**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202203042 - ARP State Fiscal Recovery Funds – CTE Personnel Infrastructure and Equipment |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Department of Education |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | April 14, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. local time. |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | April 20, 2022 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | May 5, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part B, Page 3 | Do the priority programs need to be currently in place or if we are applying to add a program would it qualify for this grant?   |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in the RFA, Part B Allowable Activities in order of Precedence in the NOTE section on Page 3, Funds awarded through this RFA are to support CTE programs currently approved by MDOE or new CTE programs submitted into the MDOE new program application process. |

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| **2** | **Question** |
| Can you explain what the remaining funds - above the $4.5 million will be directed for? |
| **Answer** |
| The remaining funds have been set aside for the anticipated physical Infrastructure RFA #202204059 that will be focused on physical infrastructure. However, after awarding funds through both RFA’s (RFA #202203042 and RFA #202204059), if there is still funding available, we will issue another RFA. |

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| **3** | **Question** |
| Can a CTE school apply for both funding sources? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, CTE schools will be eligible to apply for both RFA’s, (RFA #202203042 and RFA #202204059). |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part D Page 3 | If awarded these funds what are the chances that a school will be awarded additional funds for the next round? |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in the RFA, Part D Awards to Beneficiaries on page 3, Scoring for future reiterations of this RFA #202203042 will reflect applicant receiving previous award funds through this RFA #202203042. The Department reserves the right to eliminate the lowest scoring proposal(s) and/or make awards at amounts less than that requested, whichever is in the best interest of the State.  |

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| **5** | **Question** |
| Will the $4.5 million for the Personnel Infrastructure/Equipment grant be deducted from the original $20 million that has been set aside for physical infrastructure? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, there will $15,140,00 available for the anticipated physical Infrastructure RFA #202204059 and there is $360,000 to fund a position at the state level to oversee the project.  |

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| **6** | **Question** |
| When will the physical infrastructure grant be available? |
| **Answer** |
| The anticipated physical Infrastructure RFA #202204059 is currently being reviewed by the State Purchases Review Committee and will be available in 4-8 weeks.  |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part B, Page 3 | Can we apply for a teacher through this grant to replace an ed tech for our cybersecurity program who is currently acting as a facilitator?  |
| **Answer** |
| Yes. Because the CIP code 11.1003 Computer Information Systems/Information Assurance for cybersecurity does align with Personnel Infrastructure Bullet - #3. |

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| **8** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Budget Worksheets, Pages 14-17 | If I want to apply for equipment for multiple programs, should we submit multiple applications(including cover pages), or just one application with multiple equipment pages? |
| **Answer** |
| One application should be submitted for all programs. Utilizing the multiple equipment pages *Equipment Item #1, Equipment Item #2*, etc., will distinguish individual programs. |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Application Cover Page, Page 8 | What should be entered in “Name of Application”? |
| **Answer** |
| Application Title - "Equipment Application" or "Personnel Application" or “Equipment and Personnel Application" |

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| **10** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section B, Page 2 | Could the grant fund some infrastructure costs in establishing our new HVAC program (47.0201), since it has cross-and-close relevance to RFA priority program "Clean Energy (15.1701)"? If so, could these costs include construction of the lab space and/or program-related equipment and tools? |
| **Answer** |
| 1. No infrastructure costs are allowed. These funds are specific to the RFA #202203042 Personnel Infrastructure and Equipment and cannot be used for infrastructure costs.
2. Yes funds may be used for equipment. These funds can be used for program related equipment (costing $5,000 or more per item) or multiple pieces of equipment to serve a single program. Example: 20 new computers for a pre-engineering program, fully equipped toolbox for automotive, etc. (Page 2, Equipment bullet #1)
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| **11** | **Question** |
| A grant priority program is listed in the RFA narrative as "Education," but the CIP code given is 31.0601, which is focused on environmental education. Is the RFA trying to prioritize environmental education per se, or would programs such as Early Childhood Education (19.0709) also qualify? |
| **Answer** |
| No. The CIP 31.0601 supports the Outdoor Leadership programs which supports the hospitality industry.  |

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| **12** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section B, Page 3 | Since our exploratory program helps orient students to all of our programs, and since many of our programs are RFA grant priority programs, would you consider infrastructure/equipment requests for this program as relevant and, possibly, fundable by this grant? |
| **Answer** |
| Personnel infrastructure and equipment to support a CTE exploratory program that is connected to qualifying programs would qualify. As stated in this RFA, Part B Allowable Activities in order of Precedence in the NOTE section on Page 3, Funds awarded through this RFA are to support CTE programs currently approved by MDOE or new CTE programs submitted into the MDOE new program application process. |

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| **13** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section B, Page 2 | What does “minor infrastructure” mean? |
| **Answer** |
| Minor infrastructure costs needed to install and/or use requested equipment. For example, an electrical upgrade for new welders. |

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| **14** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Section B, Page 2 | What is the “Infrastructure RFA” mentioned in the note at the bottom of Page 2? |
| **Answer** |
| This is referencing the anticipated CTE physical Infrastructure RFA (No. 202204059) that will be posted in 4-8 and will be focused on physical infrastructure.  |

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| **15** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Scoring Weights and Process, Page 7 | Can applications be submitted for non-Priority Industries at the expense of earning the 10 points? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes. As stated in the RFA, Part B Allowable Activities in order of Precedence in the NOTE section on Page 3, Funds awarded through this RFA are to support CTE programs currently approved by MDOE or new CTE programs submitted into the MDOE new program application process. |

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| **16** | **Question** |
| Can applications be submitted for infrastructure in the absence of related equipment? For example, construction of a classroom space in a shop or the building of plumbing and heating mock-ups? |
| **Answer** |
| Construction of a classroom would not qualify. Mock-ups to meet the industry standards will qualify as equipment if it meets the $5,000 threshold.  |

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| **17** | **Question** |
| Would hiring a teacher assistant and computers to support students to access academic credits in alternative ways and to have individualized help with college and career counseling qualify?  |
| **Answer** |
| No. This is not an approved CTE program. |

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| **18** | **Question** |
| Can these funds be used for additions to buildings? We have a need for additional classroom and lab space.  |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **19** | **Question** |
| Can these funds be used for storage buildings/space? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **20** | **Question** |
| Can the funds be used for middle school activities? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **21** | **Question** |
| Can these funds be used to purchase land with or without buildings? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **22** | **Question** |
| Can these or other funds be used to create an auditorium space? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **23** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part B, Page 2 | Can monies be approved for buildings such as storage, additional classroom areas, additional open shop space, simulator labs, etc., to accommodate new equipment and materials? |
| **Answer** |
| 1. No. These funds are specific to the RFA #202203042 Personnel Infrastructure and Equipment and cannot be used for infrastructure costs.
2. Yes. These funds can be used for program related equipment (costing $5,000 or more per item) or multiple pieces of equipment to serve a single program. Example: 20 new computers for a pre-engineering program, fully equipped toolbox for automotive, etc. (Equipment bullet #1, page 2)
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| **24** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part B, Page 2 | Can monies be used to retrofit existing spaces to accommodate new equipment and additional workspaces? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, minor infrastructure costs needed to install and/or use requested equipment are allowed.NOTE – significant capital improvement needed for functionality of equipment must be submitted through the anticipate physical Infrastructure RFA # 202204059. |

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| **25** | **Question** |
| Can monies be used to expand outside work areas- expansion of hot topped areas, i.e. parking areas, work areas? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **26** | **Question** |
| Can funding be used to purchase new equipment to replace existing? For example, a new fire truck to replace current vehicle? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, if it meets all other requirements and is updating the existing equipment to industry standards.  |

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| **27** | **Question** |
| Can funding be used to improve facility at satellite location to include outdoor storage? |
| **Answer** |
| No |

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| **28** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part B, Page 3 | Will proposals that meet several priority industries be considered? For example, a proposal for commercial truck driving program.  |
| **Answer** |
| Yes. As stated in the Part B Allowable Activities in order of Precedence in the NOTE on Page 3, Funds awarded through this RFA are to support CTE programs currently approved by MDOE or new CTE programs submitted into the MDOE new program application process. |