PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Grants

Request for Application

October 2024

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Josh Shapiro, Governor

Department of Education
Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, Secretary

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary

Bureau of Career and Technical Education
Judd R. Pittman, Bureau Director

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, [sex] gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, gender identity or expression, AIDS or HIV status, or any other legally protected category. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with State Law including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and with Federal law, including Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies:

For Inquiries Concerning Nondiscrimination in Employment:
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Equal Employment Opportunity Representative
Bureau of Human Resources
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-5446

For Inquiries Concerning Nondiscrimination in All Other Pennsylvania Department of Education Programs and Activities:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
School Services Unit Director
607 South Drive, 5th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
Voice Telephone: (717) 787-4860, Fax: (717) 214-4389
If you have any questions about this publication or for additional copies, contact:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Career and Technical Education
607 South Drive, 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-6788, Fax: (717) 783-6672
www.education.pa.gov

All Media Requests/Inquiries: Contact the Office of Press and Communications at (717) 783-9802

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

As the Commonwealth's economy continues to grow, its workforce faces significant economic challenges in the next decade. Pennsylvania has the fourteenth largest economy in the world and ranks sixth among states. As Pennsylvania's demographics change, the Commonwealth is expected to experience a long-term shortage of workers in its labor force. Given this reality, Pennsylvania's future depends on the development of a strong workforce and on a business community able to compete in today's global economy.

To support Pennsylvania's future business growth and in order to remain economically competitive, Pennsylvania must grow its supply of skilled workers. Over the next decade, most well-paying jobs in Pennsylvania, and across the country, will require some form of education or training after high school. This is especially true in fast-growing occupations requiring skills in like Computer Science (CS) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). These career pathways look different for different people and sectors, and a one-size-fits-all approach to education and training will not work for all students, workers, and businesses.

A. What is PAsmart?

In response to the continuing talent needs of business and industry across Pennsylvania, the PAsmart initiative is a strategic approach to education and workforce development. It is designed to address the feedback Pennsylvanians shared across initiatives like Next Generation Sector Partnerships, past PAsmart Grant work, economic development analysis, workforce projections and additional stakeholder sessions to better align education, workforce, and economic development initiatives and funding.

By working in a smarter, more coordinated way, this initiative makes public programs more accessible and easier to navigate so Pennsylvanians can develop the skills and abilities they need to obtain quality jobs, and businesses can recruit and retain skilled workers.

B. What are PAsmart's Goals?

The PAsmart initiative is based on four goals:

1. Strategically investing resources to support economic growth, and education and training opportunities;

2. Achieving successful outcomes for Pennsylvania students, workers, businesses, and communities;

3. Improving coordination and alignment of education and workforce development programs, services, and funding; and

4. Transforming inter-agency, cross-sector collaboration around education, workforce, and economic development at state, regional, and local levels.

Grants funded by this investment will support cross-sector partnerships to address unique local, regional, and statewide education, workforce, and economic needs. Funding will support a variety of projects, but should be data-driven, align with and leverage existing initiatives and resources, and have a measurable impact.

The [Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board (PA WDB)](#) is the Governor's business-led, industry-driven policy advisor on workforce development aligned with the Commonwealth's education and economic development goals. The PA WDB coordinates workforce development initiatives across the Commonwealth and developed the framework to guide investments.

II. PAsmart Framework Principles and Funding Priorities

PAsmart is designed to provide flexible resources to support innovation, cross-sector alignment collaboration, remove barriers to access, and build on existing initiatives to better serve Pennsylvania students, workers, businesses, and communities. PAsmart grants will support the following principles and funding priorities:
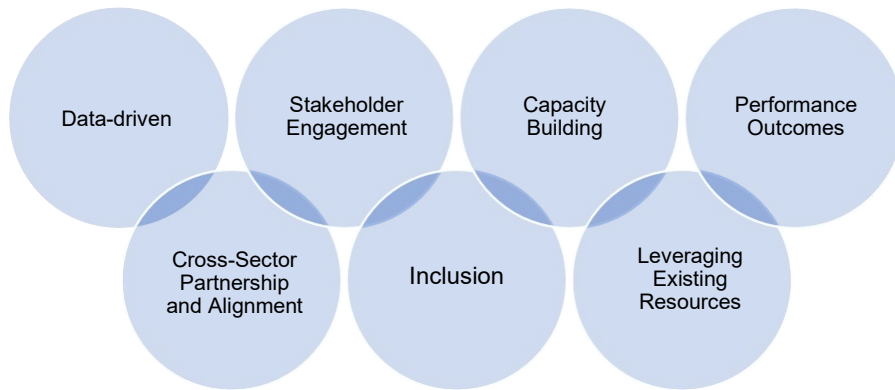
Data-driven Stakeholder Engagement Capacity Building Performance Outcomes

Cross-Sector Partnership and Alignment Inclusion Leveraging Existing Resources

Figure 1: The PAsmart framework relies on inter-connected principles.

III. Expanding Computer Science and STEM Career and Technical Education

The information below is provided to assist eligible entities with developing proposals for the grant opportunities available through the PAsmart initiative. Successful applicants will be selected based on the evaluation process described herein. This document describes the requirements applicants will be expected to meet and the criteria that will be used to determine status as a successful applicant.

Completed applications must be submitted by the following deadlines:

1. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants are due no later than November 8, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

2. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Planning Grants due no later than November 8, 2024,11:59 p.m.

3. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Grants are due no later than November 8, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

PDE will schedule a webinar and post FAQs online.

A. Background

Through the PAsmart initiative, eligible entities can apply for funding to provide students with access to high quality, relevant, and equitable CS and STEM career and technical

education. In addition, funding can provide current and future educators with high-quality training and professional development to effectively teach the skills necessary to be successful in the Pennsylvania economy. Applicants requesting funding to support training and professional development of educators **must** commit to offering new or expanded CS and STEM career and technical education experiences in their schools as a result of the investments.

For the purposes of this grant, computer science is defined as "the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society." Computer science is often confused with the everyday use of computers and the internet. Computer science education is not about teaching students computer literacy (such as effective internet searching or creating and collaborating on digital documents), nor is it about the use of education technology (such as using an online system to do homework rather than a worksheet). It is also not to be confused with information technology, which are software applications that professions use in the workforce (such as CAD for architects or Photoshop for designers). Computer science is not about the use of computers, but rather the creation of those uses.

For the purposes of this grant STEM refers to any experiences that align to Pennsylvania's approved career and technical education programs of study or one of Pennsylvania's twelve career clusters.

B. Proposed Initiative Priorities

See *Appendix A: Proposed Initiative Priorities*.

IV. Grant Application Information

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is pleased to issue this request for applications to fund programs that address the large gaps in CS and STEM career and technical education offerings and expand access to historically underserved students of all ages.

Applicants may apply for funds in one of three tiers of grants, each with its own purpose and target audience:

1. **PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants**. These grants are structured to meet the needs of local education agencies (LEAs) identified by PDE as schools in Financial Recovery or Financial Watch Status. The purpose of these grants is to build systems, and educator capacity to expand student access, opportunity, and inclusion in career and technical education. These grants have a low-risk entry point for applicants and are intended to help applicants build the infrastructure, pedagogy, and technical understanding to establish approved career and technical education programs.

2. **PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Planning Grants**. These grants are entry-level grants intended to support communities with plans for designing an integrated career and technical education and workforce training systems. These grants are to support:

a. Communities aligning past, current, and future workforce, economic development, and education investments and initiatives driving towards a sustainable future.

b. Communities that are planning to launch new career and technical education initiatives.

c. Communities interested in taking regional approaches to career and technical education, workforce, and economic development.

d. Communities taking a collective impact approach to designing innovative pathways (e.g., residency or registered apprenticeship) towards career and technical educator certification.

3. **PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Grants**. These grants are high-level comprehensive grants meant to facilitate systems-level change to support:

   a. Communities taking a collective impact approach to reimagining career and technical education certification pathways, prioritizing proposals that address:

      - Educators currently on an emergency permit or intern permits.
      - Individuals leaving industry to become a career and technical educator.
      - Career and technical education secondary students interested in pursuing a career in education.
      - Building technical skills and pedagogical skills for current educators to expand the pool of highly qualified CS, STEM, and career and technical education educators.

   b. Communities taking a collective impact approach to expand career and technical education experiences to a credentialed out-of-school time model.

   c. Communities taking a collective impact approach to grow partnerships with local education agencies, higher education institutions, businesses, industries, to facilitate new career and technical education programs or expand current programs.

   d. Communities seeking to expand career and technical education experiences to historically underserved populations.

V. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants

PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants are structured to meet the needs of distressed school districts and their schools with zero, or very few, CS or STEM career and technical education program offerings. These grants will fund the collaboration between career and technical education providers and distressed schools to launch innovative delivery models for career and technical education programming.

See *Appendix D: PAsmart Framework Alignment*.

Examples of eligible projects aligned to the framework include, but are not limited to:

1. Convening local and regional partners to build cross-sector innovative approaches to career and technical education and training using satellite sites, out-of-school time models, and other unique delivery systems.

2. Convening local or regional partners to identify education, workforce, and economic development gaps and the strategies to bridge those gaps to include local learners in local and regional economies.

3. Convening local and regional partners to design and implement local or regional initiatives that tackle the CS and STEM career and technical educator shortage in local communities.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of eligible programs that may be funded. Applicants are encouraged to develop programs that meet their regional needs.

A. Eligibility

Any LEA in Pennsylvania that has been identified as a school district in Financial Recovery or Financial Watch Status is eligible to apply for the PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants. Only one application will be accepted from each school district. The application may include educators from more than one school within the school district. The applicant must demonstrate partnership with a well-established provider of career and technical education.

To accomplish the goals set forth in the PAsmart framework, school districts must assess their risk factors, their needs and provide statistical data to support the proposal. This data may include, but is not limited to, links or copies of relevant institution policies, programs, institutional data (enrollment, demographics, etc.), and other workforce or economic data.

See *Appendix E: Eligibility*.

B. Fiscal Agent

The following entities may serve as a fiscal agent:

1. LEAs (school districts, charter schools, cyber charter schools, CTCs, and IUs);

2. Postsecondary institutions; and

Revised August 2024

3. Public libraries.

C. Funding

Distressed school districts may receive a maximum of $75,000 of grant funding.

1. Up to $25,000 may be used to support educators participating in career and technical education CS and STEM training. Examples may include:

   a. Staff time to participate in grant activities;

   b. Reimbursement costs incurred for the participation and replacement for educators who are participating in grant activities; and

   c. Certification exams and industry training, if applicable.

2. Up to $25,000 may be used to support educators and scholars designing and participating in career and technical education out-of-school time experiences.

3. Up to $50,000 may be used to purchase eligible hardware, products, and training to implement CS or STEM career and technical education in the classroom.

D. Application Scoring Criteria and Funding Priorities

See *Appendix B: Scoring Criteria*.

See *Appendix C: Funding Priorities*.

E. Funding Priorities

See *Appendix A: Proposed Initiative Priorities*.

F. Proposed Timeline and Grant Period

PAsmart grant funding must be expended between November 8, 2024 and June 30, 2025. All selected grantees will be required to sign the appropriate agreement with PDE. The department reserves the right to seek repayment of funds if it is determined that funds were not utilized for the original stated and approved purpose. Applicant costs incurred outside the grant period outlined in the appropriate agreements are not the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

G. Award Administration

See *Appendix F: Award Administration*.

H. Program Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be required to submit program and fiscal reports during and upon conclusion of the funded project. All required forms will be supplied by the Commonwealth and outlined in the award package. For PAsmart grants, all close-out final reports must be submitted no later than August 30, 2026, or within 60 days of full award expenditure (whichever occurs first). In addition to report submissions, awardees are required to participate in routine calls with Commonwealth staff, unless otherwise

determined, to identify grant progression, share best practices and receive technical support. Additional information will be provided upon award selection.

I. Application Deadline

All applicants must submit materials by November 8, 2024.

VI. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Planning Grants

PAsmart Career and Technical Education Planning grants are designed to support facilitating broad, cross-sector partnerships that use collective impact approaches to establish integrated or stand-alone CS and STEM career and technical education offerings and are meant to accelerate efforts such as, but not limited to:

1. Expanding access to CS and STEM career and technical education (especially for historically underserved students, adult learners and communities) through the design of learning experiences that lead to dual enrollment, industry recognized credentials, work-based learning, internships, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, satellite career and technical education sites, out-of-school time experiences, skills bootcamps; and

2. Expanding the number of CS and STEM career and technical education certified or highly qualified educators.

These grants are meant to support the design of plans for a community wide or regional approach to CS and STEM Career and Technical Education by funding the development of cross sector partnerships that will provide high quality CS and STEM career and technical education experiences to students of all ages.

See *Appendix D: PAsmart Framework Alignment*.

Examples of eligible projects aligned to the framework include, but are not limited to:

1. Convening local and regional partners to build cross sector approaches to career and technical education and training.

2. Convening local or regional partners to identify education, workforce, and economic development gaps and the strategies to bridge those gaps.

3. Convening local or regional partners to take lessons learned from past grant initiatives (Next Generation Sector Partnerships, PAsmart Targeted Grants, PAsmart Advancing Grants, Business Education Partnership Grants, Registered apprenticeship Grants) to design for a sustainable career and technical education future.

4. Convening local and regional partners to tackle the CS and STEM career and technical educator shortage.

5. Convening local and regional partners to design solutions to address policy and regulatory barriers to expanding CS and STEM career and technical education offerings.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of eligible programs that may be funded. Applicants are encouraged to develop programs that meet their regional needs.

A. Eligibility

See *Appendix E: Eligibility*.

B. Fiscal Agent

The following entities may serve as a fiscal agent:

1. LEAs (school districts, charter schools, cyber charter schools, CTCs, and IUs);

2. Postsecondary institutions;

3. Not for profit institutions; and

4. Public libraries.

C. Funding

Eligible entities may receive a maximum of $75,000 of grant funding.

1. Up to $25,000 can be used to support educators participating in CS and STEM career and technical education training. Examples may include:

   a. Staff time to participate in grant activities;

   b. Reimbursement costs incurred for the participation and replacement for educators who are participating in grant activities; and

   c. Certification exams, industry training, if applicable.

2. Up to $25,000 can be used to support educators and scholars designing and participating in career and technical education out-of-school time experiences.

3. Up to $50,000 may be used to purchase eligible hardware, products, and training to implement CS and STEM career and technical education in the classroom.

D. Application Scoring Criteria and Funding Priorities

See *Appendix B: Scoring Criteria*.

See *Appendix C: Funding Priorities*.

E. Funding Priorities

See *Appendix A: Proposed Initiative Priorities*.

F. Partnership Requirements

Local support and collaborative efforts from business, industry, education, and the community are essential to the success of programs. To be considered for funding, lead applicants must identify partners to assist with expanding access to and inclusion in CS and STEM career and technical education and expanding the number of CS and STEM career and technical education educators.

G. Proposed Timeline and Grant Period

PAsmart Grant funding must be expended between November 8, 2024 and June 30, 2025. All selected grantees will be required to sign the appropriate agreement with PDE. The department reserves the right to seek repayment of funds if it is determined that funds were not utilized for the original stated and approved purpose. Applicant costs

Revised August 2024

incurred outside the grant period outlined in the appropriate agreements are not the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

H. Award Administration

See *Appendix F: Award Administration*.

I. Program Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be required to submit program and fiscal reports during and upon conclusion of the funded project. All required forms will be supplied by the Commonwealth and outlined in the award package. For PAsmart Grants, all close-out final reports must be submitted no later than August 30, 2026, or within 60 days of full award expenditure (whichever occurs first). In addition to report submissions, awardees are required to participate in routine calls with Commonwealth staff, unless otherwise determined, to identify grant progression, share best practices and receive technical support. Additional information will be provided upon award selection.

J. Application Deadline

All applicants must submit materials by November 8, 2024.

VII. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Grants

Advancing grants are designed to support broad, cross-sector partnerships that are using the ecosystem and networked approaches to establish integrated or stand-alone CS or STEM career and technical education offerings and are meant to accelerate efforts such as, but not limited to:

1. Expanding access to CS or STEM career and technical education (especially for historically underserved students, adult learners, and communities) through learning experiences that promote dual enrollment, industry credentials, work-based learning, internships, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, satellite career and technical education sites, out-of-school time experiences; and

2. Expanding the number of CS and STEM certified or highly qualified career and technical education educators.

These grants are meant to operate on a larger scale by funding partnerships that provide quality CS and STEM career and technical education experiences to students or adults as part of a high-level strategic approach to workforce and economic development.

See *Appendix D: PAsmart Framework Alignment*.

Examples of eligible projects aligned to the framework include, but are not limited to:

1. Pairing educators with industry level professionals to enhance technical or industry-based knowledge and skills;

2. Master teacher or fellowship models;

3. Educator registered apprenticeship pathways for career and technical education certification;

4. Earn and learn opportunities for students to explore and build career and technical education skills, earn industry recognized credentials, and / or college credit;

5. Learning experiences and programs coherent with labor market priorities;

6. Cross-sector alignment with regional initiatives (such as, but not limited to, local K-12 Guidance Plans, WIOA State, Regional and/or Local Plans, Industry cluster analyses, Next Generation Sector Partnership plans etc.);

7. Integrating environmental literacy into existing CS or STEM career and technical education programs;

8. Launching of new career and technical education programs;

9. Creation of career exploration/career pathways; and

10. Proposals that address policy and regulatory barriers to expanding CS and STEM career and technical education offerings.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of eligible programs that may be funded. Applicants are encouraged to develop programs that meet their regional needs.

A. Eligibility

See *Appendix E: Eligibility*.

B. Fiscal Agent

Only LEAs may serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. The fiscal agent will receive, manage, and disburse grant funds. Fiscal agents may use funds to pay partners in the consortium for their services.

C. Partnership Requirements

Local support and collaborative efforts from business, industry, education, and the community are essential to the success of PAsmart programs. To be considered for funding, lead applicants must identify partners to assist with expanding access to CS and STEM career and technical education and expanding the number of CS and STEM career and technical education educators.

Eligible partners include:

1. LEAs, including CTCs, school districts, charter schools, and IUs;

2. Postsecondary institutions;

3. Public libraries;

4. Community-based organizations;

5. Local workforce development boards;

6. Businesses and chambers of commerce;

7. Labor organizations;

8. Trade associations;

9. Non-profits; and

10. Economic development entities.

D. Funding

Eligible applicants may request up to $500,000. Funding is not guaranteed for any applicant.

E. Application Scoring Criteria and Funding Priorities

See *Appendix B: Scoring Criteria*.

See *Appendix C: Funding Priorities*.

F. Funding Priorities

See *Appendix A: Proposed Initiative Priorities*.

G. Application Deadline

All applicants must submit materials by November 8, 2024.

H. Award Administration

See *Appendix F: Award Administration*.

VIII. PAsmart Grant Information

The PAsmart initiative will address local, regional, and statewide workforce, education, and economic needs aligned with state-level priorities through three grant initiatives.

A. Application Process

All funding solicitation materials, including the framework, proposal requirements and forms, FAQs and webinar information are posted at the [PAsmart web page](#).

B. Proposed Timeline and Grant Period

PAsmart funding is anticipated to be used for grant-related activities between November 8, 2024, and June 30, 2025. All selected grantees will be required to sign the appropriate agreement with either the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the Pennsylvania Department of Labor, unless otherwise noted. The agencies observe the right to seek repayment of funds if it is determined that funds were not utilized for the original stated and approved purpose. Applicant costs incurred outside the grant period outlined in the appropriate agreements are not the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

C. Award Administration

The Commonwealth may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to: the budget is not appropriate or reasonable; only a portion of the application is selected for award; the Commonwealth needs additional or clarifying information; or special terms and conditions are required. Failure to satisfactorily resolve the issues identified by the Commonwealth within a specific period determined by the Commonwealth may preclude award to the applicant.

The Commonwealth reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this announcement and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation or award. The contracting officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Commonwealth to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the contracting officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

D. Program Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be required to submit program and fiscal reports during and upon conclusion of the funded project. All required forms will be supplied by the Commonwealth and outlined in the award package. All close-out final reports are to be submitted no later than August 1, 2026, or within 60 days of full award expenditure (whichever occurs first). In addition to report submissions, awardees are required to participate in routine calls with Commonwealth staff, unless otherwise determined, to identify grant progression, share best practices and receive technical support. Additional information will be provided upon award selection.

E. Vendor Registration

All awardees must be registered with the Commonwealth as a vendor, unless current agreements are already in place. Applicants that are not current vendors are strongly

encouraged to begin this process by registering their company with the [Vendor Data Management Unit (VDMU)](#) or by calling 717-346-2676 or 1-877-435-7363.

Appendix A: Proposed Initiative Priorities

Priority will be given to proposed initiatives that leverage cross-sector partnerships, build upon previous grant awards, and use data to:

1. **Expand access** to high-quality computer science and STEM career and technical education programs, with a focus on increasing opportunities for students of all ages to build industry ready skills, earn industry recognized credentials, postsecondary credit, or participate in approved career and technical education programs.

2. **Increase the number of certified career and technical education educators** ready to teach computer science, and STEM career and technical education programs with focus on designing new or enhancing existing educator preparation, training, and professional development initiatives.

3. **Boost inclusion** in CS and STEM career and technical education for women, girls, students of color, students in rural and urban areas, students with disabilities, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Priority of Service populations, adult learners, and other historically underserved and underrepresented populations.

Appendix B: Application Scoring Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a cross-sector team based on a 100-point scale for the following elements:

1. A clear and concise problem statement (5 points).

2. Identification of measurable program goals and objectives, including their alignment to the principles of the PAsmart initiative (15 points).

3. A program narrative describing the activities for which funding will be used (30 points, cumulatively items a. through e. below), including:

   a. Details of how the proposed program or activity will improve capacity to offer high-quality CS or STEM career and technical education (6 points);

   b. Maintaining sustainable programming or training after the life of the grant (6 points);

   c. Engaging cross-sector partners (6 points);

   d. Addressing barriers of access and inclusion for underrepresented learners in career and technical education (6 points);

   e. Alignment to the priorities of Pennsylvania Perkins V State Plan, WIOA Combined State Plan, and or Governors Administration Initiatives (6 points).

4. Detailed budget information that includes clear justifications, is accurate and itemized using a per-unit cost and total expenditure, and is summarized into three categories: Contracted Services, Supplies, and Other (15 points).

5. Expected program outcomes that are stated in measurable terms that include (20 points, cumulatively items a. and b. below), including:

   a. Baseline information and expected improvement (10 points); and

   b. A clear plan for assessing the impact of the program being funded through the grant (10 points).

6. Responses on the application will be scored according to the strength of their alignment to the goals, principles, and frameworks of the PAsmart Initiative (10 points).

7. Accuracy of the information submitted (5 points).

Revised August 2024

Appendix C: Funding Priorities

Below are examples of how previous grantees aligned to the goals, principles, and frameworks of PAsmart:

1. **Data-driven Innovation:**

   a. A specific need, problem, or opportunity is clearly identified and supported by evidence and data.[1]

   b. Strategies are supported by evidence or data.

   c. Strategies are innovative.

2. **Cross-Sector Partnership and Alignment:**

   a. There are multiple partners representing multiple sectors.

   b. Partners have clear roles.

   c. Services and activities are collaborative in nature and engage multiple partners.

   d. The proposal aligns to existing education, workforce, or economic initiatives at the local, regional, or state level.

3. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

   a. The target population engages meaningfully in the development of the proposal.

   b. The target population engages meaningfully in the implementation.

   c. Performance outcomes are collected and analyzed by or in partnership with the target populations.

4. **Inclusion:**

   a. Partners identify a specific target population and clearly explain why that population was selected, citing specific barriers to access, opportunity, and inclusion of that population in CS or STEM career and technical education.

   b. Strategies and activities are geared toward increasing access, opportunity, and inclusion for historically underserved populations.

---

[1]Data may include, but are not limited to, the following: relevant policies and programs; program or course participation demographics; number and assignments of CS and STEM career and technical education educators; school and community data (e.g., student enrollment, demographics, etc.); and regional labor market information.

    c.   Strategies remove barriers at the program, system, or policy level.

5. Capacity Building:

    a.   Expected outcomes build the partners' capacity to offer CS or STEM career and technical education programming beyond the grant period.

    b.   Expected outcomes increase the number and diversity of trained and certified educators in CS or STEM career and technical education.

6. Leveraging Existing Resources:

    a.   Applicant assesses existing resources and connects existing resources to the needs the grant will address.

    b.   Services or activities are supported with in-kind resources such as facilities or human capital.

    c.   Partners extend or link existing resources to address the identified problem, need, or opportunity.

7. Performance Outcomes:

    a.   There are short-term and long-term milestones.

    b.   Expected outcomes can be measured or assessed.

    c.   Expected outcomes address the specific need, problem, or opportunity the partners identified.

    d.   Expected outcomes are logical and directly relate results of the planned strategies.

    e.   Applicant has a plan for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on the results of the strategies. The plan considers the *who, what, when*, and *how*.

Revised August 2024

Appendix D: PAsmart Framework Alignment

These grants are expected to fully align to the PAsmart framework using:

1. **Data-driven Innovation** – Proposals must identify a clear problem, challenge, or opportunity supported by relevant data, and include an innovative strategy to increase access and equitable access to CS or STEM career and technical education opportunities for Pennsylvania students.

2. **Cross-sector Partnership** – Proposals must demonstrate strong, high-quality partnerships committed to working collaboratively to implement the proposal. Applicants are encouraged to have multiple partners across sectors.

3. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – Proposals must demonstrate a commitment to serve and increase access for students with exceptionalities, high poverty students, and female, African American, Latino and Native American students.

4. **Capacity Building** – Proposals must build capacity to offer CS or STEM career and technical education programming to secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners.

5. **Leveraging Existing Resources** – Proposals must demonstrate that resources from the grant will leverage and supplement, not supplant, existing resources.

6. **Performance Outcomes** – Proposals must include measurable performance outcomes and a strategy to collect, analyze and report those outcomes. Proposals will demonstrate strong goals increasing the percentage of students, course and program offerings, and trained educators in CS or STEM career and technical education.

Revised August 2024

Appendix E: Eligibility

Eligible lead applicants include:

1. Local education agencies (LEAs), including career and technical centers (CTCs), school districts, charter schools,), and Intermediate Units (IUs);

2. Postsecondary institutions;

3. Public libraries;

4. Community-based organizations;

5. STEM ecosystems;

6. Local workforce development boards;

7. Businesses and chambers of commerce;

8. Labor organizations;

9. Trade associations;

10. Economic development entities; and

11. Non-profits.

Lead applicants may apply as a consortium.

Return to *V. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Distressed Schools Collaboration Grants, A. Eligibility*, (page 5).

Return to *VI. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Planning Grants, A. Eligibility*, (page 8).

Return to *VII. PAsmart Career and Technical Education Innovation Grants, A. Eligibility*, (page 11).

Appendix F: Award Administration

The Commonwealth may enter discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to: the budget is not appropriate or reasonable; only a portion of the application is selected for award; the Commonwealth needs additional or clarifying information; or special terms and conditions are required. Failure to satisfactorily resolve the issues identified by the Commonwealth within a specific period determined by the Commonwealth may preclude award to the applicant.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2021-06, Worker Protection and Investment (October 21, 2021), the Commonwealth is responsible for ensuring that every Pennsylvania worker has a safe and healthy work environment and the protections afforded them through labor laws. To that end, contractors and grantees of the Commonwealth must certify that they comply with all applicable Pennsylvania state labor and workforce safety laws. Such certification shall be made through the Worker Protection and Investment Certification Form (BOP-2201) and submitted with the bid, proposal, application, or quote.

The Commonwealth reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this announcement and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation or award. The contracting officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Commonwealth to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the contracting officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.