



## RAPIDS 7 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Please see the frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers below. This document will be updated after the webinar and through the proposal window to provide technical assistance. If you have any questions, please contact the RAPIDS team at [rapids@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:rapids@highered.ohio.gov).

1. Which institutions can participate in RAPIDS 7?
  - a. All state institutions of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, are eligible to be awarded as fiscal agents. The program emphasizes regional collaboration and ODHE encourages participation of eligible subawardees (Ohio Technical Centers and independent colleges and universities).
  - b. Each participating subawardee partner should collaborate with a state institution of higher education to act as its fiscal agent and submit proposal materials with that fiscal agent.
2. Can Ohio Technical Centers participate?
  - a. Yes! Ohio Technical Centers have been integral collaborators in the RAPIDS program and, through collaboration with a fiscal agent in their region, can receive funding as a subawardee. Please see Appendix A to identify which OTCs fall within which region.
3. How can regional campuses located in a different region from the main campus participate?
  - a. Regional campuses may participate and will be awarded as subawardees of their main campus, regardless of region. Each institution determines whether it chooses to allocate for a regional campus from within the main campus' portion of funding from the main region or if the regional campus participates within its respective region.
    - i. The award agreement and funding will be directed to the main campus, and institutions are expected to coordinate internally and communicate throughout the process with ODHE and their regional branches.
  - b. If a regional campus participates in a different region, the main campus proposal should include a chapter in the PDF with all the proposal components for the regional campus. In the Budget Workbook, the main campus will also include a copy of the other region's Regional Total Budget tab and a copy of the Fiscal Agent tab that has the detailed budget for the regional campus in the other region. An example will be shown in the webinar.
4. Do we have to select programs that fall within the list of Technician-Aligned CIP Codes in Appendix B?
  - a. Institutions are highly encouraged to invest in programs on the list of 42 Technician-Aligned CIP Codes. Other highlighted industries include advanced manufacturing (including semiconductor technology and auto & advanced mobility), broadband and 5G, cybersecurity, and building and construction trades. All projects must be supported by industry and occupation demand data for the region, as well as business support letters describing the value of workforce training.
5. Is one institution per region expected to compile the entire region's proposals, as in past RAPIDS rounds?
  - a. No. Each fiscal agent will submit its own Project Narrative PDF and Budget Workbook Excel. The Project Narrative and Budget Workbook should demonstrate regional alignment and collaboration. In the Project Narrative, all institutions in a region should show alignment in regional workforce needs and collaborative endeavors. In the Budget Workbook, ODHE will confirm that every institution in a region has the same Regional Budget Tab.



## Webinar FAQs Posted 10/31/2024 (Collated to Merge Similar Questions)

- Where will webinar resources (recording, slide deck, FAQs) be available?
  - The webinar resources and all FAQ versions are available on the RAPIDS webpage, and within the RFP portal. <https://highered.ohio.gov/rapids>

## Eligible Participants and Regional Alignment Questions

- Is there a requirement for IHE's to include OTC's and interested independent colleges and universities that operate within their region?
  - Yes. OTCs and independents have been valuable partners and have executed many successful RAPIDS projects to the state's workforce training efforts. Collaboration is a crucial part of the enabling legislation and intent of the RAPIDS program.
- Are OTCs only able to participate as subawardees?
  - Yes, OTCs and independents must have a selected fiscal agent (state IHE) in their region. The RAPIDS program receives funding from Higher Education Bond proceeds that can only be awarded to community colleges and public universities.
- Independent colleges and universities are not listed in Appendix A. Are they still eligible to participate?
  - Yes. OTCs (listed in Appendix A) **and** independent colleges and universities (not specifically listed) are both eligible as subawardees, and must partner in their region with an eligible state IHE (listed in Appendix A) as a fiscal agent. IHEs must support the collaboration and participation of all eligible entities.
  - To see a list of independent colleges in Ohio, please see ODHE's "Ohio's Campuses" webpage to identify partners in your region. <https://highered.ohio.gov/about/ohios-campuses/independent-campuses>
- Can we collaborate with a local career center for equipment?
  - Yes, Ohio Technical Centers are eligible subawardees, partnering in their region with an eligible state institution of higher education (listed in Appendix A). Collaboration and sharing of resources are highly encouraged!
- Independent colleges and universities could partner with a state-funded IHE. But could we not partner with an OTC like Super RAPIDS?
  - Correct, an Ohio Technical Center is not an eligible fiscal agent in the RAPIDS program. OTCs must also partner with a public state institution of higher education. The RAPIDS program receives funding from Higher Education Bond proceeds that can only be awarded to community colleges and public universities.
- How can a regional campus participate in RAPIDS?
  - University regional branch campuses located in the same region as the main campus are expected to coordinate regional collaboration with the main campus. Regional campuses located in a different region may participate in the region they are located, communicating with their main campus, and collaborating with the institutions in the region. The award agreements will be issued to the main institution with the amounts identified for any regional campus. If there are any regional campuses in the same



region as the main campus, we request that they submit proposals together with separate sections. The main campus will be aware of all regional campus activities pertaining to RAPIDS, and institutions are expected to coordinate internally across campuses and with their regions for successful communications.

- Can all the eligible subawardees in a region participate?
  - All interested participants must be included in the regional discussions for allocating funding.
- For the previous Super Rapids, MVMC and MAGNET were the Regional Leads for our region (Kent State University at Trumbull). For this round of Rapids 7, who is our regional lead?
  - The Kent State University regional campus will work through Kent State's Main Campus to collaborate with the other participating institutions in the region. The RAPIDS program does not have regional leads. Contact information from the webinar and past RAPIDS participation will be shared out to each region via an email from ODHE.
- How do we get linked to our local IHE so that we may be included in this process?
  - Using the contacts from the webinar, institutions will all be connected by region via an email from ODHE to facilitate inclusion in the regional collaborative allocation process.
- Is this like Super RAPIDS where all proposals from a region must add up to the total amount of eligible funding for the region?
  - Yes, the regional request must equal the total amount allocated to that region. Section III of the RFP lists the regional allocations (p. 2, RAPIDS 7 RFP).
- Will all eligible institutions in the same region have to work together to make sure the sum of requested money will equal to the allowed amount?
  - Yes, all participating institutions (fiscal agents and subawardees) are expected to communicate and collaborate to allocate the regional award.
- Do all schools in our region work together to control the total requested grant?
  - All interested participants, which include public regional branch campuses and eligible subawardees (OTCs and independent colleges and universities), must be included in discussions for their region. This program round, as in the past, shall follow the requirement for collaboration in all communications on the distribution of the funds amongst all the eligible participants to meet the economic and specific industry needs of the region. IHEs must support the collaboration and participation of all eligible entities. ODHE thanks the eligible fiscal agents and the subawardees for the ongoing collaborative conversation efforts across the state.

#### Proposal Component Questions

- What are the three new components/aspects of RAPIDS 7 compared to RAPIDS 1-6?
  - 1) Individually submitted proposals by each fiscal agent
  - 2) Submission via the ODHE RFP Portal
  - 3) Emphasis on the 42 Technician-Aligned CIP codes
- Is healthcare an eligible industry for RAPIDS 7?
  - Yes.
- Is public safety an eligible industry for RAPIDS 7?
  - Yes.



- Could you please provide further clarification on how the CIP code alignment works?
  - Institutions are encouraged to assess regional and internal needs for opportunities to invest in a project that could support education and training in those 42 Technician-Aligned CIP codes. If a project that supports one or more of those CIPs is selected, the institution must represent that in their narrative and in the budget workbook, where listed in the RFP and Budget Workbook Template.
- I'm new to the region, so I'm not familiar with any local businesses yet. Where can I find some help? My areas are AI and Cybersecurity.
  - The local JobsOhio or economic development organizations will be great resources, as are local Chambers of Commerce. Other institutions with similar programs may also be able to provide connections to businesses. In the area of Cybersecurity, the statewide Ohio Cyber Range network is a great resource.  
<https://www.ohiocyberrangeinstitute.org/>