



Subgrants for Non-Profit and Community-Based Student Learning and Remote Education Partners

To co-design proposals with schools (public, community and private) or districts to enhance, expand and scale high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education models

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated on Jan. 8, 2021

This document identifies frequently asked questions and corresponding answers specific to the RemotEDx Subgrants for Non-Profit and Community-Based Student Learning and Remote Education Partners. The following questions were submitted directly to the Ohio Department of Education (the Department), via Remotedxmicrogrants@education.ohio.gov, or were surfaced during a technical assistance webinar for prospective applicants hosted by the Department on Jan. 5, 2021. A recording of that webinar can be found [here](#). Applicants who have additional questions about this FAQ or the application process should email Remotedxmicrogrants@education.ohio.gov.

Q1: What is the timeline for submitting applications?

A1: The original timeline, as expressed in the request for application to award subgrants to non-profit and community-based student learning and remote education partners, called for applications to be submitted by Jan. 15, 2021. Based on feedback received from prospective applicants, the **timeline for submitting applications has been extended to 11:59PM on Feb. 1, 2021.**

Q2: When will award announcements be made?

A2: As a result of the extended application window, winning applicants should begin to receive notices of grant awards by March 1, 2021. Grant funds will be available beginning March 15, 2021.

Q3: Can the grant be used to support in-person instruction or is it only to support remote, hybrid or blended instruction?

A3: The Subgrants for Non-Profit and Community-Based Student Learning and Remote Education Partners seeks to support eligible applicants who are well positioned—through an existing or newly established partnership with a public, community or private school, district or consortium of schools or

districts—to help improve, enhance and enrich remote education opportunities for Ohio’s most underserved students. This may occur through in-person, remote, hybrid or blended instruction.

Q4: Are the “innovative, field-initiated student learning and remote education partners” required to be non-profit only?

A4: Subgrants will be awarded to non-profit and community-based partners to co-design proposals with schools (public, community and private) or districts to enhance, expand and scale high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education models. More information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

Q5: If an applicant chooses to address competitive priority 1 or 4 (identifying and creating and implementing high quality instruction) does the project have to include A, B, C, D and E? Or are those examples of ways an applicant *could* address the priority? Same question for competitive priority 4 (must it include A and B or just one).

A5: Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants who present the most collaborative, innovative and impactful proposals that address **one or more** competitive priorities. Eligible applicants should clearly make the case for and present a **co-designed plan** that responds to one or more of the following competitive priorities:

1. Identifying, creating and implementing high-quality instruction.
2. Supporting student wellness, participation and engagement.
3. Supporting professional learning for school leaders and educators.
4. Supporting learning management systems and interoperable platforms.
5. Capturing and sharing lessons learned from two decades of e-learning.

For each of the competitive priorities, eligible applicants should design a plan that addresses one or more of the outline components for the selected competitive priority. More information on competitive priorities can be found [here](#).

Q6: Can Educational Service Centers apply as a non-profit organization focused on education or student success?

A6: Educational Service Centers are not eligible to be the lead applicant for Subgrants for Non-Profit and Community-Based Student Learning and Remote Education Partners; however, they may co-design a proposal with a non-profit or community-based partner, who serves as the lead applicant, and its school or district partner. Subgrants will be awarded to non-profit and community-based partners to co-design proposals with schools (public, community and private) or districts to enhance, expand and scale high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education models. More information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

Q7: Is there a timeline in which the funds need to be spent?

A7: Pursuant to federal requirements, this is a reimbursement grant made possible by the CARES Act, ESSER Fund. Subgrantees will be reimbursed for allowable expenditures based on submitted proposals,

plans and corresponding budgets. Expenditures must be incurred by June 30, 2022. If awarded funds are not used by Sept. 30, 2022, the Department reserves the right to request that subgrantees forfeit the balance of awarded funds.

Q8: Can the funds be used for summer programming?

A8: Summer programming can be funded through the grant. Expenditures must be incurred by June 30, 2022. If awarded funds are not used by Sept. 30, 2022, the Department reserves the right to request that subgrantees forfeit the balance of awarded funds.

Q9: Can the same non-profit or community-based partner prepare two distinct applications if partnering with two different schools or districts in Ohio?

A9: There is no specified limit to the number of applications an applicant can submit. Each application should be co-designed with a different school or district partner and highlight different priorities based on unique needs. Non-profit and community-based partners should co-design proposals with schools (public, community and private) or districts to enhance, expand and scale high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education models. Each proposal should be fashioned to meet the needs of its school or district partner.

Q10: Is there a certain person in the partner school or district who needs to sign the proof of partnership and co-design letter?

A10: Each grant application must include a letter from each school (public, community or private) or district partner and other partners who have had a hand in co-designing the proposal and program plan. A school or district leader (for example, a principal at the school level or a superintendent at the district level) should sign the proof of partnership and co-design letter. DocuSign signatures are permitted on the assurances page and signed letters of support.

Q11: Is this funding available for colleges or universities that work directly with a partner school or district to support preK-12 students?

A11: Yes, colleges and universities are eligible to apply with a partner school or district.

Q12: Can a non-profit organization representing a consortium of charter schools be the lead applicant?

A12: Yes, a non-profit or community partner may co-design a plan with a consortium of charter schools. Each charter school will need to include a letter of support signed by the school leader.

Q13: Will there be a requirement for an IRN? The request for application asks for an IRN. Is an IRN necessary for all partners?

A13: Budgets for **awarded** Subgrants for Non-Profit and Community-Based Student Learning and Remote Education Partners will be entered into the Department’s e-grant applicant system, known as the CCIP. Subgrantees must have an Ohio Department of Education Information Retrieval Number (IRN) to access the CCIP.

If a subgrantee does not already have an IRN, then it should access the [IRN Request Procedures webpage](#) and contact the appropriate data custodian by email. For example, as noted on the IRN Request Procedures webpage, a non-profit organization is categorized as a “Community Service Organization” (ORG Type Key 37) and would send an email to “OEDS Administrator” (OEDS.ContactUs@education.ohio.gov) to establish an IRN.

Q14: Will preference be given to applications that seek the maximum grant award or for applications that request lower amounts?

A14: Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants who present the most collaborative, innovative and impactful proposals that address one or more competitive priorities. There is no established priority for large or small grant amounts. There may be opportunities for partial funding of grants depending on the quality and number of applications received.

Q15: How do we file a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act?

A15: All assurances are maintained within the Department’s e-grant system. Subgrantees will be instructed to upload approved grant applications and grant specific assurances into the CCIP. More CCIP-related details can be found here: [Microsoft Word - CCIP - Public View Access \(ohio.gov\)](#).

Q16: Can grant funds be applied to salaries?

A16: Yes, funds applied to salaries should be included in the budget. Applicants will need to show how salaries directly support the goals of the project.

Q17: How often can you submit a Project Cash Request (PCR)? Is there a payment schedule for reimbursement?

A17: Subgrant recipients can submit invoices regularly through the CCIP to receive reimbursement for expenditures; however, only one Project Cash Request may be submitted at a time. Once a Project Cash Request is approved, payment is made in seven to 10 days.

Q18: Will this grant opportunity be offered in future years?

A18: This RFA is made possible by the CARES Act, ESSER Fund. It will drive \$1.35 million in subgrant awards to eligible applicants who submit collaborative, innovative and impactful proposals based on a

set of quality criteria. There is a possibility that future federal funds could be available to fund future grant opportunities.

Q19: Can a private school apply directly for these funds or must it partner with a public school or district?

A19: Subgrants will be awarded to non-profit and community-based partners to co-design proposals with schools (public, community and **private**) or districts to enhance, expand and scale high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education models. Private and public schools are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant, but either are eligible to partner with a lead non-profit or community-based applicant. More information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

Q20: Is this grant for K-12 or can PreK be included?

A20: Subgrants will be available to non-profit organizations partnering with a school, district or consortium of schools or districts to help improve, enhance, and enrich remote education opportunities for Ohio's most underserved students. PreK-12 schools or districts may partner with a non-profit or community-based organization.

Q21: Can this grant be used to expand an existing initiative or partnership?

A21: Yes, eligible applicants who are well positioned through an existing or newly established partnership with a public, community or private school, district or consortium of schools or districts may apply.