Computer Science Equity Grant
FY 2024
Request for Proposals

Technical Assistance Webinar

March 5, 2024

ILLINOIS
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EDUCATION

Agenda

- Background

- Purpose

- Eligible Applicants

- Criteria for Review and Approval

- Grant Information

- Contact Information

Background (1/2)

- [Public Act 101-0654](#), enacted in Spring 2021, amended the School Code to incorporate language and mandates related to [computer science](#) and [computer literacy](#).
  - Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, students in grades K-12 should be provided with computer literacy instruction, in addition students entering ninth grade during this school year and each year thereafter must participate in one year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy.
  - Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, all school districts that maintain any of grades 9-12 shall provide an opportunity for every high school student to take at least one computer science course aligned to the [CS learning standards](#).

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Background (2/2)

- The Computer Science Equity Grant is a new competitive grant that was created by [Public Act 103-0264](#).

- Funding for two consecutive renewals subject to appropriations (total of 3 years).

- Grant period January 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2024

- FY24 awards can be extended through August 31, 2024

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Purpose

- The purpose of the Computer Science Equity Grant Program:
  - Create opportunities for K-12 learners to develop or enhance computer skills through coordinated statewide professional learning.
  - Support efforts to improve equity outcomes and decrease accessibility issues to ensure all K-12 students in public school districts are afforded equitable opportunities to engage in computer science learning.

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Eligible Applicants

- ROEs
- ISCs
- State Institutions of Higher Education
- Schools Designated as Laboratory Schools
- Public University Laboratory Schools approved by ISBE
- Area Vocational Centers
- Charter Schools

- Cooperative and Other Joint Agreements with a Governing Body or Board of Control
- Schools Operated by an ROE, ISC, or state agency
- School Districts
- A list of eligible entities, https://www.isbe.net/Documents/23-700RG-P.pdf

Program Objectives (1/2)

- Expand learning opportunities in Grades K-12 to ensure that all students have access to computer science coursework that is aligned to rigorous state standards and emerging labor market needs;

- Train and retrain teachers of Grades K-12 to be more proficient in the teaching of computer science by providing professional development opportunities;

- Supply classrooms with materials and equipment related to the teaching and learning of computer science;

Program Objectives (2/2)

- More effectively recruit and better serve K-12 learners who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market for enrollment in computer science coursework; and

- Fund initiatives in any grades of K-8 that are designed specifically to prepare students in those grades to participate successfully in secondary computer science coursework or future computer science careers.

Performance Measures (1/2)

- One hundred percent of all planned Computer Science Equity Grant funds are being used:
  - To expand learning opportunities in Grades K-12 to ensure that all students have access to computer science coursework that is aligned to rigorous state standards and emerging labor market needs.
  - For professional learning to train and retrain teachers of Grades K-12 will be used to make teachers more proficient in computer science.

Performance Measures (2/2)

- One hundred percent of funds used to:
    - Supply classrooms with materials and equipment are related to the teaching and learning of computer science.
    - Recruit K-12 students focuses on learners who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market.

Deliverables and Milestones (Reporting 1/2)

- Mid-year virtual check in by January 31 of each year, with ISBE

- End of the year report submitted electronically by August 31 of each year to ISBE at standards@isbe.net

Deliverables and Milestones (Reporting 2/2)

- **Mid-Year AND End-of-Year**
  - Summary of progress toward accomplishing each program objective with supporting data or data representations to include an assessment of program quality and recommendations for improvement and sustainability.
  - Summary of program impact and recommendations based on data for future programming and engagement of K-12 students in computer science education.

- **Only End-of-Year**
  - Consideration of the importance of program sustainability and details of how computer science learning will continue after the grant concludes.
  - Program review of effectiveness to include data points that measure the success of programming and student growth in computer science learning.

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Criteria for Review and Approval

- Need
  - Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose
- Capacity
  - The ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements
- Quality
  - The totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program
- Sustainability
  - Evidence provided in the form of additional funding and other resource streams that will support the program after the grant funding concludes
- Cost Effectiveness (Budget), Impact, Evaluation
  - Overall impact and evaluation in the use of grant funds (expenditures) towards resources aimed at supporting and sustaining the program over time and alignment and impact of those expenditures with the goals of the grant program

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Criteria for Review and Approval

- Priority Points
  - Majority of learners of teachers with gender or racial/ethnic identities that are underrepresented in the computer science labor market. (See Section 2- 3.196(d) of the School Code)
  - School or districts that does not currently offer any computer science coursework and is able to accommodate 12.5% or less of the high school student body in the program for a given school year.
  - School or district that does not currently offer computer science coursework that is accessible and appropriate for students at each grade level for Grades 9-12.
  - School or district that does not currently offer advanced coursework opportunities for computer science.

Submission of Proposals

- Completed Proposals should be scanned into a single PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures and submitted:
  - Electronically
    - ISBE Attachment Manager
    - Select Sophia Nuding from the dropdown menu
  - Via Email
    - standards@isbe.net
- Deadline: 4/4/24 at 5 p.m.
- No late proposals will be accepted

Proposal Review Tentative Timeline

- Application deadline: April 4, 2024, by 5 p.m.
- Curability: Notification of missing components by COB April 9.
  - Applicants will have 24 hours to make corrections if notified of curability issues
- Reviews will tentatively start: April 8
- Tentative Award Notice: May 15
- Appeal Period: May 15-May 19
- Final Award Notice: May 20

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Questions

Please send any questions to
standards@isbe.net

Answers will be posted in an FAQ document at

[Funding Opportunities](#)

Contact Information

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