

## **FAQ: METT Pathway RFP Frequently Asked Questions (Updated 5/12/2023)**

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades (METT) Career Pathway Grant for fiscal year 2024 will provide funding directly to eligible recipients to support planning and implementation of a new METT Career Pathway. It is planned to be funded for up to three years, FY 2024 – 26, with a required match in the final year. Questions will be collected during the application period and shared in this document. No questions regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be answered individually via phone, email, or in person. All questions that are received and the answers will be shared and categorized in this document.

### **General Information and Timeline**

#### *1. Where can I find information about the METT Pathway Grant?*

All information, including a webinar and slide deck explaining how to complete the application, will be posted at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/CTE-Grants.aspx>. Detailed information, including performance standards and reporting requirements, is available within the RFP as well as within the application itself.

#### *2. The METT grant overview in IWAS lists proposals must be submitted electronically by 4 p.m. on May 30, 2023. The letter of intent form asks the question: This entity or group of institutions intends to complete the METT Pathway RFP prior to the due date of JUNE 14, 2023. Which deadline is the actual deadline for the METT grant application?*

This has been corrected to allow the receipt of applications through 4 p.m. on June 14, 2023.

#### *3. Can Year 1 of the METT Grant be a planning year and then in Year 2 and Year 3 the program is up and running with students?*

Yes, that is correct.

#### *4. How can I maximize my application points and improve my chances for approval?*

Refer in the application to the General Information—Review Criteria tab for specific information on how applications will be scored. Be sure each question is answered thoroughly. Carefully select schools that will be able to meet the criteria for need, capacity, quality, and cost effectiveness and meet one or more conditions for priority points (rural, 70% or below Evidence-Based Funding, focus on manufacturing or Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics programs).

### **Eligible Entities**

#### *1. Who is eligible to apply?*

Education Organizations: Public School Districts or Consortia of School Districts or Area Career Centers, Education for Employment CTE Systems, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), and charter schools that are their own Local Education Agencies are eligible to apply.

*2. Usually, these grants are for the consortium to write for our district. However, I was wondering if our district could write for this RFP as a stand-alone?*

Absolutely, a single district may apply on its own.

*3. Could a district use this for a partnership program where another entity is providing the instruction, but the district is providing the students? For example, a METT program is being offered at the community college and the funds are being used to increase their ability to accommodate high school students. It would be an existing community college program, but a new program for the high school.*

If the program is new to the implementing high school, then it is considered a new program. A community college is a required partner. If the partner does not currently allow high school students at the implementing school in the community college program, it would be considered a new program at the implementing school. If the implementing high schools currently have access to the program, the program would be identified in the Illinois State Course System and not considered to be a new program.

*4. Is it possible for an applicant to be funded for two different grants? We are having great response from our districts in forming partnerships to do this work. Because our region serves multiple community college districts, we are wondering if we can have two cohorts that are grouped by community college districts.*

If more than five schools within an ROE wish to apply, the additional districts should apply as their own consortium. An ROE or other entity cannot receive two grant awards. Further, no district will be funded both on its own and as a member of another consortium.

*5. Regarding the maximum 5 high schools included in a METT grant application, if an EFE has 10 high schools, and the EFE applies for a Regional Program with 5 of them in one application (50,000 x 5), is it accurate that the other five could file another application (50,000 x 5)? If the EFE is not filing the second application, who would file it on behalf of the other 5?*

Yes, this is correct. If a consortium of schools applying together do not have a unifying partner (such as a community college or EFE system) then one of the five schools will serve as the fiscal agent and be the primary applicant on the grant application.

## **Eligible Programs**

*1. Can the grant recipient use this grant to improve an outdated program or update equipment?*

No. This grant is to support the development of new METT pathways.

*2. Currently, our (area vocational center) AVC offers 1 welding section as dual credit through the local community college, but it is not currently offered in our building. We would like to develop the pathway within our center rather than offsite through the community college in order to serve more students, including the opportunity for students to earn a (College and Career Pathway Endorsement) CCPE in Welding. The way the community college program is offered limits the number of students we can serve*

*astronomically, and it is not economically feasible for many of our students. That being said, does this plan meet the qualifications to apply for the grant? If not, are there revisions that need to be made to make this an acceptable proposal for the grant requirements?*

This would not be considered a new program as the students currently have access to the welding program. In this case, this would not be an eligible program.

*3. We are restarting our Agricultural Education program after being eliminated nearly 10 years ago. At that time, all of our equipment, greenhouse, etc. was given to other schools because they were purchased through Perkins funds. Would our Ag program be eligible to apply for this grant?*

The new program must be in the METT content area, so an agricultural education program would not be eligible.

*4. Could you define a "new program"? Does this mean a new CIP has been added or does it mean that a new full program has been added (new teacher, etc.)? I have a school that historically has had Ag welding, but would like to transition it into a METT welding program. would that count?*

Yes. Ag welding is a course in the ag program area. A welding technology program would be a new program if the school does not already have one.

Added 5-12-2023

*5. Can a school apply to implement more than one new CIP?*

They can implement more than one CIP, but the funding is for each school not each program. A school may include more than one new CIP on a single application, but funding will still be based on a per school basis.

## **Funding**

*1. How much can an applicant ask for?*

An applicant can seek up to \$50,000 in the first year for each participating school, with up to five schools per application, for a maximum award of \$250,000 per applicant.

*2. What can the recipient use the grant funds for?*

This grant is federally funded, so it is subject to federal grant policies and the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Expenditures may include salaries and benefits, purchased services, travel for professional development, supplies and materials, Career and Technical Student Organizations, and METT instructional equipment for this new pathway.

*3. Added 5-12-2023 Ventilation systems would be required equipment to safely weld, I assume, and would be allowable?*

A ventilation would be a permanent fixture in the building. This is not eligible for capital improvements.

*4. Can METT grant funds be used for salary? If so, is there a limit on the amount they can spend on salary?*

Salaries for new teachers may be funded for curriculum and stakeholder engagement during the planning year and delivery of instruction during implementation. However, the grantee may not supplant salary funding for existing teachers or staff.

*5. Is there a matching requirement for funding?*

The first two years do not require matching funds. The third and final year -- FY 2026 -- will require a 30% match.

*6. Can METT grant monies be used to pay for college classes for instructors to enable the new METT classes to be dual credit?*

Yes, you may use funds for this.

*7. Can METT grant monies be used to pay for college classes when co-teaching occurs? Specifically, can monies pay for a special education teacher to take a couple of construction classes so they are more knowledgeable about construction and can better assist their students?*

Yes, they can.

*8.. What is considered as local match in year 3? Teacher salary?*

A local match would be anything that you are not already providing to implement the class.

Resources

[IWAS User Guide](#)

[Fiscal Procedures Handbook](#)