Montana’s Future at Work

The Montana University System seeks promising grant proposals that will deliver responsive CTE outcomes in high need, competitive wage, short-term credential areas in the community where high school students live.

What is it?

- Montana’s Future at Work is a grant funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation designed with three goals in mind:
  1) Train high school students in a CTE field in the community where they live;
  2) Grow an understanding of the need for more training in the field among students, educators, community members and family members;
  3) Promote/Market the CTE field to local and state stakeholders

- The grants will be $20,000-$40,000 in size.
- The awards are for one year with an opportunity for a smaller grant award for a second year.

Who may apply?

- Montana public post-secondary institutions in partnership with at least one accredited Montana high school.

Request for Proposals

Applications must include:

- A focus on high school students interested in earning one high need, competitive wage, short-term credential in a short time in the community where they live
- The high need credential needs to be outlined in the proposal
- A description of how students will be recruited to participate and complete the program
- A plan to support these students to earning a credential before or in concurrence with high school graduation (if the ultimate degree is an AA or AS, the plan must include a plan to ensure completion of a badge or something stackable). The training can be non-credit workforce.
- Must include a support letter or email from partner high school(s) to supply sufficient numbers of student participants
- Must include a creative plan to market/advertise the credential to students, families, educators and other community stakeholders
- A high need, short-term credential is considered a certificate that can be earned in one or two semesters (in this case while students also matriculate in their high school studies)
• Ideal grants would support students to completion in the credential area prior to or along with their high school diploma.
  
  o Potential credential areas could include (please note this is not an exhaustive list of opportunities):
    - CDL
    - CNA
    - CMA
    - Cybersecurity
    - Respiratory therapy
    - Robotics
    - Auto-tech
    - Education
    - Nursing
    - Machining
    - Photonics
    - Dental Assistant

Other Considerations:
How will you partner with industry on your project?
How will you leverage the partnerships with K-12 and with industry to best grow the dialogue and support of this CTE field?

Funds must be used to meet Montana’s Future at Work program goals and may include:

• Marketing the credential—Marketing can include promotional items such as stickers, magnets, posters, etc. as well as strengthening an online presence for the credential
• Expenses related to convenings for stakeholder groups
• Course, exam and assessment fees including books and supplies for students

2022-23 Grantees may request up to $5,000 to continue their work on their current project by submitting a one-page explanation of fund use as well as planned expenses in the 2023-24 academic year.

2022-23 Grantees may submit an application for a new credential for academic year 2023-24.
To Apply

Complete applications should include no more than ten pages total of narrative, budget and letters of support from partnering institutions including the K-12 school partner(s).

Post-Secondary Lead Applicant Institution/Lead Contact Name/Email/Phone:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature:

K-12 School Partner Institution/Lead Contact Name/Email/Phone:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature:

*Please add the same information for additional partnering institution.

Please describe your Montana’s Future at Work development and implementation plan. Please include a timeline that matches grant expectations for 2023-24 and if necessary 2024-25 delivery.

How many students will you serve in your program? Describe if/how you will provide the opportunities for dual enrollment. Describe how you will provide opportunities for credential completion while students are still in high school. Briefly explain why you chose the specific credential.

Explain how you and your K-12 partner as well as any other partners (industry or otherwise) will sustain the program once it is started. Include information about sustaining student engagement beyond the initial startup as well as your ability to sustain program delivery.

Include detailed project budget, expenditure timeline and match. The timeline should point to how your overall expenditures will be used over the course of academic year 2023-24. (This may be added as an attachment.)

Include a 100-word synopsis of your proposal.

Please use the included application form for contact information and signatures. A complete application should include no more than 10 pages total of narrative, a budget, and letters of support from partnering K-12 districts or industry and community partners.

Complete Application Materials are due to amclean@montana.edu by noon on May 19, 2023. Awardees will be announced by July 1.