Education Readiness Grant

FAQ Document

The purpose of this document is to collect and answer questions regarding the Technology pathways for the Education Readiness Grant in collaboration with the Commission for Higher Education's Career and Technical Education team. This document is updated as new questions are asked and answered.

Last Updated: 2/6/24

1. What are the eligible Next Level Programs of Study for Information Technology?
   a. Cybersecurity
   b. Software Development
2. Can the application be saved so it can be completed over the course of a few days, or does it have to be completed in one sitting?
   a. Yes, it can be saved to be completed later.
3. Is it a $100,000 max.? What amounts do you recommend?
   a. There is not a recommended or suggested proposal amount. The goal is to support the implementation of the Next Level Program of Study.

2024 mark's CTE's 3rd year offering the [Education Readiness Grant](#) (ERC) program. The program is facilitated in partnership with [TechPoint](#) and provides grants to high schools implementing select programs TechPoint is focused on **Cybersecurity** and **Software Development** programs.

While this is a targeted grant and the funds available will only allow for a limited number of grantees, this grant opportunity serves as a model for implementing high-quality programs of study that both provide tremendous opportunity for students, but also serve as a key strategy for addressing local industry needs. The grant was designed with a particular focus on a couple of the priorities our office continues to promote as key to successful CTE programs:

- **Partnering with Industry and Employers:** Building collaborative partnerships with employers, industry groups and other community groups is at the heart of high quality CTE. The grant requires that a school connect with key businesses in the field. Having industry to help advise schools on the equipment that they use every day and the skills they need can help ensure that students who complete the program are prepared for success. Our partnership with Conexus Indiana and TechPoint allows our team to garner that same industry expertise through the application review process to ensure we are selecting schools that are utilizing the funds to acquire the most effective technology and equipment.

- **Offering High-Quality Work-Based Learning (WBL):** Last year a requirement was added that the school must partner with at least one employer to embed a high-quality WBL experience for students in the pathway. Participating in WBL is one of the three primary measures of program quality, but more importantly can give students the opportunity to earn higher wages and advance more quickly in a career.

High schools and career centers are encouraged to apply for one of the Education Readiness Grants by the application deadline of **Friday March 8, 2024, 11:59pm**.

Even if the grant is not relevant to your current plans, the components of what our team is looking for in the applications are key to consider when implementing any program of study within a school or community. For additional help in implementing programs of study, the NLPS Planning Guide developed in November 2021 is a great resource. For more information about the grants, including the application, for TechPoint focused ERG programs click here." Another helpful link is the ERG Application Outline.

Questions can be directed to Omar Habayeb, Director of Skills and Pathways Programs at omar@techpoint.org