



Choose Ohio First
FY27 Request for Proposals (RFP)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

September 3, 2026

1. **Will there be an information session?** An information session will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2026. This is a virtual session, and it will be recorded. The recording will be posted with the RFP materials on the ODHE RFP webpage. Attendees must register using the following URL and are encouraged to submit questions along with their registration: <https://oh-tech.webex.com/weblink/register/r25f7f3e5306cadeeda2682b350c906c0>
2. **Last year, each institution received a letter outlining the maximum award amount our institution could apply for. Were similar letters sent this year?** No. The amount of funds awarded to institutions will be determined by a combination of factors. Among the applicant pool, ODHE will utilize 2024 IPEDS data to determine each institution's market share of degree and certificate completions for COF approved CIPs. Additional award allocation factors will include the applicant's past COF program performance (if applicable) and the results of the proposal review and scoring process. Institutions are encouraged to develop proposals and funding requests that demonstrate the ability to increase the number of students entering and completing STEM programs.
3. **Are the enrollment numbers (historical, baseline, and pledge) supposed to reflect all STEM disciplines, or only those on which we focused on in our COF proposal?** Enrollment numbers should reflect the STEM CIP codes that are the focus of the COF proposal.
4. **Can we recruit different numbers of students for each year of the award? For example, cohort 1 AY29 = 12 students; cohort 2 AY30 = 10 students.** Yes. Use the enrollment growth pledge table and supporting material, to propose the enrollment growth that you think is reasonable and achievable each year of the program period. Include an explanation in the narrative.
5. **What counts for institutional 1:1 match?** Please refer to the [Financial Aid Guidance Memo](#) for the Choose Ohio First program for details regarding matching funds. The Financial Aid Guidance Memo can be found on the [Grantee Resources Page](#) on the ODHE website.

6. **Are there page limits for proposals?** Yes. Page limits for each section of the proposal are designated in the RFP. Reviewers are under no obligation to review material that exceeds the page limits set forth.
7. **What types of information regarding occupations and the state and regional economies should we include in our proposal?** Institutions may want to refer to:
- OhioMeansJobs Workforce Demand and Supply Tools <https://workforcedatatools.chrr.ohio-state.edu/>
 - Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive <https://chrr.osu.edu/ohio-longitudinal-data-archive>
 - Ohio Labor Market Information <https://ohiolmi.com/>
 - The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation Top Jobs List <https://topjobs.ohio.gov/top-jobs-list>
 - JobsOhio Regional Network partners <https://www.jobsohio.com/why-ohio/explore-our-regions>