

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *What is the total remaining funding amount?*

A: OSIT has already awarded \$334,975 this fiscal year. Remaining funding for the STEM Workforce Challenge Grant is \$665,025 for SFY16 and \$2,000,000 for SFY17.

Q: *Is there a deadline to spend grant funding.*

A: Yes. All state funding awarded in SFY16 must be spent by June 30, 2016.

Q: *Will there be additional rounds of funding?*

A: It is anticipated that OSIT will award grants in SFY17. This second year will be funded from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. We expect to issue an RFA for SFY17 funding next spring.

Q: *Is there a match requirement?*

A: Yes, there is a 1:1 match requirement. This can be cash or in-kind.

Q: *What is considered qualified in-kind match?*

A: In-kind match should directly support the development and function of the training program. Examples of eligible in-kind match include, but are not limited to, equipment used for training purposes only, leases or rent for approved training spaces, salary and benefits for instructors or trainers that are experts within their field, and apprenticeships/internships. Please contact Jodi Bass with specific questions about match.

Q: *What type of expenses would be considered eligible for this grant?*

A: Grant funds should be start-up in nature and not used for ongoing expenses. Only capital or programmatic expenses are eligible. Examples include curriculum development, production of instruction materials, tools and supplies used for training purposes, and equipment purchased for training only.

Q: *Can I charge F&A indirect costs to the grant or include as match?*

A: Indirect expenses or F&A are not an eligible grant expense. Grantees may use an indirect cost rate of up to 10% as in-kind match. Salaries and fringe benefits are not include as indirect costs.

Q: *Are for-profit, private training providers eligible applicants?*

A: Yes.

Q: *What is the State looking for in a potential grantee?*

A: Grantees must demonstrate an ability to become self-sustained following the conclusion of grant funding.

Q: *Can I submit more than one grant application?*

A: Yes, as long as the grants target different STEM occupations.

Q: *What would be considered a successful application and/or program?*

A: Successful applications will draw from data, market analysis and industry to identify current and projected workforce training challenges that will be part of the program implementation and able to sustain the program long term.

Q: Can I include a table in my application? Do tables have to follow double-spacing and other formatting rules?

A: Yes, small tables can be included as long as they are not the majority of the application narrative. Tables can be single spaced and are exempt from other formatting rules.

Q: *What are some of the factors of a successful proposal?*

A:

- A designated lead entity to head up grant-related activities that will work with industry-based organizations.
- Cross-sector collaboration that brings together colleges, industry sector councils, area firms, and/or industry based organization.
- Evidence of active industry participation and leadership as well as current or planned collaboration among companies in program development and implementation.
- Leveraging of existing or additional state and federal funding.
- Replicable model that allows possible transfer to other regions.
- Well defined metrics and performance management to ensure evidenced based decision making and accountability.