

Iowa CDL Infrastructure Grant

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Does this opportunity require a 50% match to the proposed funding?

IWD anticipates awarding maximum grants of up to \$1 million with a 50% match of the award amount.

2. Just to clarify, if our class cost is broken out as tuition/lab fee/material fee do we only have to freeze tuition portion of the class?

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Community Colleges must agree to freeze tuition for five years after the infrastructure project is completed.

Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are public Community Colleges located in Iowa. Each Community College is eligible for one award only. IWD requires applicants for this grant to cultivate partnerships to fulfil 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.

Community College must offer at least one:

- *Competency-based training courses and/or*
- *A training course that would allow someone to complete training and take the licensing exam within a 30-day window*

Community College must agree to freeze CDL tuition for 5 years after the infrastructure project is completed.

3. Is the tuition freeze mean a lump sum for entire course costs to student, or can we break out a tuition and student fee cost?

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Community Colleges must agree to freeze tuition for five years after the infrastructure project is completed. See Question 1

4. We are running our CDL program with minimal net revenue, dealing with fluctuating fuel costs and all. Any chance we can increase tuition if we can show actual costs justify an increase to break even?

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Community Colleges must agree to freeze tuition for five years after the infrastructure project is completed.

5. What would be the reasoning behind the tuition freeze? How do we cover costs of fuel pricing changes or if other expenses arise? This forces us to raise prices now and lose opportunities to actually help CDL seekers because of the fee. ELDT has forced many agencies to raise prices significantly already. 5 years is a long time and there are many factors we don't control.

The goal of the grant is to create more opportunity within the CDL pathway.

6. Can funds be encumbered (i.e. construction may still not be complete) or do costs have to be actually paid by 12/24?

All funds must be entirely spent by June 30, 2025 and must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

7. Could instructor costs be used for the match?

Please refer to the eligible use of funds as stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for eligible expenditures related to the match requirements.

1. Use of Funds

As a condition of receiving the funds appropriated under this request for proposal (RFP), the subrecipient shall testify upon the request of any committee or subcommittee of the State of Iowa General Assembly regarding the expenditures of such funds.

Funds may be used for building, purchasing, or remodeling CDL training infrastructure.

○ *Infrastructure includes:*

- *Construction and remodeling provided by 3rd party vendor.*
- *Purchasing of space for training*
- *Equipment (Trucks for training purposes, Simulators, Monitoring Devices, etc.)*

All grant funds are administered as reimbursement only, and no advance payment options are available.

8. If we complete prior to June 2025 - does that date we complete start the tuition freeze? Or is that always starting from June 2025?

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Community Colleges must agree to freeze tuition for five years after the infrastructure project is completed.

9. When you say a million-dollar max, does that include the amount of cost sharing also?

No. The \$1 million max is the grant funded award amount. A \$1 million dollar grant award would require a \$500,000 minimum match. Awardee would be required to validate \$1.5 million in eligible expenses.

10. Can requests exceed \$1 million if we have the 50% match to support a higher request?

Maximum grant awards are set at \$1 million.

11. Is this a grant for a student wanting to get his CDL?

Eligible applicants are public Community Colleges located in Iowa. Individuals wanting to obtain their CDL would not be considered eligible applicants.

12. When you talk about CDL does this just include CDL-A or does this grant cover CDL-B with School Bus and Passenger endorsements?

The NOFO states CDL license, it doesn't speak to a specific CDL endorsement.

13. Are there any grants out there for students wanting to get their CDL?

None that are currently offered by IWD; however, there may be other opportunities available from other state agencies.

14. Specifically asking about what expense documentation is needed when creating the budget and documentation for the items listed in the budget.

Thank you for that clarification. For the submission of the budget for the application, these can be estimated expenses and does not require quotes at this time. However, if you have those, that will help justify expenses during the review process.