

## FY2024 Rev Up EV Community College Initiative Grant FAQ

*Updated 11/21/23*

1.

**Question:** Are consortium applications permitted?

**Answer:** Technically yes, a community college may apply for a grant and partner and or subgrant with another college in that application. This does not, however, change the maximum award of the grant opportunities (Objective A: \$90,000 and Objective B: \$525,000 per application). This is not to preclude or deter consortium activities, but with the amount of this investment, we will be able to fund a significant number of community colleges, upwards of 30 if applications prove to have merit. Thus, to maximize the resources available, it may be more fruitful for applicants to apply individually, yet note collaboration efforts with other community colleges and/or other educational partners throughout the grant application.

2.

**Question:** Can colleges write for both Objective A and Objective B?

**Answer:** No, colleges must submit one application selected either A or B, not both.

3.

**Question:** Are there any costs we can anticipate for our participation in the EV Network, if awarded?

**Answer:** While there will be opportunities for budget modifications from your initial budget request, applicants (Objective A and Objective B) should include the following expenses in their proposed budgets as it relates to participating in the EV Network:

- **Travel costs:** many of the EV Network convenings, professional development, etc. will be held virtually, but applicants should plan for some travel costs for in-state travel.
- **Training and professional development:** IGEN, facilitating the EV Network, will be responsible for coordinating much of the training, professional development, and

4.

**Question:** Would renovation costs for the EV program lab be an eligible cost?

**Answer:** Yes. Renovation of existing lab space to accommodate an EV program would be an allowable cost. Applicants would need to plan and budget for the required activities outlined in the NOFO, thus construction and renovation should not represent your full budget.

5.

**Question:** We are currently in the process of the renovation of current space for an EV classroom. Would any of this current cost be able to be part of our budget?

**Answer:** These grant funds are able to cover associated costs incurred by construction of or renovation to EV program areas, or program areas for other Priority Programs as identified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity; however, expenses covered under this grant must be obligated and incurred during the grant period.

6.

**Question:** Can tables be single spaced in the narrative?

**Answer:** Yes, spacing within tables and charts can be single-spaced, instead of the required double spacing throughout the narrative. Font size should not go below 10 within tables and charts.

7.

**Question:** The NOFO asks applicants to include employer letters of commitment/support. I imagine showing significant local demand in EV can be challenging for colleges in many areas of the state as much of the growth is happening now or in front of us; the labor market data often lags significantly; and there is a limited window to engage employers before Dec. 1. How open is ICCB to colleges from across the state utilizing letters of commitment from large employers that pull from large labor sheds to demonstrate labor market demand and employer engagement? I imagine such letters could be secured by the IL EV Network with large employers and shared with potential applicant colleges to demonstrate EV labor-market demand. I believe this has not been the traditional approach to demonstrating demand within a district, but might be considered an appropriate approach to statewide demand planning and capacity building.

**Answer:** We fully understand that this field is emerging and thus labor market data may be elusive or not fully representative. The NOFO requires applicants to consider or speak to labor market data in three specific areas.

1. Narrative Section- Program Justification I.a.: *Applicants should provide evidence for selection of the programs identified in the Project Overview, including but not limited to labor market information, listing of relevant employers, anticipated growth in accompanying occupations.* Similar to approaches used in the program approval process, if local or regional LMI is unavailable or unclear, applicants may utilize data driven from engagement with local or regional employers, even if need isn't immediate but projected. If appropriate, state-level LMI and other resources may be used to further support your Program Justification.

2. Narrative Section – Work Plan II.b. Employer and Community Engagement: *Activities should detail what partners will be engaged (and how) during the grant process; preliminary plan for conducting a needs assessment, inclusive of both labor market and community readiness; and any other activities that will contribute to grant goals regarding employer and educational partner engagement.*

3. The NOFO requires that Objective B applicants secure letters of support/commitment from employers. These employers should represent those who would be working with the college on programming. This typically means that the employer exists within the district,

unless the college has or plans to seek regional approval of a program, at which they may be serving a large geographic space than their district. We also understand that large employers pull in employees from across districts and/or may be present in multiple districts around the state. We would welcome their letters of commitment and support as it makes sense with that individual college.

**8.**

**Question:** The budget template link under the Grant section on the ICCB grants page isn't working.

**Answer:** At the top of the page under “Grant Documents”, click the link that says “Uniform Budget Template”. That will download the Excel document to your computer. This is typically accessible in the top right-hand corner of your browser. The Budget template is now also linked within the Rev Up EV grant notice under “Application Materials”.

**9.**

**Question:** Is it likely there will be another round of this funding?

**Answer:** That is unknown with the state budget being crafted on annual basis; however, bolstering EV Technology and training in Illinois continues to remain a priority of this administration.

**10.**

**Question:** We have been participating in IL EV Network calls and do not anticipate having approval from ICCB and HLC in time to enroll students in any new curriculum within 18 months.

- Does that mean our institution should be applying for Option A, which limits the funding that we would have available to build capacity?
- Or should we apply under Option B and count the anticipated number of students in existing Automotive programs during the grant period?
- Does this depend on whether the new curriculum would be under the same CIP code as our current program?

**Answer:** We do understand that many colleges are in the early stages of planning right now and would benefit more from Objective B but would be limited to enrolling or completing students over the next 18 months. That being said, Objective B is intended to support scale and implementation of programming. There are many options for approaching implementation that may not be impacted by the aforementioned approval timelines. These options may include noncredit programming, modifications of any current curriculum, short-term stackable credentials, etc.

**11.**

**Question:** Are we allowed to budget for SURS?

**Answer:** Yes, SURS is an allowable expenditure under fringe benefits for personnel appropriately paid out of the grant.