

APPENDIX A: Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund Application Guidance

Please review the following guidance when preparing your grant application in IowaGrants.gov. The application gathers general information, narratives, budget information, and attachments. Each section includes prompts that must be addressed.

General Information

Complete Cover Sheet-General Information. On this form, applicants will enter basic information about their organization including:

- Contact information of your organization's Authorized Representative
- Contact information of your organization's Fiscal Officer/Agent
- Identification of County(ies) participating, involved or affected by the proposal
- Identification of Congressional District(s), Iowa Senate District(s), and Iowa House District(s) involved or affected by the proposal.

Complete Project Information. On this form, applicants will enter basic information about their application including:

- Legal Organization Name
- Organization type (Government, Nonprofit, Institute of Higher Education, Business, etc)
- Organizational DUNS Number
- Business Address
- Contact information of person for program matters
- A descriptive project title
- Your project's proposed start and end dates
- Estimated grant funding and match amounts

Executive Summary

Provide a summary that identifies and describes the:

- Applicant
- Amount of private funding leveraged and match funding requested
- Geographic region and community(ies) to be served
- Members of partnerships (if applicable)
- Services to be provided
- Whether the program will offer academic credit
- Anticipated goals and outcomes of this project

Program Design Narrative

- Describe the proposed project and identify proposed activities and goals. Include an outline of a proposed project timeline with key milestones.

- Describe how your project will expand opportunities for credit and/or noncredit postsecondary education and training leading to high-demand jobs for Iowans. Include a description of local barriers and how you plan to implement innovative strategies to meet the need.
- Identify which high-demand job(s) the project intends to support. Describe your justification for determining the job(s) as high-demand (State Workforce Board high-demand job list, regional community college list, linked to locally identified high-demand jobs as demonstrated by statewide or regional data, etc).
- Describe the need for the project and how it will lead to increased skilled workers to fill high-demand job(s).
- Describe the community or geographic region serviced. Describe how the project will address areas of workforce need throughout the region.
- Describe the demographics of participants. Identify a number and percentage goal for engagement of students or learners from underrepresented populations (African-American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander).
- Describe key partners, roles, responsibilities and how they will contribute to the success of the project.
- Describe how the project's goals tie to the larger Future Ready Iowa goal.
- Describe any supportive services or additional benefits of the project. For example, the project will:
 - a. Provide assistance to pay for related expenses such as books, equipment, transportation, child care, or other wrap-around support services.
 - b. Increase the number of eligible students receiving financial assistance under the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship or other Future Ready Iowa Grant programs
 - c. Provide performance-based bonuses paid when high school students earn national industry-recognized credentials aligned with high-demand jobs.
 - d. Expand internships leading to high-demand jobs.

Performance Measures

- Clearly identify key performance measures including outputs and desired outcomes. Examples include:
 - a. Number of participants enrolled
 - b. Number of participants from an underrepresented population enrolled
 - c. Number of participants completing program and received credential
 - d. Increased diversity of participants
 - e. Number of participants with secured employment in a high-demand job
- Describe your plan and ability to track and measure each outcome.
- Describe how you will measure the success with an emphasis on enrollment and project completion.

Organization Capability Narrative

- Describe the related experience of the applicant and partners (if applicable) responding to the funding announcement. Subcontracting to implement the program will not be permitted.

- Provide information about the applicant's size, structure, as well as the length of time in business.
- Include a list of the applicant's staff, including partner staff, to be assigned to the project. Describe the role each staff person will fulfill as well as the primary person who will serve as the lead point of contact for the project to IWD. Include a description of relevant work experience.

Budget Summary and Budget Narrative

- Complete the budget summary form. Ensure totals reconcile with the amounts included on the Project Information form.
- Complete the Budget Narrative (see Appendix E for a template) to describe your plan to utilize both the private funds and the Employer Innovation Fund match grant. Include a description of proposed costs and an overview of how budgeted costs are calculated. Upload the completed Budget Narrative form in the Application Attachments section.

Application Attachments

Upload the following in the Attachment section in IowaGrants.gov.

- Supporting documentation of match funds (upload as a single PDF document)
- Letters of commitment from key partners (combine and upload as a single PDF document)
- Completed Budget Narrative form (Appendix E)

Minority Impact Statement

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2392, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa must include a Minority Impact Statement. This requires applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups. This form includes a series of questions for the applicant to complete identifying either a potential positive impact, negative impact or no impact.

