

Collaboration

ODHE recognizes regions are busy meeting to develop their proposals for RAPIDS 8. To support this work, we want to emphasize collaboration among regional participants is the cornerstone of designing proposals which respond to regional priorities. All eligible institutions, fiscal agents and subawardees, must be included in discussions regarding how allocations will be shared to cooperatively support regional workforce needs and alignments in partnerships with businesses. The regional executive summaries must provide evidence of the collaborative processes. If evidence of collaboration is not present in a proposal, ODHE may request revisions.

If a region has one or two institutions helping to coordinate the regional budget and executive summary, ODHE asks that those partners also take steps to ensure all eligible institutions, fiscal agents and subawardees, are included in discussions.

Eligible Participants

- Can you explain again how an independent private IHE can apply?
 - All interested eligible subawardees can contact their regional eligible fiscal agents to connect to regional conversations around allocations and partnerships. In these conversations, all the interested institutions will discuss allocating the regional award and potential alignments in partnerships between institutions and with regional businesses. Regions should also identify which fiscal agents are partnering with which subawardees to prepare proposals.
- Who led the highly collaborative Northwest effort referenced during the RFP webinar?
 - ODHE has seen a harmonious process over the years and has not been told which institution has taken leadership more so than the others.
 - In the chat, an individual called out Bowling Green State University's excellent coordination in past processes.
- Are there assigned leads in each region?
 - No, ODHE does not assign leads.
- Are you expecting a single submission from one of us including the others and partners for the regional allocation? Or are you looking for multiple submissions where the combined does not exceed the regional allocation?
 - Each eligible **fiscal agent** in a region will submit its own proposal packet. Each proposal packet will include the subawardees the fiscal agent institution is working with, along with all relevant fiscal agent awardee and subawardee

RAPIDS 8 Question and Answer

project information. Refer to the webinar slide deck, Slide 6, for the components where ODHE will be reviewing regional alignment.

- Is there a process for understanding the full scope of institutions within a region?
 - Appendix A and Appendix C in the RFP are resources for identifying eligible institutions. Independent colleges and universities are not listed by region in Appendix A and are eligible subawardees. As stated in the webinar and the RFP, all eligible and interested participants have the opportunity to participate in regional discussions around allocating the regional awards and identifying partnerships for RAPIDS 8.

Eligible Industries

- Construction trade listings are on the example data shared. Are the funds open to construction trades, carpentry, heavy equipment operators, electricians, HVAC, etc.?
 - Yes, institutions can focus investments on necessary workforce training and provide supporting documentation to justify the investment as requested in the RFP.
- Is health care eligible as an investment option?
 - Yes, institutions can focus investments on necessary workforce training in an industry and provide supporting documentation to justify the investment as requested in the RFP.

Post-Award Implementation

- There have been past issues with getting the Controlling Board process completed in a timely fashion for and with subawardees. What are best practices?
 - ODHE expects and encourages partners to stay in communication throughout and after the proposal development process to ensure that fiscal, legal, and project contacts are connected between fiscal agents and subawardees to facilitate a timely and communicative procurement and reporting experience. Fiscal agents are expected to work with subawardees to coordinate equipment procurement, delivery, inter-institution agreements for equipment responsibilities, and ongoing semi-annual reporting. Additional guidance will be provided in the post-award implementation webinar.

RAPIDS 8 Question and Answer

- If equipment is placed at a subawardee (OTC, regional campus, or independent college) location, after the award period is over, who owns the equipment? Is it the subawardee or the lead applicant (state institution).
 - Any equipment purchased through the RAPIDS funds, Higher Education Bonds, is a permanent asset of the awardee.
- Is refurbished equipment an eligible purchase?
 - Refurbished equipment can be eligible. Capital guidelines for purchasing and procurement must be followed.

Other

- Are there any substantial or significant changes from RAPIDS 7?
 - The total award has increased from \$8 million to \$10 million. The regional awards have accordingly increased (see p. 2, Section III of RFP). Otherwise, the proposal requirements and budget template are the same as RAPIDS 7.
- What is the targeted student population?
 - Each project from any participating institution (OTC, community college, private college or public university) is expected to serve post-secondary students. The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) will evaluate the equipment investments with this guideline. ODHE encourages institutions to direct questions about participating students to the ODHE team through the RAPIDS mailbox, RAPIDS@highered.ohio.gov.
- Can an institution propose purchasing equipment for a new program, potentially still in the program approval process?
 - RAPIDS can be used to support the development of new workforce training and programming. The proposal could describe the ongoing approval process and other ways the proposed equipment could support related training in existing healthcare programs in the case that the equipment is installed prior to the new program launch.