes.	5
The STEAM program plan includes a detailed budget with projected costs assigned to appropriate function/object codes.	5
Costs are reasonable and indicate alignment to meeting grant objectives.	5
The proposal includes a process to measure and evaluate cost-effectiveness of budgetary decisions toward program improvement over time.	5
The proposal includes a process to measure and evaluate impact STEAM program has on student achievement. State the expected impact of each partnership on the success and sustainability of the program and aligned activities.	5
The program includes a three- to five-year sustainability plan with forecasted budget considerations providing details of how the STEAM program will continue after the grant concludes. Examples include funding for educator salaries, supplies, software, technology, maintenance, etc.	5
There is evidence of community/stakeholder involvement and/or engagement to support and assist in sustaining the program.	5