

# Teach CS Grant – Education Service Centers/Colleges and Universities Requests for Applications

## Timeline:

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Request for Applications Released | April 12, 2024                |
| Questions Due                     | April 26, 2024                |
| Responses posted                  | May 3, 2024                   |
| Application Submission Window     | April 12, 2024 – May 17, 2024 |
| Application Review Begins         | May 20, 2024                  |
| Notification of Awards            | June 4, 2024                  |

## Submissions

One electronic PDF copy file uploaded by the submission date to <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org>

**Background:**

Section 381.80 of Amended Substitute House Bill 33 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly appropriated funds to award grants under the Teach CS Grant Program established in Ohio Revised Code Section 3333.129. ODHE released a Request for Applications (“RFA”) on November 1, 2023 seeking colleges and universities and educational service centers who desired to partner with ODHE to increase the number of teachers qualified to teach computer science in Ohio. 11 colleges and universities and five ESCs were selected to receive a Teach CS grant. ODHE now seeks to allocate the remaining 1.9 million dollars to existing partners who can demonstrate need and new partners that will operate in underserved geographic locations. This RFA is for new educational service center and college/university partners.

Consistent with ORC Section 3333.129, funds may only be used for expenses including coursework, materials, exams and exam preparation, and computer science continuing education. Continuing education is eligible for funding where the teacher is currently qualified to teach computer science under Ohio law. This includes teachers currently qualified to teach computer science by virtue of compliance with section 610.120 of HB33 as described below, as well as teachers who can demonstrate it is the intent of their district for them to complete the continuing education to teach computer science pursuant to section 610.120 of HB 33.

Proposed costs to be covered under any grant award must be consistent with historical market rates for the same or similar services. Professional development programs should align to Ohio’s current learning standards for computer science education.

**Eligibility:**

This RFA is open to Ohio educational service centers and state universities as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code and non-profit private institutions of higher education with a Certificate of Authorization issued pursuant to Chapter 1713 of the Ohio Revised Code with Chancellor-approved educator preparation programs and Chancellor-approved computer science endorsements.

Applicants must demonstrate how they can help accomplish the goal of increasing the number of teachers licensed to teach computer science through any of the following:

- computer science endorsement,
- a supplemental license, or
- alternative resident educator license

Applicants must demonstrate that the area of the state in which they seek to operate is underserved by current Teach CS grants. A list of the current grants can be found at <https://highered.ohio.gov/teachcs>

**Anticipated Awards:**

The Ohio Department of Higher Education has approximately 1.9M remaining in the Teach CS appropriation for FY 2025. ODHE seeks to provide additional Teach CS grant funding to new educational service center partners and colleges and universities in underserved areas of the state. ODHE will also be releasing an RFA for existing partners simultaneous to this RFA. Both RFAs are allocating the same 1.9M in funding.

**Project Term:**

The project term will begin on July 1, 2025 or upon execution of an award agreement with ODHE, whichever date is later and end June 30, 2025. Chosen awardees must enter into an award agreement with the Ohio Department of Higher Education to receive the funds.

**Award Recommendations:**

The Chancellor shall make the final determination regarding which applications, if any, receive an award.

**Application Submission:**

Applications for funding must be submitted on the following attached form:

Teach CS Grant Application Form

ODHE will provide information to interested parties and assist potential applicants by responding to questions submitted by April 26, 2024 via e-mail to: [TeachCSGrants@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:TeachCSGrants@highered.ohio.gov)

Responses will be posted at <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/grant-resources>

Applicants are responsible for timely submissions of applications. Applications become property of ODHE and are subject to public record laws of the state. Applications containing all the required elements will receive careful consideration but cannot be guaranteed funding. Accepted applications will be evaluated and the Chancellor will make final decisions based upon the quality of the application in addressing the application criteria and its required elements. There is no set number of awards.

**Application Review and Timeline:**

The schedule below may be revised by ODHE and any changes will be communicated to the applicants via e-mail and posted on <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org>.

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Funds will be made available to awardees after July 1, 2025 and execution of an award amendment with ODHE.

**Criteria Descriptions:**

Project Plan:

- a. Provide a rationale for the project and describe the licensure pathway or combination of pathways to be funded.
- b. Outline the plan for program management including roles and responsibilities of key personnel.

- c. Address the plan for recruiting and retaining students through completion of the pathways described above.

**Project Metrics:**

- a. The number of teachers you currently have enrolled in CS programs, if applicable.
- b. The number of teachers you expect to recruit into the licensure pathway(s) described in Project Plan a.
- c. Explanation of why the area you seek to serve is underserved by the current Teach CS grants.

**Budget Narrative:**

- a. Amounts for each budget line activity are documented and justified in the budget narrative.
- b. The narrative should include an estimate as to the timing of expenditures in relation to the project plan.

**Reporting Requirements:**

Successful grant awardees will be required to submit expense reports, program reports, and participant reports on a schedule determined by the ODHE.

ODHE anticipates utilizing semiannual reporting periods that could follow this schedule:

- Summer/Fall Reporting Period: July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> – with reports due February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring/Summer Reporting Period: January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> – with reports due August 15<sup>th</sup>

Expense reports should include a list of all expenditures made with funding from the grant as well as coding for what type of eligible expenditure it is (coursework, materials or exams). A reporting template will be provided to each awardee.

Program reports will be required from all awardees describing the number of enrolled students, student success metrics, completion rates by program (endorsement licenses, supplemental licenses, alternative resident educator licenses, and continuing education).

ODHE will monitor each grant recipient institution to ensure that there is fiscal accountability and operating progress, and that the desired outcomes are achieved.

Participant reports will be required from all awardees providing secure access to unique identifiers for participating teachers or prospective teachers to verify program outcomes such as completions, licensure, to verify qualifying expenses paid, and to facilitate program audits when needed. A secure method for transmitting this data will be provided to each awardee.

ODHE may utilize the Higher Education Information (HEI) system to track student progress as well as the EMIS (Education Management Information System) operated by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to provide longitudinal data on which schools teachers are teaching at and what courses they are teaching following the grants.

Private non-profit colleges and universities who choose to participate in the grant program have agreed to submit data to the department sufficient to provide comparable program success tracking. All award expenditures must be properly documented following Ohio Revised Code and Administrative rules.

**Legal Notices:**

The applicant understands that if its application is accepted by the State, the applicant shall enter into an agreement amendment with the State governing the use of the awarded funds. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations in the conduct of the work hereunder.

The State reserves the right to fund any application in full or in part, to request additional information to assist in the review process, to require new applications from interested parties, to reject any or all applications responding to this announcement, or to reissue the announcement if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the State of Ohio. Issuing this announcement does not bind the State to making any awards. The State reserves the right to adjust the dates for this announcement for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate. The State reserves the right to waive any non-substantive infractions made by an applicant, provided that the applicant cures such infraction upon request.

All costs incurred in preparation of an application shall be borne by the applicant. Application preparation costs are not recoverable under an award. The State of Ohio shall not contribute in any way to recovering the costs of application preparation.

Funding decisions are final. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application(s) at the conclusion of the review process.

The applicant understands that the information provided herein is intended solely to assist the applicant in submittal preparation. To the best of the State's knowledge, the information provided is accurate.

However, the State does not warrant such accuracy, and any errors or omissions subsequently determined will not be construed as a basis for invalidating this solicitation. Interested parties bear the sole responsibility of obtaining the necessary information to submit a qualifying application. The State retains the right to modify or withdraw this solicitation at any time. By submitting an application, applicants expressly agree to these terms.

All information submitted in response to this RFA become property of ODHE and is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release under the Ohio Public Records Act, as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code: All Lead Respondents are strongly discouraged from including in a application any information that the Lead Applicant considers to be a "trade secret," as that term is defined in Section 1333.61(D) of the Ohio Revised Code. The institution or business asserting trade secret bears the responsibility to take formal action if necessary and defend such assertion. Otherwise, public records laws may require disclosure.

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