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| **Name of Grant Program:** FY22 Innovation Pathways Implementation Grant | **Fund Code:** 417  |

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| **PART III – REQUIRED PROGRAM INFORMATION** |

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Massachusetts Executive Office of Education**

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**Innovation Pathways**

**Implementation Grant Application for Spring 2021 Designees**

# **Innovation Pathways Defined**

For over thirty years, educators, employers, community-based organizations and government agencies have collaborated to develop and implement Career Pathways strategies. Early models focused primarily on youth-oriented vocational education programs and academies with strong contextualized instruction. Those efforts have transitioned to wider and deeper Career Technical Education efforts championed by the US Department of Education.

Over the last decade new career pathway implementation models supported by the US Department of Labor, US Chamber of Commerce and National Governors Association have focused on meeting high demand workforce needs. In July of 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted to support industry, education and workforce system to collaborate to build systematic solutions to provide career opportunities in high demand fields.

These Career Pathway programs include strong industry engagement, secondary and post-secondary partnerships, and are constructed to align to local, regional or states sector based economic development initiatives. The programs often feature customized approaches to meeting the unique needs of specific student populations coupled with industry sector relevant academic, career and work-related experiences.

**Innovation Pathways are structures within our high schools that are designed to connect student learning to a broadly-defined industry sector that is in demand in the regional and state economy. Schools will leverage strong partnerships with employers to provide students career awareness and work-based learning activities. Students will participate in a series of courses and experiences relevant to achieving industry recognized credentials. Participation in this kind of pathway can lead students to opportunities for meaningful careers in that industry sector upon the completion of needed postsecondary education and training.**

Massachusetts’ Innovation Pathways draw on three decades of successful practices and are designed to support schools to enhance a student’s ability to gain awareness and preparedness of future employment opportunities, fully prepare academically, and make informed choices related to post-secondary pathways in the industry of their interest.

State agencies will work collaboratively with schools and districts to provide students with equitable access to a pathway deemed a strong individualized fit, with on and off ramps across different pathways throughout high school, ensure that they graduate with a well-designed post-secondary plan, and a robust knowledge of Massachusetts’ workforce opportunities with realities for employment.

The related Pathway designation approval process has been designed collaboratively by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Executive Office of Education to ensure that new college and career pathways are carefully designed to offer high quality preparation for college and career in alignment with the Strengthening Career Technical Education in the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) requirements, which was signed into law effective July 1, 2019.

**Five Guiding Principles**

In [January 2017](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/FY2017/2017-01/joint-itemI1.html), the Boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education jointly approved five **Guiding Principles** for Early College pathways that are also fully relevant to Innovation pathways. To receive designation as either type, an applicant will be required to demonstrate that its pathways are rooted in all five of these guiding principles:

## **Guiding Principle 1: Equitable Access**

*Designated programs should prioritize students underrepresented in education enrollment and completion. To facilitate this, programs should be structured to eliminate barriers to student participation. Design might therefore include, but not be limited to, tuition-free participation, open enrollment without regard to prior academic performance, student supports to promote success, scalability, multiple entry points for students, and student supports to prepare students for entry into the program.*

## **Guiding Principle 2: Guided Academic Pathways**

*Designated programs should be structured around clear and detailed student academic pathways from secondary to post-secondary education with regard to coursework, sequencing, and experiences beyond the classroom. Programs should offer students substantive exposure to career opportunities in high demand fields, allowing them to make an informed decision about which career pathway to pursue.  Students should also be exposed to the authentic experience and academic rigor of postsecondary education.*

## **Guiding Principle 3: Enhanced Student Support**

*Designated programs should incorporate sufficient wraparound services to promote academic success and course completion, taking into consideration the needs of diverse populations of students.*

## **Guiding Principle 4: Connection to Career**

*Designated programs should expose students to a variety of career opportunities, including greater depth in careers relevant to their selected pathway, by providing, for example, opportunities for targeted workforce and career skills development, career counseling, and elements of experiential and work-based learning.*

## **Guiding Principle 5: Effective Partnerships**

*Innovation Pathways require a formal partnership with a workforce development board (*[*MassHire*](https://www.mass.gov/about-masshire)*) and one or more employers or an employer association. Programs should be sufficient in size to capture economies of scale goals and to ensure long-term sustainability.*

# **Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant Purpose**

The purpose of the grant is to provide Innovation Pathway program implementation resources to an LEA who has achieved Innovation Pathway designation from DESE in Spring 2021. This grant shall **not** be used to fund capital expenses, including technology and equipment.

# **Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant Eligibility and Funding**

To qualify for competitive funding, applicants must have received Innovation Pathway Designation from DESE in Spring 2021. An LEA may submit only one application. The maximum award is up to $30,000 for first-time Innovation Pathways applicants. Applicants who have received Implementation Grant funding in the past are eligible for a maximum award of $15,000.

# **Primary Contact**

* Jennifer Gwatkin, Office for College, Career, and Technical Education, DESE
jennifer.a.gwatkin@mass.gov; (781) 338-3954

# **Innovation Pathway Grant Timeline**

***Application Schedule***

| Request for Proposals Released  | April 16, 2021 |
| --- | --- |
| Proposals due via email to pathways@doe.mass.edu, by no later than 5:00 pm.  | May 28, 2021 |
| Projected Grant Awards Announcement  |  July 1, 2021 |
| Anticipated Contract Start Date  | July 15, 2021 |
| Contract End Date  | June 30, 2022 |

# **Implementation Grant Evaluation**

Applicants must demonstrate in their responses below how implementation grant funds from the state will help the applicants execute on their designation plan such that the Innovation Pathway program meets all Innovation Pathways criteria requirements. Submissions will be screened for completeness, conformity to the program requirements, and timeliness of response. Submissions that are incomplete, non-conforming, or late may not be considered. Reviewers will confirm the eligibility of each applicant, evaluate and score all eligible submissions on a 100-point scoring rubric. Applications will be scored based on the quality of the applicants’ plans for the use of the requested funds to support the pathway in meeting criteria for Designation. Preference may be given to an LEA who has not received Innovation Pathway Implementation Grants in the past.

## *Applicant and Partner Information*

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| **The lead applicant for an Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant must be a LEA with an Innovation Pathway program that was designated by DESE in Spring 2021.** |
| **Lead Applicant name:** |  |
| **Applicant contact:** |  |  |  |  |
| *Name* | *Title* | *Phone* | *Email* |
| **Mailing Address**: |  |
| *Street Address*  |
|  |  |  |
| *City* | *State* | *ZIP* |
| **Phone/Email:** |  |  |
| *Preferred Phone* | *Email Address* |
| **Has the school applied for and/or received a Skills Capital grant to support equipment expenses associated with the newly designated Innovation Pathways program?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **In Spring 2021 did your school apply for funding to purchase equipment for the newly designated Innovation Pathway program via the FY21 Skills Capital Grant Program?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Does the secondary or postsecondary institution currently receive Perkins funding?** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| **In applying for the Innovation Pathways 2021-2022 Implementation grant, the school agrees to actively participate in Innovation Pathways Community of Practice.** | Yes [ ] *Applicant Indicates Agreement* |
| **The applicant agrees to share their early work with the Innovation Pathways Community of Practice, so as to illustrate how structures and systems are being established for long-term success.** | Yes [ ] *Applicant Indicates Agreement* |
| **The grant is being funded by the STEM Council. The applicant agrees to collaborate with their regional STEM Network Manager and participate in/and or contribute to 2021 STEM Week activities.**  | Yes [ ] *Applicant Indicates Agreement* |

## *Grant Application Narrative (80 Points)*

1. Please reference the introductory narrative describing your Innovation Pathway partnership that you submitted with your final designation application. Describe the current five-year vision and potential for the designated Innovation Pathway program. Identify any future Innovation Pathway expansion including seeking of additional sectors for designation and the impact for your students, your school and campus, and your region. (10 Points)**Field limited to 1,000 words.**

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1. As you prepare to launch your Innovation Pathway program, what do you anticipate will be the three greatest implementation challenges? Please describe each challenge and primary consideration for solutions. (15 Points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. How will this funding from the state help you address the challenges identified above (see question) and ensure that you fulfill designation requirements and will successfully enroll students in your program by fall 2021? (15 Points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. How will this funding from the state support your school’s Innovation Pathway’s engagement with industry and support providing work-based learning opportunities for students? (10 points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. Aligned career and college counseling is a required part of the Innovation Pathway Program, including the guided use of MyCAP beginning in 9th grade. We are interested in your organization’s approach to MyCAP, as well as fostering students’ academic performance success, particularly for those who are historically underrepresented in targeted industry sector and/or in the higher education, including students of color, low income students, English learners, and students with disabilities). Explain how funding will support your organization in fulfilling Innovation Pathways’ expectations for high quality college and career advising and MyCAP development embedded in the pathway. Please also explain how the organization will track the use of MyCAP. (10 Points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. For each line item in the budget below, please indicate how these funds will support organization /coordination in meeting the Innovation Pathway designation criteria and planning for growth of the program in the next three years. (10 Points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. What outcomes/deliverables will you see at the end of the grant period (June 30, 2022)? Who will be in charge of ensuring that these outcomes are met? (10 Points) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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## *Upload Template Budget(s) for Funding (20 Points)*

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| **Applicant Name:**  |
| **A. Salaries and Benefits** | **Rate $ per Hour** | **# of Hours** | **Total** |
| Administrator |   |   |   |
| Project Coordinator |   |   |   |
| High School Teacher Stipends |   |   |   |
| Post-Secondary Faculty Stipends |   |   |   |
| Support Staff |   |   |   |
| Fringe Benefits |   |   |   |
| **Total Salaries and Benefits** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **B. Contractual Services** | **Rate $ per Hour** | **# of Hours** | **Total** |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| **Total Contractual Services** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **C. Other** |  |  | **Total** |
| Travel |   |   |   |
| Instructional Related Supplies and Materials |   |   |   |
| Other Supplies and Materials – NOT including equipment\* |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| **Other Total** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grant Request Sub Total (Section A + B + C)** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| Indirect Costs (10% Maximum) |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grant Request Total**  |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| ***(Not to exceed $30,000 for first-time applicants. Not to exceed $15,000 for applicants who have received Innovation Pathways implementation funding in the past.)*** |  |  |
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\***This application is not for capital expenses, e.g. technology and equipment**. If requesting funding for equipment, please consider the [Executive Office of Education’s Skills Capital Grant Program](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-skills-capital-grant-program).