

APPENDIX B: Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the purpose of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant?

The purpose of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant Awards is to:

- Support the creation and expansion of short-term “earn and learn” training programs resulting in industry-recognized credentials by providing grants for the purchase of equipment, tools, simulators, related training instruction materials, updated curriculum, tuition, books, wrap-around services to support participants during the grant period (internet access, childcare, transportation, stipends etc.), or other necessary items to provide for on-line learning as well as hands-on learning when necessary and safe.
- Expand opportunities for Iowans whose employment has been affected or eliminated because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. What are allowable expenses for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant?

The Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant can be used for the purchase of equipment, tools, simulators, related training instruction materials, updated curriculum, tuition, books, wrap-around services to support participants during the grant period (internet access, childcare, transportation, stipends etc.), or other necessary items to provide for on-line learning as well as hands-on learning when necessary and safe. A maximum amount of 10% of the award may be used for administrative expenses of operating the program. Administrative costs include, but are not limited to, office supplies, marketing and outreach, personnel salary and benefit costs, travel expenses, etc.

3. Can organizations that have previously received Coronavirus Relief Funding via the Coronavirus Relief Fund Employer Innovation Fund and/or

**the Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Incentive Fund
apply for this grant?**

1. Yes, Entities that have received previous awards under the Coronavirus Relief Fund are eligible to apply for the Earn and Learn Grant, but in no case shall cumulative awards exceed \$250,000. (Amendment 1 to Notice of Funding).

4. Who will decide which applications receive funding?

Iowa Workforce Development will identify application panels to review and score proposals.

5. What will Iowa Workforce Development take into account when determining grant awards?

Iowa Workforce Development will evaluate applications based on a number of criteria including, but not limited to, the scoring guidance referenced in the scoring rubric. (Appendix C)

- a. The proposal plan clearly indicates the ability to create and/or enhance a short-term “earn and learn” training program within the timeframe indicated.
- b. The proposal’s connection to high-demand jobs from the State Workforce Board list, regional community college lists, linked to locally identified high-demand jobs as demonstrated by statewide or regional data, etc.
- c. The proposal’s plan to enroll the target population of Iowans whose jobs have been affected or eliminated by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- d. Whether the plan includes community engagement by including community partners or incorporating existing community programs.

5. Are applicants required to identify specific project goal(s), such as how many participants, employers, etc.?

Yes, all applications must include performance measures that logically connect to a project's goal(s). Performance measures should include to the extent possible whether the expected results were achieved.

6. How will Iowa Workforce Development ensure Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grant are used as intended?

IWD will review programmatic and financial reports to evaluate grant progress. In addition, IWD may provide ongoing technical assistance to grantees may schedule site visits and may coordinate in-person or desk reviews as needed. All successful applicants will be required to produce any requested documentation IWD believes is relevant to determine funds have been expended appropriately.

7. Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include high schools, non-profit organizations, adult-training providers, and small businesses with less than 50 employees that are in good standing with the State of Iowa. Programs that have previously received Coronavirus relief funding via the Coronavirus Relief Fund Employer Innovation Fund and/or the Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Incentive Fund are not eligible to apply. Applicants must reside in or have their primary place of business in Iowa or hire and employ Iowans within the state. IWD encourages applicants to cultivate partnerships to enhance project activities and outcomes. Grantees must comply with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment, and equal employment opportunity.

8. Are Registered Apprenticeships eligible to receive Coronavirus Relief Fund Earn and Learn Grants?

Yes. Current Registered Apprenticeship Programs may submit proposals to expand Registered Apprenticeship programs that provide for on-line learning as well as hands-on learning when necessary and safe.

9. When is the application due?

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, by 11:59 p.m. central time.

10. When will awardees be notified?

Not later than Monday, November 2, 2020.

11. What is the project timeline for expending the funds?

Pursuant to the CARES Act, successful applicants must expend awarded funds by December 31, 2020. All funds not expended by the grantee must be returned to IWD no later than January 5, 2021.

12. What is the timeline to have participants enrolled in the program?

Participants must be enrolled in the program by February 28, 2021.

13. Is there a maximum award?

\$250,000 per applicant and project.

14. Will all applications be awarded?

Submission of an application does not guarantee an award.

15. Can funds pay for tuition?

Yes, if the tuition can be paid before December 31, 2020.