**FY2023 Trades School Program Grant**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Will there be a link distributed for the Bidder’s Conference?** A link for the Bidder’s Conference is provided in the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The NOFO can be found on the [Illinois Grant Opportunities webpage](http://www2.iccb.org/iccb/grant-opportunities/). The Bidder’s Conference will be held virtually on March 14, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
2. **Are equipment purchases an allowable cost under this grant if incorporated into the project plan? For example, purchasing simulators, trucks, or trailers to expand the CDL program to include dual credit students?** Yes, equipment purchases are an allowable expense.
3. **Can these funds be used to pay for costs such as student stipends (even during work experience), tuition, course fees, pre-admission requirements, etc.?** Yes, these are allowable uses of funds.
4. **Can the credential earned through dual credit coursework be an industry-recognized credential, or must it be an academic credential (specifically referencing Objective 2)?** Yes, it can be an industry-recognized credential. The purpose is to create opportunities for students to continue on the pathway, so this is an acceptable means to do that.
5. **Are we able to include pay for the internship/apprenticeship in our budget? If so, would we be paying the student or the employer?** Both are allowable. You can directly pay the student or, essentially, reimburse the employer for paying the student.
6. **As part of the dual credit offerings that will be included within the project, do the courses have to be held on our campus?** No. They can be held at the high school, as well.
7. **Is work-based learning required for each student who participates?** Offering ample, robust work-based learning opportunities is a priority for this project and it is required that you provide these opportunities. However, it is not feasible that each student will participate in a work-based learning opportunity.
8. **Does the work-based learning component have to be completed prior to the end of the grant period?** We understand that activities may continue past the end date of the grant. Please remember, though, that you cannot pay for activities that occur outside of the grant period.
9. **Are there any restrictions on the types of employers that we can partner with for the work-based learning component? For example, can we place interns at the college and/or local high schools?** There are no restrictions on the type of employer partners if they are in line with the identified area(s) of need.
10. **Are there any guidelines on the number of hours that should be completed for a work-based learning?** Work-based learning opportunities vary in terms of the amount of time a student should participate. Please utilize resources such as the [work-based learning continuum in the Career Pathways Dictionary](https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/images/pdfs/CTE/Perkins_V/6Perkins_V_Resource_IL-Career-Pathways-Dictionary.pdf) and the [Career Development Experience Toolkit](https://edsystemsniu.org/career-development-experience-toolkit/).
11. **The NOFO states that the ICCB will only accept one grant application per “district”. What is the definition of district for the purposes of this grant?** Community colleges are the only eligible recipients of this grant, so district is referring to the community college districts. A map can be found [here](http://www2.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/IL_Community_Colleges_Map.pdf).
12. **Within the Application Narrative, it asks applicants to identify the “number or percentage of engaged youth who become employed in the trades sector”. How can this number or percentage be identified prior to the grant execution?** It is not expected that this figure will be completely accurate at the end of the grant, rather, this figure should be the *goal* that your project is working toward and how you are measuring the success of your grant project.
13. **Are GED students an eligible population to be served under this grant?** Yes, they would be eligible. The intent would be to connect those students to additional education and training in line with the priority sectors in the NOFO. It is important that this funding would not supplant existing HSE or adult education programming.