**Grant Guidelines**

**Background**

This grant is designed to create and support Early Childhood Education competency-based education programs and projects in the community college system. Competency-based education focuses on determining a student’s achievement by evaluating proficiency within a set of learning outcomes and objectives moving away from traditional time-based constraints. Beginning with the Early Childhood Credential, between 2016-2017, all Illinois Gateways Credentials moved from standards and benchmarks to competencies.  As a result, many colleges have worked to incorporate competency-based activities within their program framework and outcomes, including those related to technology.  Many programs are also working to identify ways in which to observe and assess students in simulated or virtual reality scenarios. Through this grant project, grantees will have access to Mursion Technology, a virtual reality simulation platform, as well as technical assistance from ICCB and its partners. This grant adheres to Section 135 (State Leadership) of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act and aligns with priorities in Illinois’ State Perkins Plan. Before completing the Grant Proposal below, applicants must read the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which can be accessed on the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) website, <https://www.iccb.org/iccb/grant-opportunities/>. The NOFO contains information about the grant period, applicant eligibility, allowable and unallowable expenditures, grant deliverables, reporting schedule, and selection criteria.

**Objectives**

1. **Pilot Mursion Technology in Early Childhood Education Programs-** Grant recipients will be required to **pilot** Mursion Technology virtual reality (VR) simulations and **develop scripts**. Mursion’s proprietary technology merges human and computational intelligence to create compelling complex, social, and professional interactions between learners and avatars in VR simulations. Mursion states that these “VR simulations differ from traditional branching logic simulations by allowing unique and non-redundant responses, resulting in highly immersive, authentic interactions that challenge learners to master higher-order communication skills.” *Grantees will be provided access to Mursion Technology on behalf of ICCB, but additional services may be desired.*
2. **Utilize the technology in the Gateways Credential Competency Assessments** - Grantees will be required to develop scripts, activities and scenarios in which students are to practice competencies using the Mursion technology. In addition, Grantees will be asked to pilot assessments designed for the technology, and to assess the efficacy and state replicability potential of both the technology and script and scenario development. The outcomes of the pilots will be reported to ICCB and made available to INCCRRA (Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies) for recommendation to Gateways entitled institutions.
3. **Participate in a Learning Community** - Grantees will be required to participate in a learning community facilitated by the ICCB and its partners to provide comprehensive support and determine efficacy and state replicability. Participation in the learning community includes, but is not limited to:
   1. Grantee Kick-Off Webinar - TBD
   2. Participation in Virtual Learning Opportunities (e.g. learning community conference calls, webinars, etc.)

**Additional Activities**: Grant recipients may utilize funding to support the following activities.

1. Create scripts that will be utilized in the virtual reality platform and explore Mursion Technology use in other programs.
2. Hire consultants or provide stipends to faculty and staff for project administration and professional development.
3. Supplies and resources necessary for early childhood education programming.
4. Travel to related professional conferences and meetings.
5. Membership in relevant professional organizations.
6. Academic and nonacademic services for students participating in the program. Community colleges serve a diverse group of students with varying needs. Student support services and related projects can help assist students, particularly those with barriers to success, persist and complete their program of study. Support initiatives and activities may include but are not limited to the following:

* supplemental instruction;
* high touch academic advising and career guidance;
* testing and assessment preparation for CTE-related certifications and licenses;
* assistance for students transitioning into employment or seeking additional education and training;
* services and activities to assist special populations CTE students, as defined by the Perkins Act, including ensuring program accessibility to special populations students and assisting them in overcoming barriers that may limit their opportunities for success. Special Populations students as [defined by the Perkins Act](https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/pd/special-populations-resources/) are as follows:
  1. students who are under or unemployed (out-of-workforce)
  2. students who are English learners
  3. students with disabilities
  4. low-income students
  5. students preparing for nontraditional fields
  6. single parents, including single pregnant women
  7. former foster youth
  8. youth whose parents are in active military
  9. students experiencing homelessness

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| **Grant Proposal** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **COLLEGE** | | | | |  | | | | | | | |
| Amount Requested | | | | |  | | | | MAXIMUM AMOUNT: $25,000 | | | |
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| **Project Manager**  Name/Title | | | | |  | | | | | | | |
| Telephone/Email | | | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| **Fiscal Contact**  Name/Title | | | | |  | | | | | | | |
| Telephone/Email | | | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| **Narrative**  Submissions will be judged and graded based on the following criteria. Each section should be concise and include sufficient detail. Points will be deducted from submissions that neglect to address all areas in each respective section. Before completing this Narrative, applicants must read the NOFO in full, <https://www.iccb.org/iccb/grant-opportunities/>. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Project Description**  Provide a **brief**, high-level summary of your project (no more than 300 words). This summary **will** be used by the ICCB for public dissemination purposes. | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Programming**  Provide a list of Early Childhood programming that will be utilizing the Mursion technology. List other programs that will be a part of this grant project. | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Activities and Timeline**  Describe your action plan. The plan **must** include specific activities, tasks, timelines, and milestones. Each milestone must address a specific goal/project outcome. | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Partnerships**  Provide a list of the institutional, community, industry, and secondary partners you anticipate collaborating with on this project including their **role in the project.** Do these partners intend to monetarily supplement this project? | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Expected Outcomes/Impact**  What are the expected outcomes and impact of this project at your institution? These goals/outcomes should correspond to the goals iterated in the Activities portion of this Narrative. | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sustainability**  How does the college plan to scale or sustain this project following the end of the grant period? | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Assurance of Non-Supplanting**  Please confirm that funding provided by this grant will not be used to supplant current activities. | | | | ☐ I confirm that funding provided by this grant will not be used to supplant current activities, projects, or initiatives at the college. | | | | | | | | | |

By submitting this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures and disbursements made with these funds are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the applicable Federal or State award or program participation agreement. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (2 C.F.R. 200.41)

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Signature of Authorized Signatory

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Date