



AI Integration in Community Colleges Grant



AI Integration in Community Colleges Grant RFP Overview

- Welcome
- Agenda
 - Review content of RFP
 - Review any questions that have been submitted
- Submit questions in Chat feature
 - Responses to questions will be posted at <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org/>
- RFP and Scoring Rubric are available at <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org/> to follow along today



Background and Program Purpose

Eligible Respondents

Award Amounts

- Section 381.165 of House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly directed the Chancellor to create the Artificial Intelligence Integration in Community Colleges Pilot Grant Program to provide financial assistance to community colleges to implement artificial intelligence initiatives.
- This RFP is open to Ohio community colleges as defined in Ohio Revised Code 3333.168: "Community college" means a community college established under Chapter 3354, a technical college established under Chapter 3357, or a state community college established under Chapter 3358 of the Revised Code."
- In each fiscal year ODHE shall award five competitive grants of \$100,000 each. This RFP is for FY 2026 awards. Another RFP will be released for the FY 2027 awards.



Allowable Costs

1. Integrating artificial intelligence curriculum into credential programs;
2. Establishing artificial intelligence-based College Credit Plus Program offerings;
3. Training faculty and staff on the uses of artificial intelligence technologies relevant to local industry or state needs;
4. Supporting students with practical artificial intelligence skills through certifications and project-based learning;
5. Purchasing artificial intelligence hardware and software;
6. Utilizing artificial intelligence in streamlining administrative functions and student services; and
7. Contracting with a vendor to provide any or all of the services described.



Proposal Review Process and Timeline

- Request for Proposals Released: October 15, 2025
- Webinar for RFP: October 20, 2025, 2:00 PM
- **Proposals Due: November 14, 2025, 11:59 PM**
- Application Review Begins: November 17, 2025
- Notification of Awarded Proposals: December 2025
- Disbursement to Institutions: December 2025 – January 2026
- Award Period: Upon execution of an agreement with ODHE – June 30, 2027.



Review Process

- ODHE will initially screen proposals for completeness and eligibility. Any deficiencies must be addressed by the respondent within a time period set by ODHE. While all properly submitted proposals will receive consideration, submission of a complete proposal does not guarantee funding.
- Upon approval, the Chancellor will provide an award notification letter to the college, which will include the total awarded amount. ODHE and the respondent will enter into an agreement prior to funding being disbursed.



Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Student Focus & General Education Integration	Proposal lacks clear connection to general education or student workforce readiness.	Proposal includes integration of AI into general education and addresses student competitiveness in the labor market.	Proposal demonstrates strong alignment with including AI in the general education curriculum with innovative strategies to embed AI broadly and enhance student employability.
Outcomes and Assessment	No clear metrics provided.	Proposal includes a plan for measurable impact.	Proposal outlines high-impact metrics (e.g., % of students reached).
Connection to College's Strategic Plan and Sustainability	No mention of a connection to the college's strategic plan or sustainability plan provided.	Proposal includes a basic connection to the college's strategic plan and a basic sustainability plan.	Proposal outlines a clear connection to the college's strategic plan and a robust plan for long-term sustainability.
Rationale and Preparedness	No clear rationale or timeline to implement.	Proposal includes a basic rationale for the project and general timeline to implement.	Proposal demonstrates a clear, convincing rationale for the project and demonstration of clear, reasonable timeline to implement for each milestone listed.
K-12 Leverage and CCP Integration	No mention of K-12 or CCP collaboration.	Proposal includes some engagement with K-12 or CCP course development.	Proposal demonstrates strong K-12 partnerships and a clear plan to develop CCP-aligned AI coursework.
Consortia Participation	Proposal is from a single institution with no collaboration.	Proposal includes collaboration or shared planning with other institutions.	Proposal is part of a well-structured consortium with a lead applicant and shared goals/resources.
Innovation and Replicability	Proposal lacks innovation or is not scalable.	Proposal includes some innovating elements and potential for replication.	Detailed analysis showing strategic shift in instructional delivery and replication.
Budget and Narrative	Budget is unclear or unjustified.	Budget is clear, justified, and aligned with project goals.	Budget is well-documented, cost-effective, and strategically aligned with project milestones and sustainability.



Proposal Submission

- One electronic PDF file including proposal and any attachments, along with the Excel budget spreadsheet
 - Upload to rfp.highered.ohio.gov
- Consortia or collaborations of multiple eligible institutions are encouraged to apply. (Scored higher)



Proposal Requirements

- Cover Letter
 - Primary, fiscal, and legal contact information.
 - Legal contact must be employee of college and have authority to review the award agreement on behalf of the institution. No outside representation.
- Project Narrative
 - Proposal criteria
- Budget and Budget Narrative
 - Excel spreadsheet – numbers and high-level overview
 - Narrative – provide details of how funds will be used



Proposal Criteria

Project Design

1. a. Indicate which one(s) of the eligible uses the grant is aligned.
 - Encouraged to review the scoring rubric.
1. b. Embedding AI into the general education curriculum.
 - Be sure student outcomes and workforce readiness are emphasized throughout the grant, not just the general education curriculum component.

NOTE: Student Focus & General Education Integration Criteria on scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Student Focus & General Education Integration	Proposal lacks clear connection to general education or student workforce readiness.	Proposal includes integration of AI into general education and addresses student competitiveness in the labor market.	Proposal demonstrates strong alignment with including AI in the general education curriculum with innovative strategies to embed AI broadly and enhance student employability.



Proposal Criteria

Project Design

- 1.c. K-12 engagement or collaboration and a plan to develop CCP-aligned course development.
 - NOTE: K-12 Leverage and CCP Integration Criteria on scoring rubric

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
K-12 Leverage and CCP Integration	No mention of K-12 or CCP collaboration.	Proposal includes some engagement with K-12 or CCP course development.	Proposal demonstrates strong K-12 partnerships and a clear plan to develop CCP-aligned AI coursework.



Proposal Criteria

Project Design

- 1.d. Consortium project
 - NOTE: Consortia Participation Criteria on scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Consortia Participation	Proposal is from a single institution with no collaboration.	Proposal includes collaboration or shared planning with other institutions.	Proposal is part of a well-structured consortium with a lead applicant and shared goals/resources.



Proposal Criteria

Project Design

- 1. e. Other partners
- 1. f. Outcomes and assessment
 - What are the outcomes of this grant program?
 - What is your evaluation plan? Interim measures to see if you are staying on track and continuous improvement.
 - **NOTE: Outcomes and Assessment Criteria on the scoring rubric.**

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Outcomes and Assessment	No clear metrics provided.	Proposal includes a plan for measurable impact.	Proposal outlines high-impact metrics (e.g., % of students reached).



Proposal Criteria

Project Design

- 1. g. How does the project connect to the college's strategic plan / long term goals? How will sustainability of the project be attained when the funds have expired?
 - NOTE: Connection to College's Strategic Plan and Sustainability on scoring rubric.

Connection to College's Strategic Plan and Sustainability	No mention of a connection to the college's strategic plan or sustainability plan provided.	Proposal includes a basic connection to the college's strategic plan and a basic sustainability plan.	Proposal outlines a clear connection to the college's strategic plan and a robust plan for long-term sustainability.
---	---	---	--



Project Rationale and Project Plan

- Take time to explain the why and how of your project.
- Focus on the impact/benefit to students and stakeholders.
- Use research and data for support.
- Clear description and timeline.
 - NOTE: Rationale and Preparedness Criteria on scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Rationale and Preparedness	No clear rationale or timeline to implement.	Proposal includes a basic rationale for the project and general timeline to implement.	Proposal demonstrates a clear, convincing rationale for the project and demonstration of clear, reasonable timeline to implement for each milestone listed.



Budget Narrative

- Written narrative with Excel spreadsheet summary
 - NOTE: Budget and Narrative Criteria on scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Budget and Narrative	Budget is unclear or unjustified.	Budget is clear, justified, and aligned with project goals.	Budget is well-documented, cost-effective, and strategically aligned with project milestones and sustainability.



Innovation and Replicability

- Grant should be innovating while impacting instruction and allowing for replication.
- Weaved throughout the grant proposal.
 - NOTE: Innovation and Replicability Criteria on scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria	Below Expectations (0)	Meets Expectations (4–7)	Above Expectations (8–10)
Innovation and Replicability	Proposal lacks innovation or is not scalable.	Proposal includes some innovating elements and potential for replication.	Detailed analysis showing strategic shift in instructional delivery and replication.



Important Dates

- **Proposals Due: November 14, 2025, 11:59 PM**
- Application Review Begins: November 17, 2025
- Notification of Awarded Proposals: December 2025
- Disbursement to Institutions: December 2025 – January 2026
- Award Period: Upon execution of an agreement with ODHE – June 30, 2027.



Grant Assistance

ai@highered.ohio.gov

Dr. Lauri White, Associate Vice Chancellor Workforce Engagement

lwhite@highered.ohio.gov

614-644-5888