

## FY2025 Trades School Program Grant Frequently Asked Questions

1. Normally, one would think you would need the accountability metrics from Round 2 to be included in writing for Round 3. How does that work if you are in the midst of Round 2?

*Answer: Including accountability metrics from Round 2 is not a requirement of the Round 3 grant application.*

2. We received a Round 2 grant which runs until June 2025. Just to clarify, it appears there will be overlap for Round 3. Is there anything we need to do to address that? I know the NOFO states we need to enhance or expand upon Round 2 activities.

*Answer: If a Round 3 applicant received Round 2 grant funds, the requirement is that Round 3 activities may not duplicate Round 2 activities because the grants will be running concurrently for a period of time. Round 2 recipients must either develop new activities or demonstrate how Round 3 activities will expand or enhance Round 2 activities if the activities are similar in nature. For example, if a Round 2 recipient focused on the healthcare sector and specifically supported a medical assistant program in Round 2; in Round 3, applying the same activities, but focusing on the CNA program or a manufacturing program, or reaching a new targeted demographic could constitute expanding or enhancing. Ultimately, Round 2 recipients applying for Round 3 funds must demonstrate within the application that proposed grant activities will not be duplicative.*

3. Does this Round 3 NOFO statement mean that we must expand on our activities for the Round 2 grant for those same programs or other programs in the healthcare sector? OR can we go a whole different direction?

*Answer: Round 2 recipients are not limited to only expanding or enhancing Round 2 activities. They may develop completely different activities in Round 3. This note was only to emphasize that because the grant periods will overlap, Round 2 recipients are still eligible to apply for Round 3 funding, and if they do, they cannot duplicate Round 2 activities since the grants will run concurrently for several months.*

4. Can the college pay for tools for students through the Take Back the Trades grant?

*Answer: Supply rental is allowable through the grant.*

5. Can the college pay for tuition and books in the Spring of 25 for students who enrolled in the fall of 24 and are continuing in CTE, or would this be considered duplication? It would be a new semester, but some students would be the same.

*Answer: If the continuing students are included in the Round 3 grant activities in a manner that expands or enhances Round 2 activities, the college may pay for tuition and books for the continuing students.*

6. If the Round Two grant ran out of funds for books and tuition because of overwhelming interest, can Round 3 pick up the deficit from Round 2 since the grants overlap?

*Answer: No. Round 3 funds cannot be used to cover deficits from Round 2. While the time periods for the grants overlap, the grants are individual. Round 3 funds may only support activities and uses of funds included in the Round 3 application.*

7. Knowing that the target population is high school students, is it possible through this grant program to offer apprenticeships to students immediately after they graduate high school? Recruitment into the program would start while they are seniors, and they would enter the work-based learning immediately after graduation?

*Answer: Yes. Offering apprenticeships to students immediately after they graduate high school is allowable.*

8. I am working on the Taking Back the Trades! grant proposal and would like to know if a technical occupation in agriculture would fit into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and if computer aided design could be worked into manufacturing since CAD students often work in the manufacturing sector.

*Answer: Yes, agriculture is considered a STEM field according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's STEM Designated Degree Program list. Additionally, computer aided design does fit under manufacturing.*

9. We are interested in applying for the Taking Back the Trades Grant application. We are a Vocational School. We provide healthcare job training courses (CNA, Psych Tech, Emergency Room, Clinical Medical Assistant) to Hospitals and Nursing Homes in partnership with 2 local high school Districts. It states that the eligible applicants are Community colleges in the State of Illinois and Round One and Round 2 awardees. As a Vocational School, do we qualify?

*Answer: Vocational Schools do not qualify for this grant opportunity. Public community colleges in the State of Illinois are the only eligible applicants.*

10. There is a need to support some upcoming events for youth career exploration (objective 1), by purchasing small tools to give away at the event with the institution's logo. This would be a cost of around \$1,000.

*Answer: Promotional items and memorabilia are not allowable expenses.*

11. For the FY25 Trades School grant, we'd like to budget for t-shirts for students who are engaged in career exploration activities, both to identify those students and also to spark interest and encourage participation from other students. Can you let me know if that is an allowable expense?

*Answer: No, promotional items and memorabilia are not allowable expenses.*

12. I am completing the Uniform Grant Application for the Taking Back the Trades FY 2025 grant.

It saved and opened as a fillable PDF form. I notice that when I type into the provided boxes, the wording gets too small to read. Is there another way to complete this form? Can I re-create it in Word or do you prefer the fillable PDF form?

*Answer: The GATA Uniform Grant Application is not part of the required application materials for this grant. Please use the FY2025 Taking Back the Trades GATA-Exempt Grant Application included with the Application Materials located under the Taking Back the Trades! Trades School Grant Program- Round 3 Grant Opportunity on the [ICCB Grants page](#). This document was uploaded and should open as a one-page MicroWord document.*

13. This is our first year applying for this grant. Can funding be used to provide wrap around services, loan forgiveness, or mileage reimbursement for currently enrolled students (16-24) in a trades program at our school? Additionally, can the funding be used to hire a transitional support liaison for recruitment and supporting bridge programming and pathways (i.e. adult education to trade program, high school student recruitment)? And lastly, can these funds be used to pay for GED testing fees?

*Answers:*

- *Funding for wraparound support, loan balance forgiveness, and mileage reimbursement can only be used to support the participants included in the proposed grant activities. Support is not allowable for current trades program students who are not specifically included in the grant.*
- *Funding can be used to hire a transitional support liaison for recruitment and supporting bridge programming and pathways, but the position must be related to providing education and training pathways to employment in the trades.*
- *Programs should serve students enrolled in high school (including alternative high schools), particularly those in their junior and senior years. While the primary focus should remain in-school youth who, following graduation, will be transitioning to additional training and employment in the trades, applicants can also work with out-of-school youth (up to age 24). Therefore, paying GED testing fees could be allowable to eliminate barriers for out-of-school youth included in grant activities, but should not be a primary focus or a significant use of funding for the grant.*

14. Are we allowed to allocate funds to a sub-contracting agency that would assist with engaging employer relationships for the work-based learning component.

*Answer: Funding for contractual services to meet the objectives of the grant is allowable.*