

Proposed Manufacturing Partnership Incentive (MPI) Grant

Background

The Colorado Manufacturing Career Pathway Initiative is an innovative collaboration of manufacturing, education and labor leaders that provides a roadmap to prepare the manufacturing workforce for rewarding, high-skill, high-wage and sustainable careers in the advanced manufacturing sector. The initiative, by agreement with state-wide manufacturers, identifies the fundamental and advanced skills and competencies required to succeed in the manufacturing sector.

The goal of the Manufacturing Career Pathway is to (1) Provide career exploration information for students in middle school interested in pursuing a career in advanced manufacturing; (2) Development of secondary programs that offer a clearly-defined pathway to the acquisition of industry-desired stackable certifications, Associate, Bachelor or graduate degrees designed with industry input; (3) Identify multiple entry and exit points offering opportunities for workers re-entering the workforce or existing individuals looking for career advancement; (4) Identify academic, workplace and technical competencies identified by manufacturing employers necessary for career progression in high-demand manufacturing occupations; and, (5) Include technical skill assessments, academic and career counseling and other support services.

Regional and State-Wide Pathways

Emerging trends in the U.S. indicate that communities that create sector partnerships between multiple school districts, post-secondary institutions, workforce agencies and private employers, are achieving successful career development programs that support multiple sector talent pipelines or “Career Pathways”.

In support of this state-wide effort, the HB13-1165 initiative can only be effective if it reaches the communities and regions that are collaborating towards common goals for their citizens, employers, and the state’s economy. To that end, through the HB13-1165 legislation, MPI grants will be available to assist communities across Colorado develop or enhance educational programs as part of their regional strategy to support careers in the expanding manufacturing sector.

The intent for the MPI grants is to provide funding that will assist in developing or enhancing a systemic approach in communities across Colorado supporting educational career pathways for manufacturing. Proposals submitted should clearly include regional strategies that cross school districts and post-secondary institutions for clearly defined targeted needs in support of the manufacturing career pathway.

Proposed Funding Options

Five one-time competitive based grants are available. Maximum grant request is \$40,000.00.

- ✓ Grant proposals must show collaboration between k-12, postsecondary and workforce partners resulting in new certificates\models that can be shared across the state. Proposals must relate to in-demand manufacturing occupations as identified by the micro-summit process.

Specific uses for grant funding may include but are not limited to:

- Development of career awareness information or programs for middle school students interested in the manufacturing career path.
- Development of secondary manufacturing related programs.
- Purchase of curriculum or equipment for a new or existing program.
- Assistance in implementation of stackable training credentials or certifications (NIMS, AWA, others).
- Development of programs that assist individuals re-entering the workforce to include veterans interested in the manufacturing field.
- Professional development.

Project Overview

Applicants will define where MPI funding can make the biggest impact in their community in support of careers in manufacturing. It is suggested that a basic strategy for a community approach be incorporated into the plan that includes input from local or regional manufacturers, and a graphic representation to clearly show linkages. Funding can be split among several schools in more than one district or campus, or concentrated to one location.

Due to the limited funding level for these MPI grants, applicants will be asked to provide a clear connection indicating how these funds will augment existing strategies in your community for implementing or enhancing manufacturing career pathways. For example, if several schools are utilizing funding for programs considered as STEM initiatives, there may be a natural link between those efforts and the use of these MPI grant funds to expand the outcomes. Special consideration will be given to communities that prioritize how funds would strengthen the existing pathway(s) or create new ones that impact critical manufacturing career pathways identified by employers in the micro-summit process

Project Outcomes

Applicants will provide a bullet-point list of the projected outcomes for the project. If funding is used as one part of a larger project, indicate how these funds contribute to the overall desired outcome for the larger project. Outcomes should be comprehensive for all schools included in the grant proposal.

Budget Narrative

Applicants will provide a description of how funds will be utilized for the project to support career pathways in manufacturing in your community. Applicants will indicate if funds from other sources would be leveraged or matched with these funds. Funds cannot be used for substitute teachers, adjunct instructors, or other general staff compensation not linked directly to manufacturing career pathway development.

Grant Submission

Only submissions representing collaboration among k-12, postsecondary and workforce partners will be accepted. If funding is approved and shared among multiple institutions, separate allocations can be requested for accountability purposes.

All grant requests will be evaluated on:

- How the project provides a clear indication of collaboration in your community.
- How the project meets the knowledge and skill requirements identified within the one or multiple manufacturing career pathways related to identified, in-demand manufacturing occupations.
- How the project leads to development of industry partnerships.
- How the project leads to certifications or other options for individuals within the manufacturing career pathway.
- How the project will address a need that is currently inhibiting the development or delivery of pathway courses or programs.