

Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA) Implementation Project

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)\*

**Application Package Due Date/Time:** March 17, 2023, by 4:30 p.m. CST

**Submit Application Package To:** deana.schenk@illinois.gov

\* Exempt from the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) per PA 102-626, effective 8/27/21

**A. Background and Purpose**

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) invites community colleges to participate in the **Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA) Implementation Project** by applying for grants, which are GATA-exempt (as noted on the title page), up to $100,000 per institution. ICCB will fund a maximum of $700,000 to selected community colleges to incentivize the convening of individual campus level implementation of DERA requirements and regional communities of practice focused on DERA implementation. DERA, as part of Illinois Public Act 101-0654, was signed into law in March 2021.

This project is designed to assist and support colleges in scaling equitable, evidence-based models of developmental education reform, based upon DERA requirements and to address specific implementation challenges focused on multiple measures placement.

**B. Eligible Applicants.**

* Illinois Public Community Colleges
* Consortia of Illinois Public Community Colleges (note that consortia applicants are still limited to a maximum grant amount of $100,000). One college must be designated both as the lead college and fiscal agent.

**C. Project Objectives**

The objectives of this grant are intended to support colleges as they come into full compliance with the DERA law. The expectation is that applicants will propose activities aligning with statewide priorities around developmental education reform and support partners in their efforts to meet the requirements of DERA. Grantees who are selected for funding will be required to engage in:

1. Individual Campus Level Activities: Support their individual campus-level efforts to scale evidence-based developmental education models and to fully implement DERA Act requirements, including the use of the [multiple measures framework](http://www2.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/academic_affairs/Final_Placement_Recommendations_Approved_6-1-18.pdf) as approved by the Presidents in June of 2018 (and any subsequent revisions to those measures).
2. Collaborative Partner College Activities: Convene communities of practice to create collaboration opportunities on developmental education strategies and execution across partner community colleges.

***To be considered for funding, colleges must include activities in both project areas.***

**D. Example Program Activities**

Sample may include but are not limited to:

Individual Campus Level Activities:

* Convene appropriate stakeholders on campus to examine current developmental education practices and policies.
* Review data and metrics related to current developmental education practices and policies, such as disaggregated equity data, completion and retention data, advancement data, barriers to success, gateway course success data, etc.
* Set benchmarks and targets for data and metrics as appropriate.
* Work with campus level stakeholders to update, revise, expand, and otherwise scale existing evidence based best practices that positively impact developmental education metrics.
* Examine and implement new evidence-based practices that positively impact developmental education metrics.
* Work with external partners to assist with DERA implementation.

Collaborative Regional Activities:

* Convene and support a community of practice focused on scaling DERA related developmental education reform and placement requirements.
* Review DERA submitted reports of partners to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses and to identify gaps in approaches.
* Based on review of the DERA reports and other resources, evaluate needs for implementing effective developmental education models across their respective regions.
* Provide input to the ICCB and its partners in the development of resources to support these needs.
* Review and evaluate national and other states’ efforts and models that may guide implementation in Illinois.
* Work with external partners to help facilitate regional conversations.

**E. Application Package**

This is a competitive process. All parts of the application package must be completed by the deadline in order to be considered. Applicants will not be notified if there are items that are missing from the application package. Applicants will receive a notice of receipt of the application package. Applicants must use the templates provided and the application package must be organized as listed below.

* 1. Application

Applicants must complete each section of the Application in its entirety.

* 1. Cover Page

The cover page must include the public higher education institution’s name, address, telephone number, and website, as well as the contact information, including email address, telephone number and extension, and fax number of the President/CEO, Chief Financial Officer, and Project Coordinator/Administrator.

The cover page must also provide a statement that stipulates: “This application is being submitted on behalf of the <Institution’s Name>; and, if awarded, the applicant agrees to abide by the provisions and guidelines set forth in the application and by the ICCB. Furthermore, the individuals listed in the application are authorized to act on behalf of the institution.

**The statement must be signed and dated by the President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).**

* 1. Abstract

Provide a one-page (or less) abstract that may be single-spaced and describes the following:

* + - A description of the proposed project activities and services.
		- A list of anticipated staff, consultants, partners, and service providers with whom the institution will engage.
		- A list of the participating colleges as part of a consortia, as applicable.
		- A list of the principal objectives and measurable goals as they relate to Individual Campus Level Activities and Collaborative Regional Activities.
	1. Project Narrative

***The Project Narrative submitted under this NOFO should be organized, clear and understandable.***

The eligible applicant must submit a narrative of no more than eight pages (charts and graphs are a part of the limitation), double-spaced, 12-point type that must include the following:

* + - **Statement of Need**, including a description of the development of activities and needs using disaggregated data and information as indicated above, the impact of implementation of DERA requirements on the applicant college’s students and the potential for impact on partner (or potential partner) colleges.
		- **Detailed description of the identified approach** **and measurable project goals and objectives** (the goals and objectives must be measurable and include long-term indicators of success). The expectation is that applicants will propose activities aligning with statewide priorities around developmental education reform and support for their college partners in their efforts to meet the requirements of DERA, including the disproportionate enrollment of Black students as indicated in the DERA. This should include a project timeline.
		- **Description of any partnerships**, and role of each partner (internal and external). This list should include partners (identified or potential) in the proposed community of practice and other pertinent stakeholders as appropriate, based upon areas of expertise and need.
		- **Description of the applicant’s capacity and experience** to execute the project, specific to developmental education reform and the implementation of multiple measures placement.
	1. Budget

Each applicant must submit an effective budget for only the initial grant period on the State of Illinois Uniform Grant Budget template. Applicants should submit budgets based upon the total estimated costs of the project using the 16-month initial grant period as “Year 1” on the template. ICCB uses this budget template for all grant opportunities, including those exempt from GATA.

* 1. Application/Submission Information

Each grant application package must be submitted no later than March 17, 2023, by 4:30 p.m. CST to deana.schenk@illinois.gov. Grant application and materials may be found on the ICCB website at <http://www2.iccb.org/iccb/deraip>.

Please submit all questions electronically to deana.schenk@illinois.gov. Include in the subject line: [**Community College’s Name**] DERA Implementation Project.

Paper copies are not permitted. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of the e-mail containing the attachments. It is up to the applicant to ensure that all items in the package are attached and sent in the e-mail.

All applicants, funded or not funded, will be notified by March 31, 2023.

**F. Funding Information**

**Grant Period:**

The initial grant period is from April 3, 2023 – June 30, 2024, with the option for renewal with consent of both parties in writing and subject to continued funding.

**Funding Availability:**

ICCB will fund a maximum of $700,000 to selected community colleges to incentivize the convening of individual campus level implementation of DERA Act requirements and regional communities of practice focused on DERA implementation. Continued support in additional years is subject to availability of funds and grant performance.

**Funding Deadlines**

* Grant funds must be obligated by June 30, 2024.
* Good/products must be ordered by June 30, 2024/received by July 31, 2024.
* Services must be rendered by June 30, 2024.
* Grant funds must be expended by July 31, 2024.

***Cost Sharing or Matching***

* No cost sharing or matching is required.

***Indirect Cost Rate***

For this competitive opportunity, ICCB is limiting the indirect cost rate that may be charged to fifteen percent (15%).

***Allowable and Unallowable Costs***

Proposed and actual expenditures will be evaluated using standard grant regulations in state and federal law.

* Supporting student tuition and fees is not allowable with this grant.

**G. Review Criteria and Selection Process**

The ICCB staff will use the criteria listed below in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to review the applications and will award points accordingly. Decisions to award grants and the funding levels will be determined per application based upon compliance with the requirements of this NOFO and the grant proposal.

Applicants must demonstrate that they meet all requirements under this NOFO as described throughout.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the Application Narrative submitted under this NOFO. Part of the criteria involves the organization, readability, and clarity of the narrative.

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| **Statement of Need**, including the current and potential impact of implementation of DERA requirements on the individual college’s students and the potential for impact on a regional basis. |
| **Component of the Proposal Being Evaluated** | **MAX Points** |
| The applicant has provided a clear, concise, evidence-based and data-driven argument for how the funding is needed at the college and across the identified and proposed partner institutions.  | **5** |
| The applicant has provided a clear, concise, evidence-based statement about the current and potential impact of implementation of DERA requirements on the individual college’s students. | **5** |
| The applicant has addressed the potential impact of the implementation of DERA requirements on their partner institutions.  | **5** |
| **TOTAL POINTS** | **15** |

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| **Detailed description of the identified approach** **and measurable project goals and objectives** (the goals and objectives must be measurable and include long-term indicators of success). The expectation is that applicants will propose activities aligning with statewide priorities around developmental education reform and support for their college partners in their efforts to meet the requirements of DERA, including the disproportionate enrollment of Black students as indicated in the DERA. This should include a project timeline.  |
| **Component of the Proposal Being Evaluated** | **MAX Points** |
| The proposed activities aligning with statewide priorities and that of the DERA. | 5 |
| The project implementation plan includes an appropriate, evidence-based, and achievable focus on their individual campus, based upon their current experience level with developmental education reform and the implementation of multiple measures placement. | 15 |
| The project implementation plan includes an appropriate, evidence-based, data-driven, and achievable focus on their collaborative partners.  | 20 |
| Project Outcomes are well-defined, measurable, and attainable. | 5 |
| Project outcomes relate to the identified activities, goals, and objectives.  | 5 |
| Goals and Objectives include long-term indicators of success. | 5 |
| A project timeline is included. | 5 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** | **60** |

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| **Description of any partnerships**, and role of each partner (internal and external). This list should include real and potential community of practice partners and other pertinent stakeholders as appropriate, based upon areas of expertise and need. |
| **Component of the Proposal Being Evaluated** | **MAX Points** |
| The college provides a list of partners and a short description of those partners (community colleges should be named but descriptions of community colleges are not required). | 5 |
| Detail of each partners role in the project is included as a part of their description (including community college partners), including the need to have them as partners and the expertise they bring to the project. | 10 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** | **15** |

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| **Description of the applicant’s capacity and experience** to execute the project, specific to developmental education reform and the implementation of multiple measures placement.  |
| **Component of the Proposal Being Evaluated** | **MAX Points** |
| The applicant effectively describes their capacity and experience to execute the project, specific to developmental education reform. | 5 |
| The applicant effectively describes their capacity and experience to execute the project, specific to multiple measures placement. | 5 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** | **10** |

**I. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

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