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| **Name of Grant Program:** FY22 Innovation Pathways Planning Grant  | **Fund Code: 418**  |

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| PART III – REQUIRED PROGRAM INFORMATION |

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

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**Innovation Pathway**

**Planning Grant Application**

**April 2021**

***For applicants seeking designation in Spring 2022 for school year 2022-2023 enrollment***

**Introduction to Innovation Pathways**
Innovation Pathways are structures within Massachusetts high schools that are designed to connect students to a broadly-designed industry sector that is in demand in the regional and state economy. Schools leverage strong partnerships with employers to provide students career awareness and work-based learning activities. Students 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 post-secondary education and training.

Massachusetts’ Innovation Pathways draws 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.

Innovation Pathway programs are rooted in the five Guiding Principles, approved by the joint Boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education.

1. Principle 1: Equitable Access
2. Principle 2: Guided Academic Pathways
3. Principle 3: Enhanced Student Support
4. Principle 4: Connection to Career
5. Principle 5: Effective Partnerships

Full guidance on Innovation Pathways and the Designation Criteria are available on the DESE website at: [www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/innovation-pathways/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/innovation-pathways/).

**Designation Criteria**

The Pathway designation approval process was designed collaboratively by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Higher 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.

To receive designation as an Innovation Pathway, applicants will be required to demonstrate that its pathways are rooted in all five guiding principles, as follows:

**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 Pathway programs require a formal partnership with a workforce development (*[*MassHire*](https://www.mass.gov/about-masshire)*) board and or 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.*

Additionally, the following six core characteristics of high-quality college and career pathways were developed to ensure that new pathways integrate coherent sets of strategies and services for participating students.

* **Career Advising**

Career advising supports each student to complete a college and career plan during high school that identifies areas of aptitude and interest, explores career opportunities, and establishes a transition path to college, apprenticeship, and/or employment training. This includes helping students surmount obstacles to completion of their plan.

* **Labor Market Information**

The pathway is justified by labor market information related to employer demand and career opportunities.

* **Integrated Instruction**

Students participate in a carefully designed sequence of integrated, rigorous instructional courses relevant to their pathway, including both academic and technical subjects.

* **Work-based Learning**

Students participate in structured work readiness activities and work-based learning experiences.

* **Credential Preparation**

The pathway enables students to make progress toward attainment of an industry-recognized credential or college credits toward a Certificate, Associates, or Baccalaureate degree.

* **Postsecondary Linkages**

Students participate in a wide range of college awareness and engagement activities to inform their postsecondary plan, relating to college, apprenticeship and/or training programs.

The evidence that will be sought from applicants about these six characteristics are embedded in the five Guiding Principles so that the two are aligned and seamless.

**Purpose of Innovation Pathway Planning Grants**

The purpose of the grant is to provide Innovation Pathway program resources to eligible applicants who are planning to seek Innovation Pathway designation from DESE in FY21.

**Innovation Pathway Planning Grant Eligibility and Funding**

Eligible applicants are any Massachusetts school district, charter school, or educational collaborative.

To qualify for competitive funding, applicants must plan to apply for Pathway Designation from DESE in Fall 2021.

An eligible applicant may submit only one application.

$25,000 is available for support to prepare Part A of the Innovation Pathways Designation application.

An additional $5,000 of funding may be requested if a school is planning for pathways in 2 or more sectors.

Preference may be given to applicants who have not received Innovation Pathways grant funding in the past.

The maximum award is up to $30,000.

*Note: $3,000 of the award will be used for staff participation in the College and Career Advising (MyCAP) Professional Development Series in SY2021-22, provided that the school has not competed the series in the past.*

**Primary Contact**

Jennifer Gwatkin, Innovation Pathways Lead, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, jgwatkin@doe.mass.edu; (781) 338-3954

**Innovation Pathway Planning Grant Timeline**

***Application Schedule – Note: There are two deadlines. Applicant may choose either option.***

| Request for Proposals Released  | April 16, 2021 |
| --- | --- |
| Application Due Date | June 24, 2021 at 5PM EST |
| Projected Grant Awards Announcement  | July 15, 2021  |
| Anticipated Contract Start Date  | July 15, 2021 |
| Contract End Date  | June 30, 2022  |  |

**Planning Grant Evaluation**

Applicants must complete the “readiness checklist” and then illustrate in their responses how planning grant funds from the state will help the applicants develop Innovation Pathway programs that will meet 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 eligible applicants who have not received Innovation Pathway Planning Grant funds in the past.**

***Applicant and Partner Information (10 points)***

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| **The lead applicant for an Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant must be an eligible applicant seeking to apply for designation of an Innovation Pathway program.** |
| **Lead Applicant name (District and High School):** |  |
| **Applicant contact:** |  |  |  |  |
| *Name* | *Title* | *Phone* | *Email* |
| **Mailing Address**: |  |
| *Street Address*  |
|  |  |  |
| *City* | *State* | *ZIP* |
| **Phone/Email:** |  |  |
| *Preferred Phone* | *Email Address* |
| **Local MassHire Partner’s Name**: |  |
| **Local MassHire Partner (s) contact:** |  |  |  |  |
| *Name* | *Title* | *Phone* | *Email* |
| **MassHire Mailing Address:** |  |
| *Street Address*  |
|  |  |
| *City* | *State* | *ZIP* |
| **Phone/Email:** |  |  |
| *Preferred Phone* | *Email Address* |
| **Does the secondary institution currently have designated Early College (EC) or Innovation Pathways (IP)? If “yes,” specify which, along with the sector(s), if IP.** | Yes [ ] No [ ] Both [ ] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Specify sectors, if IP) |
| **Please indicate the number of Innovation Pathways (industry sectors) for which you are seeking designation.** |  |
| **Indicate the Priority industry sector(s) your pathway(s) will target:***(For information on your regional blueprint, see Appendix A and* [*https://www.mass.gov/service-details/view-your-regions-blueprint*](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/view-your-regions-blueprint)*.)* | Please check all Priority industry sectors that apply: [ ]  Manufacturing[ ]  Information[ ]  Environmental and Life Sciences[ ]  Health Care and Social Assistance[ ]  Business and Finance |
| **Does the secondary institution currently receive Perkins funding?** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| **Does the secondary institution currently participate in Connecting Activities?** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| **Has the secondary institution already participated in the College and Career Advising (MyCAP) Professional Development Series, sponsored by DESE, in partnership with MASCA (Massachusetts School Counselor Association)?**[[1]](#footnote-1) | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| **If the secondary institution has NOT already participated in the College and Career Advising (MyCAP) Professional Development Series, does the applicant agree to participate in the series in SY2021-2022? *(As noted above, $3000 from the planning grant will be used to pay for staff workshop participation.)*** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |

***Readiness Checklist (20 Points)***

This instrument is designed to help prospective Innovation Pathways applicants self-assess and identify gaps or challenges to developing and implementing a program that will meet the Innovation Pathways Designation Criteria.[[2]](#footnote-2)

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| *Has the secondary institution consulted with the local MassHire board to identify the industry sector(s) identified above?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| *Has the secondary institution consulted with local employers (one or more) in the industry sector(s) identified above?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| *Is the secondary institution positioned to offer the program free of charge to students?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| *Has the secondary institution consulted with students and families to determine interest in the proposed program?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| An Innovation Pathways program must be rigorous, satisfy MassCore, and include in its scope and sequence of courses a minimum of 2 high school courses related to the industry sector category, and separately, 2 college level courses*.**Does the secondary institution currently offer Advanced Placement or Dual-Enrollment courses?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| *Does the secondary institution currently offer technical courses that are aligned with the chosen industry sector(s)?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| Innovation Pathway Programs must create an opportunity for student to complete 100 hours of a career immersion experience in either an internship or capstone class, offering structured work readiness activities and work-based learning experiences*Does the secondary institution currently offer work-based learning experiences (either internships or capstones) in the chosen sector(s)?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| *Does the secondary institution have a student schedule that can accommodate the required 100-hour work-based learning activity?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| Designated Innovation Career Pathway programs should incorporate sufficient wraparound services to promote academic success and completion, taking into consideration the needs of diverse populations of students. *Will you need to develop additional supports for students who are in the program?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| Aligned career and college counseling is a required part of the Pathway Program, including the guided use of MyCAP beginning in 9th grade. *Does the secondary institution already use an online platform, such as Naviance or MEFA Pathways that is integrated into your advising program at the school?* | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |

***Planning Grant Application Narrative (50 Points)***

1. Please indicate your choice of sector(s) and describe your vision and potential for the designated Innovation Pathway program, addressing the anticipated impact for your students, your school and campus, and your region.**Field limited to 1,000 words.**

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1. Having completed the “readiness checklist,” what do you anticipate will be the three greatest challenges to meeting the criteria for Innovation Pathways designation? Please describe each challenge and primary consideration for solutions. **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 2022? **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? **Field limited to 400 words.**

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1. How will your school work with feeder middle schools to solicit engagement in the pathways development process and foster student and family understanding of Innovation Pathways? **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.[[3]](#footnote-3) **Field limited to 400 words.**

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***Upload Template Budget for Competitive 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** |
| Participation in College and Career Advising (MyCAP) Professional Development Series, if the secondary institution has not yet participated. (Applicant must allot $3,000 here.) |   |   |   |
| Applicant is seeking designation of more than one pathway (Applicant may allot $5,000 here.) |  |  |  |
| Instructional Related Supplies and Materials |   |   |   |
| Travel |   |   |   |
| Other Supplies and Materials |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| **Other Total** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grant Request Sub Total (Section A + B + C)** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| Indirect Costs (10% Maximum) |   |   |   |
| **Grant Request Total**  |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| **(Not to exceed $30,000)** |  |  |
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| \*Please note equipment (inclusive of computer hardware, e.g. laptops) and student stipends may not be funded by this planning grant. |  |

1. For more information on the College and Career Advising Professional Development Series, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/ccr/mycap/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See the Innovation Pathways Summary, Preliminary, and Final Designation Criteria, revised April 2020: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/innovation-pathways/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)