



GIVE

Governor's Investment in
Vocational Education

RFP Technical Assistance

March 1, 2024

The Basics

- The GIVE community grants facilitate the alignment of local workforce and education partners through a **\$40 million competitive grant process.**
- Grants **up to \$2 million dollars** will be available to local collaboratives.
- **Forty-eight (48)** month grant period

What is a Collaborative?

Local collaboratives will serve as the facilitators for each GIVE grant and must include the following mandatory partners:

1. TCAT or Community College.
 - The fiscal agent must be a TCAT or Community College. The fiscal agent will serve as the primary partner for all grant activities and will execute a grant contract with THEC.
2. A local/regional workforce or economic development agency (such as: development district, chamber of commerce, or local/regional Workforce Investment Board).
3. Two or more area employers representing industry sectors with a demonstrated shortage of skilled workers; these employers should be seeking to employ credentialed graduates from the proposed program.
4. At least one K-12 local administrator representing secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study and work-based learning interests.

Collaborative Considerations

- Any public or private, non-profit, four-year institution may participate as an additional partner, but the primary partner must be a TCAT or community college.
- A collaborative may include more than one postsecondary institution.
- A lead entity or fiscal agent may submit more than one proposal.
- All partners may participate in multiple proposals.
- Collaboratives involving more than one county do not receive scoring preference.

Fiscal Agent & Lead Entity

The fiscal agent must be either a TCAT or Community College.

The lead entity may be one of the following:

- TCAT
- State Community College
- Workforce/Economic Development Agency

Lead entity responsibilities include:

- Submitting grant proposal and notifying partners
- Coordinating all grant activities and partner participation
- Grant reporting
- Contract monitoring and audit

The lead entity and fiscal agent serve as accountable parties for all grant activity.

Who May Apply?

To ensure that GIVE 3.0 is responsive to current workforce needs in each community and does not duplicate previous efforts, collaboratives awarded grant funding during GIVE 1.0 or 2.0 may only participate in GIVE 3.0 via:

1. The proposal must involve the creation of new (not currently offered) educational training programs; and/or
2. The expansion of a program that was not previously funded by GIVE 1.0 or 2.0; and/or
3. The expansion of GIVE 1.0 or 2.0 programs to counties not served by the institution's previous GIVE program(s); and/or

Who May Apply? *(continued)*

4. Expansion of GIVE 1.0 or 2.0 programs within currently served counties to new site(s) in the area of service; and/or
5. Establishing a stacked credential within the GIVE 1.0 or 2.0 program. For the purpose of this RFP, a stacked credential should align with the US DOL definition: "A credential is considered stackable when it is part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual's qualifications and help them to move along a career pathway or up a career ladder to different and potentially higher-paying jobs."

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must identify and address local community/regional skills gaps through one (or a combination) of the following methods:

- Enhance, expand, and/or acquire equipment or other resources to develop an academic program that creates a pathway from secondary to postsecondary that culminates in a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree and fills a critical and demonstrable local/regional workforce need.
- Develop and implement collaborative, meaningful, and structured work-based learning (WBL) experiences. Successful applicants must demonstrate how they will create or expand the infrastructure necessary to sustain successful WBL programs.
- Provide industry-recognized certifications to meet an identified regional workforce need.

Proposal Activities

- Grant activities may focus on both K-12 and adult students.
- Proposals may request assistance with more than one program of study.
- Work based learning (WBL) experiences **may include but are not limited to** internships, co-ops, apprenticeships (youth apprenticeships, pre- and registered apprenticeships), or clinical experiences.
- Nationally recognized certifications can be supported as part of a non-credit program as long as the certification is used as a pathway or bridge between secondary and postsecondary programs.

Proposal Specifications

Section 1: Demonstration of Need - 20 points

- Localized data demonstrating the need for action
 - Preferred data sources on RFP page 4-5
- Clear linkages between grant activities and local/regional needs

Section 2: Program Plan - 25 points

- Detailed summary of proposed program
- Detailed project timeline and overview (Quarterly)
- Identify key objectives for each phase of the project and describe how they will be measured
- Project governance and accountability plan
- Overview and structure of the optional Work-Based Learning (WBL) program

Proposal Specifications

Section 3: Strength of Partnership - 20 points

- Detailed description of each mandatory partner's role and their capabilities in implementing the identified program
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the partnership agreement from local and area employers and partnering postsecondary institutions

Section 4: Budget Plan - 15 points

- Clear alignment between funding request and grant activities
- Role of proposed equipment request
- Explanation of any anticipated indirect costs associated with the implementation and administration of the grant

Proposal Specifications

Section 5: Sustainability Plan - 20 points

- Detailed plan for sustaining the program beyond the 48-month funding period
- If applicable, detailed description of the availability of long-term resources to house, maintain, and/or repair equipment
- If applicable, WBL programs will describe how the education-industry partnerships will continue beyond the 48-month grant period

Section 6: Optional Criteria - 5 points available for each

- High Demand Programs
- County Economic Status Acknowledgement
- Census Tracts in Persistent Poverty
- **Points are capped at 15 for this section.**

Allowable Budget Items

- Equipment to start a new or enhance/expand an existing program
- Salary and benefits for instructor(s) or staff
- Stipends for teacher and counselor externships
- Stipends for external coordinators to lead larger grant events such as career expos
- Indirect costs are allowable up to 8% of the total grant budget
- Lease of Space or space renovation (case-by-case basis)

NOTE: Requests for funding of **new construction** **WILL NOT** be included as part of this grant

Notice of Intent

- **Due Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 4:30 PM Central.**
- Must be transmitted by [Formstack](#).
- Must include the information shown on page 9 of RFP.
- It is the sole responsibility of the project director to verify receipt of the Notice of Intent and notify project partners.

Those missing the deadline to submit a Notice of Intent will not be eligible to submit a proposal.

Final Proposals

- **Must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 4:30 PM Central. Submissions received after the deadline WILL NOT be considered.**
- Submissions must be received electronically through Formstack.
- Instructions for submission will be shared with everyone submitting a notice of intent and will be reviewed in the March 22, 2024, technical assistance meeting.
- It is the sole responsibility of the lead entity/project director to verify receipt of the proposal and notify project partners.
- Funder reserves the right to fund a proposal in full or in part and to request additional information.
- All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal shall be borne by the applicant. Proposal preparation costs are not recoverable from grant funds.

Timeline and Milestones

- **Notice of Intent due:** Thursday, March 14, 2024, by 4:30pm (Central)
- **Technical Assistance Meeting:** Friday, March 22, 2024
- **Final proposal due:** Thursday, April 30, 2024, by 4:30pm (Central)
- **Tentative Grant applicants notified of selection:** July 2024
- **Tentative Technical Assistance Webinar for Grantees:** July 2024
- **Tentative Start date for contracts:** August/September 2024

Contact

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