

**STEAM School Grant NOFO RFP**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)**

Last updated: 11/30/2021

1. If a community college or ROE wanted to participate they could not directly apply, correct?

**ANSWER:** That is correct. 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 during the 2019-20 school year as indicated on the Illinois School Report Card.

**\*Districts may submit applications on behalf of schools. All payments will be disbursed to the school districts.**

**With respect to the community colleges and ROEs, eligible schools are encouraged to create collaborative partnerships or a consortium that can assist in the development and support of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education.**

2. Are there any specific allowed or non-allowed expenditure categories?

**ANSWER: 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.**

3. Is this grant for an extra program for students who are interested or incorporated with all students in the school?

**ANSWER: All students in the school are eligible to participate in the STEAM program. However, the grant provides priority consideration to programs that provide hands-on experiences and/or programs that focus on encouraging young women to enter into the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. All schools must meet eligibility requirements. Please refer to the RFP for detailed information.**

4. If our nonprofit organization has STEM programming that focuses on high school students would we still be eligible? Our program has worked with Chicago Public High School students during the academic day and year.

**ANSWER: Eligible public, charter, lab schools and area vocational centers may partner with your non-profit organization as a third-party provider of services.**

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5. Would the Chicago Public High Schools we are partnered with apply on our behalf, and we would be on the application as a vendor (contractor)?

**ANSWER: Yes, provided the school(s) meet the eligibility requirements.**

6. To clarify: In districts with multiple eligible schools, each school needs to apply separately?

**ANSWER: Correct (unless the district is applying as a consortium) each school would apply separately completing Attachments 2 through 7. The school district would complete a separate Attachment 1 for each school with required signatures.**

7. If a district is applying, do they need to fill out a different application for each school that meets the requirements?

**ANSWER: Not necessarily. The district may choose to apply as a consortium on behalf of each school where each school should be listed in a single application. The program will be evaluated as one application.**

8. Given notification date will likely be early fall 2021, is it possible that the grant period will be extended through August 2022 to allow for summer programming?

**ANSWER: The grant period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. However, program has the option to extend projects through August 31, 2022.**

9. Is priority given to applicants if the program is during school hours in-class versus after-school programming?

**ANSWER: No. Priority points are in statute and awarded to programs that provide hands-on experience and programs that focus on promoting young women to enter into the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.**

10. Is priority given to the number of students the program serves?

**ANSWER: No. Priority points are in statute and awarded to programs that provide hands-on experience and programs that focus on promoting young women to enter into the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.**

11. We are a nonprofit organization that provides STEM mentorship and experiential learning opportunities to high school students. We have been working with Chicago Public Schools for the past few years. Are we eligible for the STEAM grant program?

**ANSWER: No. However, you may be included on the eligible applicant's proposal as a third-party provider of services if the entity chooses.**

12. What is the EFE role in this grant if we are not completing and submitting the application?

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**ANSWER: The state 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 and supports of STEAM education for all students including career and technical education (CTE).**

13. Are elementary schools eligible to apply for the grant?

**ANSWER: Yes.**

14. Is there a BEP goal for the schools to meet if they receive these monies?

**ANSWER: No.**

15. Are PreK programs eligible to apply?

**ANSWER: Please refer to the list of [eligible entities](#) to see if the PreK program meets eligibility requirements.**

16. Can a private school apply for the grant or is it just for public and charter schools?

**ANSWER: No. The Illinois Constitution governs state grant eligibility. For more information please see: Article X of the [Illinois Constitution](#).**

17. Under the allowable expenses questions, it specifically states stipends and not salaries, does that mean that a new position could not be created to facilitate STEAM learning and engagement opportunities?

**ANSWER: The RFP does not explicitly state salaries are not allowed in which case the allowable expenses section should not be interpreted as exclusive.**

18. How many applications were submitted for this funding opportunity?

**ANSWER: 27**