

Request for Applications (RFA)

Teach CS

Priority Deadline for Applications: December 12, 2025

Background and Program Purpose

Over the past decade, computer science has emerged as one of the fastest-growing disciplines, critical to a future that demands innovation and digital fluency. The current focus on artificial intelligence, a quickly growing subdomain of computer science, demonstrates that computer science is as vital as ever. For computer science to reach all Ohio students, however, we will need teachers.

The Teach CS grant was established to support increasing the number of Ohio teachers qualified to teach computer science in the classroom or expand the knowledge of existing teachers. The grant supports:

- (1) A supplemental license that involves a mentorship-based pathway for existing teachers.
- (2) A university endorsement program that involves a coursework-based path for existing teachers.
- (3) An alternative resident educator licensure pathway for industry experts and other nonteachers.
- (4) A continuing education program that offers professional development to existing teachers, including those who teach pre-kindergarten to twelve, who are generalists, and those seeking advanced content knowledge.

Note: Professional development may be for teachers seeking advanced content knowledge or for teachers seeking to teach computer science under ORC 3313.6033. Professional development should align with Ohio's current learning standards for computer science.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) administers this program and is seeking grant applicants.

Eligible Applicants

This RFA is open to:

- Ohio educational service centers
- State universities as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.011 with a Chancellor-approved educator preparation program
- Private institutions that hold a certificate of authorization from the Chancellor pursuant to Chapter 1713 of the Ohio Revised Code with a Chancellor-approved educator preparation program
- 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.

Total Available Funding and Maximum Grant

The most recent state budget allocated \$8M for the Teach CS grant program. There is no maximum award for each individual grant, but all funding requests must be justified as reasonable and ordinary expenses.

Allowable Uses of Grant Funds

Funds may be spent on coursework, materials, exams, teacher stipends, administrative costs, support services, and other purposes as determined by the chancellor to support the expansion of computer science education.

ODHE requests applicants to cap teacher stipends (if proposed) as follows:

- \$1,500 per teacher participating in a program leading to licensure/endorsement to teach computer science

- \$500 per teacher participating in professional development designed to increase computer science knowledge, unless the applicant demonstrates a reasonable need for additional funds based on proposed outcomes

In all cases it is expected that stipends be reasonable and justified based upon the hours of training and the milestones achieved, such as licensure and/or certifications.

Stipends should be paid to teachers only after successful completion of the program.

Application Review Process and Timeline:

- Request for Applications Released: **November 12, 2025**
- Questions Period: **November 12, 2025, to December 5, 2025**
 - Please email all questions to teachcsgrants@highered.ohio.gov by December 5, 2025. Questions will be addressed on a rolling basis, and answers will be posted at rfp.ohiohighered.org
- Application Launch Webinar: **November 20, 2025, 1:30 pm**
- Application Submission Window: **November 12, 2025 – December 12, 2025**
- Notification of Awards: **January 2026 (Tentatively)**
- Project Period of Performance: **January 2026** or upon execution of an award agreement with ODHE, whichever date is later, **through June 30, 2027**.
- Final Report Due: **August 31, 2027**

The project term will begin on January 1, 2026, or upon execution of an award agreement with ODHE, whichever date is later, and end on June 30, 2027. Chosen awardees must enter into an award agreement with ODHE to receive the funds.

Application Submission:

ODHE will provide information to interested parties and assist potential applicants by hosting a grant information session on November 20, 2025. Additionally, questions submitted by noon on **December 5, 2025**, to teachcsgrants@highered.ohio.gov will be responded to on a rolling basis. Responses will be posted at rfp.ohiohighered.org in the information tab of the RFA.

Applications are due not later than December 12, at 5:00 pm, for priority consideration. Applications should be submitted using the form attached as Exhibit 1. They must be submitted in the following manner: One electronic PDF file including the form and any attachments uploaded to <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org>.

Applicants are responsible for timely submissions of applications. Applications become the property of ODHE and are subject to the public records laws of the state. Applications containing all the required elements will receive careful consideration but cannot guarantee 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.

If funding remains after awards have been determined, ODHE reserves the right to accept and review additional applications. Applications submitted after the priority deadline will be accepted and reviewed at the sole discretion of the Chancellor.

Selection Criteria

Funding to applicants will be based on the likelihood of impact on students. Factors considered in making that determination include the following:

- a. Evidence of the organization's effectiveness in increasing the number of Ohio teachers credentialed to teach computer science and/or of significantly expanding the computer science knowledge of existing

teachers. Programs increasing the number of Ohio teachers credentialed to teach computer science will receive priority points.

- b. Partnership with school(s)/district(s). Priority will be given to proposals serving education consortia that include economically disadvantaged districts and schools with limited computer science coursework or where there is an unmet need for teachers credentialed to teach computer science courses.
- c. Likely effectiveness of selected strategies for teacher recruitment, selection, and support.
- d. Proposed outcomes and use of data.
- e. Logical and thoughtful timeline and budget that reflects efficient use of time and funds.
- f. Optional (priority points): Evidence of thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence into the program content.

See the scoring rubric, attached to this RFA as Exhibit II for additional information. Please note, ODHE reserves the right to make edits to the rubric at any point prior to the start of the application review. The rubric is provided for informational purposes only.

Reporting Requirements:

ODHE will monitor each grant recipient institution to ensure that there are fiscal accountability and operating progress, and that the desired outcomes are achieved. Successful grant awardees will be required to submit financial expenditure reports and program reports on a schedule determined by the ODHE.

Financial expenditure reports will include a list of all expenditures made with funding from the grant as well as coding for what type of eligible expenditure it is. A reporting template will be provided for each awardee. All award expenditures must be properly documented following Ohio Revised Code and Administrative rules.

Program reports will be required from all grant recipients describing the number of enrolled students, student success metrics, completion rates by program (endorsement licenses, supplemental licenses, alternative resident educator licenses, and continuing education). Grant recipients will access a secure system to provide educator state IDs 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. Grant recipients will report this information in the Higher Education Information (HEI) system. ESCs will have to take the steps necessary to obtain access to this system.

Additional information will be set forth in the grant agreement.

Legal Notices:

The applicant understands that if its application is accepted by ODHE, the applicant shall enter into an agreement with ODHE 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.

ODHE 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 ODHE. Issuing this announcement does not bind ODHE to making any awards. ODHE reserves the right to adjust the dates for this announcement for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate. ODHE 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 the preparation of an application shall be borne by the applicant. Application preparation costs are not recoverable under the award. ODHE 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 ODHE's knowledge, the information provided is accurate.

However, ODHE 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. ODHE retains the right to modify or withdraw this solicitation at any time. By submitting an application, applicants expressly agree to these terms.

Trade Secret:

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: Applicants are strongly discouraged from including in an application any information that the applicant considers to be a "trade secret," as that term is defined in Section 1333.61(D) of the Ohio Revised Code. The applicant asserting trade secrets bears the responsibility to take formal action if necessary and defend such assertion. Otherwise, public records laws may require disclosure.

Exhibit I: Teach CS Application Worksheet

Please complete the chart below. Answers in bullet format are welcome.

Applicant Name:	
Eligibility Determination:	Eligible entities must be one of the following: - Educational service centers - State universities as defined in Section 3345.011 of the Ohio Revised Code with a Chancellor-approved educator preparation program - Private institutions that hold a certificate of authorization from the Chancellor pursuant to Chapter 1713 of the Ohio Revised Code with a Chancellor-approved educator preparation program - 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." - Institutions of higher education must be in good standing with ODHE at the time of application. Please confirm you are an eligible entity. ☐ Yes ☐ No
Address:	
Primary Contact:	
Title:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Previously awarded Teach CS grant?	☐ Yes ☐ No
If an IHE, do you have an approved endorsement program? If you are an ESC or community college, do you have an existing CS credentialing or professional development program that is offered? Please check the appropriate box, provide details on the timeline, and provide a brief description.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In Progress If yes or in progress, how long has this program been operational and/or when will it be operational? Additional detail about existing program:
Partnering District/School(s) (Name, Contact, Role, Email): Please list any district or school who plays a role in the proposed project. If	For partnering districts/schools, please provide the information in the format below. Please attach letter(s) of support that outline the role partners will play/the nature of the partnership. 1. School/District Name: a. Contact Name:

not applicable, leave blank. Priority is given to applicants establishing collaborative relationships with educational consortia that include economically disadvantaged districts and schools with limited computer science coursework availability or an unmet need for credentialed computer science teachers. For this application, economically disadvantaged is defined as a school with a significant percentage (40% or greater) of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To determine if partners are economically disadvantaged consult the most up to date October Free and Reduced Meal Report is available on the DEW website.	b. Contact Role: c. Contact Email: d. Economically Disadvantaged: Yes ☐ No ☐ e. Limited Computer Science Coursework Availability and/or Unmet Need for Credential Computer Science Teachers: Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:
Pathways: Please indicate which pathways your project will be focused on.	Which of the following pathways will your program include: ☐ A supplemental license that involves a mentorship-based pathway for existing teachers ☐ A university endorsement program that involves a coursework-based path for existing teachers ☐ An alternative resident educator licensure pathway for industry experts and other nonteachers ☐ A continuing education program that offers professional development to existing teachers ☐ Program designed for those that teach pre-kindergarten to twelve who are seeking advanced content knowledge ☐ Program designed for teachers seeking to teach computer science under ORC 3313.6033.
Project Description: Please provide a brief description of your project. In this description, please indicate whether programming will be online, in person, or hybrid. Please describe the overall design and the	

rationale behind the design.	
Artificial Intelligence: Optional—Priority Points. If applicable, please describe how your program will incorporate artificial intelligence into the program content.	
Focus & Evidence of Effectiveness: Please describe the lead organization's focus on computer science and/or teacher training and highlight relevant work to date, including outcomes. For all previous Teach CS grantees: at minimum, provide the most up to date participation and completion numbers, as well as aggregate OAE test results.	
If an IHE, do you have an approved endorsement program? If you are an ESC or community college, do you have an existing CS credentialing or professional development program that is offered? Please check the appropriate box, provide details on the timeline, and provide a brief description.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In Progress If yes or in progress, how long has this program been operational and/or when will it be operational? Additional detail about existing program:
Staffing/Partnerships: Please indicate the key individuals responsible for this project and briefly summarize their (a) role and (b) expertise in computer science and/or teacher education.	

If the project has partnering organizations, please provide details on why partnering organizations were selected. Please include any information on previous collaborations and/or on computer science need and/or expertise.																					
Participant Recruitment & Selection: Please describe the process to recruit and select participants into the program.																					
Participant Retention: Please describe the proposed strategies to support participants in completing the program.																					
Workplan: Provide a high-level timeline with anticipated monthly milestones. Please indicate who will be responsible for key milestones. If other partners are integral in implementing the program, please clarify their role in the workplan. Note that timelines may include a planning period.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="418 1026 600 1066">Month</th> <th data-bbox="600 1026 1097 1066">Milestone(s)/Key Activities</th> <th data-bbox="1097 1026 1500 1066">Responsible Party</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1066 600 1106"></td> <td data-bbox="600 1066 1097 1106"></td> <td data-bbox="1097 1066 1500 1106"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1106 600 1146"></td> <td data-bbox="600 1106 1097 1146"></td> <td data-bbox="1097 1106 1500 1146"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1146 600 1186"></td> <td data-bbox="600 1146 1097 1186"></td> <td data-bbox="1097 1146 1500 1186"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1186 600 1226"></td> <td data-bbox="600 1186 1097 1226"></td> <td data-bbox="1097 1186 1500 1226"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1226 600 1266"></td> <td data-bbox="600 1226 1097 1266"></td> <td data-bbox="1097 1226 1500 1266"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Month	Milestone(s)/Key Activities	Responsible Party															
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Proposed Outcomes:	Projected number of participants in continuous learning who are seeking advanced content knowledge: Projected number of participants in credentialing program: Projected number of newly credentialed teachers: Rationale for these numbers:																				
Outcomes & Continuous Improvement Please describe the plan to gauge success of the program throughout and make improvements. For proposed continuing education programs:																					

please provide a plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the program beyond participant satisfaction. Additionally, please indicate what the anticipated outcomes will be for students (e.g. new course being offered).																																	
Cost per participant: If offering more than one pathway, please detail cost of participant by pathway (e.g. endorsement, continuous learning).																																	
Budget Request: Provide your overall budget request amount. This should be a total amount for the full term of the agreement (January 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). If providing teacher stipends, please indicate the rationale behind the stipend amount and the point of completion at which stipends will be awarded.																																	
Budget Detail:	Please complete the chart below with sufficient detail to understand how the use of funds supports the purpose of the grant program. Please note you are not required to use all the available categories. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Total Amount</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Assumptions (How was the budget amount determined?)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coursework</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Materials</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exams</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stipends (Please see detail under Allowable Costs)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administrative (maximum 5% of total budget)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support Services</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Total Amount	Description	Assumptions (How was the budget amount determined?)	Coursework				Materials				Exams				Stipends (Please see detail under Allowable Costs)				Administrative (maximum 5% of total budget)				Support Services				TOTAL			
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Sustainability	Will this program continue after grant funding? Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☐																																

Please indicate whether it is anticipated that the program will continue and provide additional detail.	Please describe. As applicable, please include: (1) Partnerships being built through this work. (2) Deliverables that will be created as a result of this work will continue to be available. (3) Efforts that will be made to raise community awareness of this work. (4) Any additional funding streams that may be leveraged to support this work in the future.
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Exhibit II: Draft Scoring Rubric

Criteria	1 – Limited	2 – Basic	3 – Strong	4 – Exceptional
Partnership with schools/districts served	No partnerships.	Partnerships with schools/districts but those schools/districts do not include any economically disadvantaged schools/districts.	Serves at least one economically disadvantaged district or school; limited collaboration.	Targets economically disadvantaged districts with minimal CS access and/or a need for credentialed CS teachers; strong collaboration planned.
Program design	No intentionality in program design.	Program design seems generally aligned but may be vague or raise questions about the rationale behind design.	Clear design is aligned to the purpose of the Teach CS program.	Robust, well-designed program with potential to significantly impact CS needs in the state.
Capacity to implement effectively	Lacks infrastructure, staffing, or relevant experience. If partners, unclear why/how partners were chosen and how partnership will work.	Basic readiness; some gaps in staffing or necessary infrastructure. Team has lack of significant experience with CS or teacher education but some evidence of capacity. If partners, may be unclear why/how partner was selected or how partnership will work.	Mostly ready with clear roles, adequate infrastructure and staffing, and demonstrated experience with CS and teacher education. If partners, partners bring relevant qualifications or expertise and there is an understanding of how the partnership will function.	Fully prepared with strong infrastructure and staffing. Team has strong experience with CS and teacher education. If partners, partners are selected carefully and likely to contribute strongly to results, and the collaboration is well thought out.
Effectiveness of recruitment and selection strategies	Strategies are vague or untested	Basic recruitment/selection strategies; limited rationale	Well-defined recruitment and selection methods with moderate reach	Innovative, evidence-based recruitment and selection strategies with strong rationale and reach
Effectiveness of support strategies	No clear support mechanisms for teachers	Basic support strategies; limited evidence of their effectiveness.	Intentional support designed; supports appear likely to be effective.	Comprehensive support strategies planned proven to increase participant retention and/or success.
Workplan	Workplan is unrealistic or not well thought out.	Workplan generally achieves objectives but raises questions or is unclear.	Logical workplan that achieves objectives.	Well thought out workplan that is likely to lead to

				successful implementation.
Proposed outcomes & use of data	Outcomes unclear or not measurable, no plan for improvement.	Basic outcomes; minimal data collection; mentions improvement but lacks clear structure.	Clear outcomes with plan for data collection and analysis; plan for ongoing improvement.	Strong, measurable outcomes that will impact students, with robust data strategy & plan for continuous improvement
Efficient budget	Budget is unrealistic and inefficient	Some inefficiencies in budget	Logical budget; mostly efficient use of resources	Highly efficient, well-justified budget; reflects strategic use of time and funds
Sustainability potential	No plan or potential for sustaining.	Basic sustainability ideas. Possibility that some partnerships, deliverables, awareness, or funding will be sustained/leveraged after grant.	There appears to be some partnerships, deliverables, awareness, or funding that are likely to be sustained/leveraged after grant.	Strong plan for long-term sustainability.
Up to five priority points: Does program have a plan to incorporate artificial intelligence into program design?				
Up to five priority points: Will this program increase the number of Ohio teachers credentialed to teach computer science?				