

USBE Grant Application Request

Board Memo and Backup Information

Title of program

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program.

Description of grant program

The focus of this grant is on providing scaffolds and supports to help increase postsecondary participation and retention by identifying and removing barriers for students.

Link to public website where Board members can find additional information (if available)

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants/apply/find-opportunities>

(Additional competition materials were provided through the official Notice Inviting Applications and Grants.gov application package.)

Description of intended use of funds, should they be awarded

The funds would be used to award grants to local adult education providers for three specific activity types aimed at improving the rate of student transitions to postsecondary education: 1) Hiring Career Navigators, 2) Developing and implementing bridge programs from adult education to postsecondary education, 3) Postsecondary transition scholarship to support tuition for the training portion of the bridge programming for students who are unable to qualify for funding through WIOA training funds, workforce pell, or other institutional aid.

Will the funds be available to all LEAs? If not, which LEAs or grantees are able to apply?

Funds are meant to supplement adult education programming, so only LEAs or Community Based Organizations currently receiving any combination of state or federal adult education funding would be eligible to apply. (This currently includes 37 school districts and 3 community organizations.)

Timeline of period of performance

10/1/26-9/30/30

Amount of funding

\$5M over 4 year period

Application due date

6/23/26 (already submitted)

Will any new FTE at USBE be needed as a result of this funding?

Proposal includes \$130,000 annually to support 1 FTE as a program coordinator.

The terms and conditions of accepting the grant funding

- If awarded, USBE would be required to comply with all applicable federal grant requirements, including the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200), reporting requirements established by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor, applicable federal civil rights laws, and all program-specific requirements identified in the Notice Inviting Applications.
- USBE would be responsible for administering the grant, monitoring subgrantees, maintaining fiscal accountability, collecting and reporting performance data, and ensuring compliance with federal requirements throughout the 48-month project period.
- No state match or maintenance of effort requirement is associated with this grant.

What actions will USBE or LEAs be required to take if they receive the funding?

USBE would:

- Conduct a competitive subgrant process.
- Hire and supervise a full-time statewide project coordinator.
- Monitor subgrantee performance and compliance.
- Provide technical assistance and professional development.
- Coordinate statewide partnerships with postsecondary institutions, workforce agencies, correctional education programs, and community organizations.
- Collect, analyze, and report project performance data.
- Submit required federal performance and fiscal reports.

Participating LEAs and community-based organizations would:

- Apply for and receive competitive subgrants.
- Hire Career Navigators or transition specialists.
- Develop and implement Postsecondary Bridge Programs.
- Provide Postsecondary Transition Assistance to eligible students.
- Conduct basic-needs assessments and referrals.
- Maintain partnerships with workforce, postsecondary, and community organizations.
- Collect and report participant and outcome data.
- Participate in project evaluation and monitoring activities.

Specific reports and reporting deadlines

If awarded, USBE would be required to submit:

- Annual Performance Reports documenting participant outcomes, services provided, and progress toward project objectives.
- Annual Federal Financial Reports (FFR).
- Additional performance, fiscal, or monitoring reports as required by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor.
- A final performance report at the conclusion of the grant period.

Specific reporting schedules would be established by the awarding agency upon grant award.

Federal or state awarding agency

DOL on behalf of DOE

How much of the funding will flow-through to grantees?

Approximately \$4.35 million (87%) of the \$5 million award would flow directly to local Adult Education providers through a competitive subgrant process.

These funds would support Career Navigator services, Postsecondary Bridge Programs, Postsecondary Transition Assistance, and local partnership development activities.

Approximately \$650,000 (13%) would be retained by USBE to support statewide project coordination, grant administration, training, technical assistance, evaluation, and required reporting activities.

What is the administrative burden to USBE to administer the funds and how will they be covered?

The grant would create a moderate administrative workload for USBE associated with conducting a statewide competitive subgrant process, monitoring subgrantees, coordinating statewide partnerships, collecting and reporting performance data, providing technical assistance, and completing required federal reporting.

The proposal includes funding for one full-time Statewide Postsecondary Transition Coordinator position at approximately \$130,000 annually (salary and benefits) to support grant administration and implementation. Existing Adult Education Services staff, fiscal staff, and existing data systems (UASIS) would provide additional support.

Administrative costs are included within the grant budget and would not require additional state appropriations.