

Career and Technical Education

Economic Development Grants (97): 2026-2027

April 2026



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
www.education.pa.gov



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

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Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
A.	Background	1
B.	Purpose and Objectives.....	1
C.	Eligible Applicants.....	1
D.	Application Procedures.....	1
II.	Standard Narrative Content	2
A.	Statement of Need/Funding Justification.....	2
B.	Performance Measures and Evaluation Procedures	2
C.	Personnel	2
D.	Facilities	2
E.	Equity	2
F.	Coordination with Other Programs/Initiatives	2
G.	Action Plan Describing Objectives and Activities	2
III.	General Information	3
A.	Application Deadline	3
B.	How to Apply	3
C.	Risk Assessment	3
D.	Reasons for Disqualification	4
E.	Reasons for the Failure of Applications to be Funded.....	4
F.	Application Review Process.....	4
G.	Notification of Application Approval and Formal Contract	6
H.	Budget Categories for Eligible Expenditures.....	6
IV.	General Administrative Provisions	8
A.	Period for Obligation of Funds by Recipients	8
B.	Time Records	9
V.	Contracts and Subgrant Agreements	9
A.	Funding of Contracts	9
B.	Revisions to Approved Contracts.....	10
C.	Final Expenditure Report	11
D.	Record Keeping and Cost Principles	12
E.	Equipment – Inventory, Usage and Disposition.....	12
F.	Final Performance Report.....	13

I. Introduction

A. Background

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is focused on improving career and technical education (CTE) through increased academic rigor, increased industry relevance, enhanced postsecondary transition, and strengthened state leadership. The Economic Development Grant will support eligible applicants in building CTE capacity and expanding workforce opportunities, specifically for non-traditional students and historically underserved populations in PDE-approved secondary CTE programs.

B. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Economic Development Grant is to advance (1) economic self-sufficiency and individual responsibility for students enrolled in PDE-approved secondary CTE programs, (2) an educated workforce with relevant skills delivered through PDE-approved secondary CTE programs, and (4) a continuous supply of skilled and knowledgeable graduates of PDE-approved secondary CTE programs who meet the needs of Pennsylvania businesses.

This is a competitive grant. Priority will be given to those projects that are able to demonstrate state impact and have proven capacity to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

1. Building the capacity of the workforce investment system through systemic change and continuous improvement of PDE-approved secondary CTE programs;
2. Bringing the existing PDE-approved secondary CTE programs into alignment with the needs of Pennsylvania businesses; and
3. Preparing the students enrolled in PDE-approved secondary CTE programs for successful careers in the new economy.

C. Eligible Applicants

An eligible provider is any education nonprofit organization or educational entity that has at least three years of demonstrated effectiveness in developing CTE professional development practices, advancing CTE best practices aligned to training secondary CTE students for the emerging workforce, and addressing barriers for underserved populations in PDE-approved secondary CTE programs.

Entities that are not able to provide the data needed (i.e. three years) for demonstrated effectiveness are not eligible providers and will not be able to receive grant funds.

D. Application Procedures

1. An applicant must complete an eGrants application for the Economic Development Grant initiative at the [eGrants website](#).
2. The applicant will use the standard narrative format found in the next section of these guidelines.

3. Applicants who receive Economic Development Grants are required to submit a Final Performance Report at the end of the fiscal year. The report template is found at the end of these guidelines and is due to PDE by July 14.

II. Standard Narrative Content

In the application, provide text descriptions for each of the following:

A. Statement of Need/Funding Justification

Provide a narrative that states the chosen objective(s) in these guidelines. Explain why this objective was chosen and how the proposed activities will support the purpose of the funding. Describe in depth the needs of the target population, including the employment rates and labor market data related to Pennsylvania.

B. Performance Measures and Evaluation Procedures

State the chosen objective as described in the statement of needs/funding justification. Next, describe the performance measure for the objective. This is a specific value (usually numerical) representing an acceptable level of achievement. Finally, describe the evaluation methods and procedures that will be used to measure the objective's acceptable level of achievement. Continue these steps for each objective.

C. Personnel

List by name and title all individuals projected to be employed with state funds on this project. Provide the area of certification or credential for persons named on the project and list previous work experience/expertise related to the project activities. Persons responsible for carrying out activities are to be listed and the number of hours that each person will be assigned to work on this project must be included.

D. Facilities

Identify, by address, the physical location of where the project will be located and where project activities will occur.

E. Equity

Describe how gender bias and stereotyping will be eliminated and nontraditional enrollment/employment will be increased PDE approved secondary CTE programs.

F. Coordination with Other Programs/Initiatives

Provide specific examples of coordinated activities. Examples might include such programs as Perkins V, Occupational Advisory Committees, Cooperative Education, Registered Apprenticeship, etc.

G. Action Plan Describing Objectives and Activities

Action plan should include the following:

Objective – State the chosen objective found on Page 1.

Activities – In the columns provided on the eGrants application, list the specific activities that will accomplish the objective, where the activity will take place, the amount of funds that will be used to complete the activity, and a timeline of when the activity will begin and end.

Funds – Identify the funds that will be used to complete the activity. The total amount of funds in the action plan must equal the budget, minus any indirect cost.

Note: Funds cannot be used to pay for student and/or instructor certifications.

III. General Information

A. Application Deadline

All applications must be received by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

B. How to Apply

Individuals wishing to apply for these funds are required to apply through the online eGrants system found at the [eGrants website](#).

The PDE Bureau of Career and Technical Education manages this state-funded program. Send correspondence concerning this funding program to:

Lynn Aul
Career and Technical Education Advisor
Phone: (717) 772-2499
Email: lyaul@pa.gov

C. Risk Assessment

The state must evaluate an applicant's level of risk during the pre-award process and may assign specific conditions. Risk factors to consider include previous non-compliance, were any major issues corrected, new personnel, substantial changes in the system, new grant recipient, and results of any federal monitoring with specific conditions required.

The following questions will assist with the evaluation of the applicant's risk level for any future pre-award process.

1. Is the Director new? If so, provide contact information for Director.
2. Is the Business Manager new? If so, provide contact information for Business Manager.
3. Is the Perkins Project Administrator new? If so, provide contact information for Perkins Project Administrator. Indicate number of months or years as the Perkins Project Administrator.
4. Were there any Perkins' corrective actions in the last two years? If so, provide documentation that all corrections identified in previous Perkins on-site Compliance Reports have been completely satisfied and fully implemented. If corrections haven't

been completed, provide a detailed explanation. If you have not received an on-site visit within the last five years, enter N/A.

5. Were there any Single Audit findings in the last two years? If so, have the findings and corrective actions corrected? If not, please explain. Include the finding and the year.

D. Reasons for Disqualification

Applicants that do not meet the minimum eligibility criteria or are not proposing to develop or operate eligible programs or services to serve eligible clients will be disqualified.

E. Reasons for the Failure of Applications to be Funded

1. Applications with a score of less than 80 points out of 100 total points will not be funded regardless of availability of funds.
2. Failure to have submitted a required Final Performance Report from previous career and technical education grant award.
3. Applicant is identified as not being responsible because of delinquent tax debt, bankruptcy, criminal activity, or other conditions specified in the State Contractor Responsibility Program (see Management Directive 215.9 10/25/2010).
4. All grant awards are contingent upon available funding.

F. Application Review Process

Grant applications will be reviewed and scored by teams of no less than three individuals comprised of staff from PDE, other commonwealth agencies, and/or peer reviewers. Peer reviewers will be non-applicants who have experience in CTE or workforce development related activities. Reviewers will be screened for conflict of interest and will not benefit financially from grant awards.

Description	Points	Score
Statement of Need and Funding Justification	10	
Performance Measures and Evaluation Procedures	20	
Personnel	10	
Facilities	10	
Equity	15	
Coordination with Other Programs/Initiatives	15	
Action Plan Describing Objectives and Activities	20	
Total Score	100	

Reviewers will use the following rubric to determine points awarded for grant applications:

Category	Information is Complete	Partial Information is Provided	Section is Blank
Statement of Need and Funding Justification	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (10)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (5)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)
Performance Measures and Evaluation Procedures	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (20)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (10)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)
Personnel	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (10)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (5)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)
Facilities	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (10)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (5)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)
Equity	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (15)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (7.5)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)
Coordination with Other Programs/ Initiatives	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (15)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (7.5)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)

Category	Information is Complete	Partial Information is Provided	Section is Blank
Action Plan Describing Objectives and Activities	Specific, detailed, and comprehensive. Well-conceived and thoroughly developed. (20)	Vague and non-specific. Limited information is provided. Lacks focus and detail. (10)	The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0)

G. Notification of Application Approval and Formal Contract

PDE will acknowledge an approved application by sending the eligible recipient a notification via the eGrants messaging system. This notification is the interim approval pending full review and execution of the grant agreement. This notification establishes the beginning date for obligating funds for the project.

When notified via the eGrants messaging system that a project is substantially approvable, a copy of the appropriate contracting document will be available online to print and sign. The project number and the total amount of funds and the beginning and ending date of the project, will appear on the grant agreement.

Note: If applicable, follow the directions for using the electronic signature available when your application is substantially approved. Otherwise, the chief school officer must sign and date the grant agreement document and send it (in paper form) to PDE. Individuals authorized to sign contracts or riders are as follows:

1. Career Technology Center (CTC) – Director or Superintendent of Record
2. School District – Superintendent
3. Charter School – Chief School Administrator
4. Intermediate Unit – Executive Director
5. Postsecondary Institution – President and other signatures required on memorandums of understanding
6. Other entity – President or Vice President, and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board

H. Budget Categories for Eligible Expenditures

1. Items requested are those required to implement the activities described in the standard narrative. Each application must contain an itemized budget of all planned expenditures with dollar amounts.
2. Reimbursable costs are limited to the eligible expenditures identified in each function. Support personnel, such as secretaries and clerical staff, are budgeted under the same function as the person(s) they support. Items requested are those required to implement the activities described in the action plan.

3. The budget is separated into various functions in accordance with the [Pennsylvania School Accounting Manual](#). Not all the functions are allowable budget categories for career and technical education projects. Below is a listing of the allowable functions and objects.

a. Functions

- 1) **Instructional (1000)** – Includes all activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers or support personnel and students. It may also be provided through some other approved medium such as television, radio, computers, correspondence, or telephone.
- 2) **Pupil Personnel Services (2100)** – Activities include, but are not limited to, counseling with students and parents, evaluating student abilities, career counseling, and referral and placement assistance.
- 3) **Staff Support Services (2200)** – Activities associated with assisting, supporting, and advising the instructional staff with, or on, the content and process of providing learning experiences for students.
- 4) **Transportation (2700)** – Supplemental transportation services necessary to accommodate special populations of students. Must be in addition to regular pupil transportation services. Educational field trips should be charged to function 1000.
- 5) **Other Financing Uses – Indirect Cost/Operational Cost Rate (5000)**
 - a) Used in conjunction with Object Code 900. An operational rate of 6 percent of the total budget (excluding equipment) is allowable.
 - b) The maximum indirect costs should be the product of the amount of direct costs (excluding equipment) and the state operational rate. (direct costs – equipment) x 0.0600 = maximum allowed indirect cost amount
 - c) Direct costs equal the sum of all allowable expenses in Objects and Functions
 - d) Indirect Cost is calculated on Direct Costs, excluding equipment.

All budget figures must be rounded to the nearest dollar.

b. Object Codes

- 1) **Salaries – Object Code 100** – Show position and number of hours assigned to the project and dollar amount.
- 2) **Benefits – Object Code 200** – Charge as the same percent as applicable salaries. May be budgeted as a composite rate. Under the description, show the composite rate. The amount charged must be the net of offsetting revenue received from the Commonwealth.
- 3) **Purchased Professional and Technical Services – Object Code 300** – Show name of contractor (if known), purpose of contracted service, number

of days and rate of pay. Copies of subcontracts may be requested by PDE. The eGrants system allows 50 spaces for description. Be as descriptive as possible.

- 4) **Other Purchased Services – Object Code 500** – Includes costs associated with employee travel limited to within the commonwealth. Reimbursement must be at or below state rates for subsistence and government rates for lodging, if available. Higher rates may be charged if it is the policy of the grantee and is so indicated in the master agreement with PDE or in an official policy statement of the grantee. Other costs include contracted transportation of students for field trips, telephone, postage, printing, and advertising. Note: Unnecessary costs to complete the program will not be funded. The eGrants system provides a dropdown box to choose the various categories of costs. Conference expenses are to be recorded separately from daily travel reimbursements.
- 5) **Supplies and Materials – Object Code 600** – Includes educational materials, supplies, software, hand tools, books and equipment items costing less than \$1,500 per item. Provide a brief description. Note: Unnecessary costs to complete the program will not be funded.
- 6) **Indirect Cost/Operational Cost Rate – Object Code 900** – See information under **Functions, Other Financing Uses – Indirect Cost/Operational Cost Rate (5000)**.

IV. General Administrative Provisions

A. Period for Obligation of Funds by Recipients

- 1. The PDE Bureau of Career and Technical Education determines the beginning date and period of obligation of each project when the total application is received in substantially approvable form. The bureau acknowledges the completeness of each application via notification on the eGrants system. The period during which funds may be obligated is also indicated on the contract or rider submitted as part of the complete application. The document must be printed after the project is substantially approved on the eGrants system.
- 2. Determination of Obligations – The following table shows when a grantee of PDE makes obligations for various kinds of property and services. This is not a list of approvable expenditures.

If the obligation is for:	The obligation is made:
Acquisition of real or personal property	On the date that the eligible recipient makes a binding written commitment to obtain the property
Personal services by an employee of the eligible recipient	When the services are performed

If the obligation is for:	The obligation is made:
Personal services by a person who is not an employee of the eligible recipient	On the date that eligible recipient makes a binding written commitment to obtain the services
Performance of work other than personal services	On the date that the eligible recipient makes a binding written commitment to obtain the work
Public utility services	When the eligible recipient receives the services
Travel	When the travel is taken
Rental of real or personal property	When the eligible recipient uses the property

B. Time Records

Time records must be maintained for all salaried staff spending less than 100 percent time of their time on the project (this includes full-time educational agency staff who are working on more than one project). Time records must be reported for 100 percent of staff's time, even though only a portion is charged to the project. Failure to maintain time and effort records will result in audit citations and/or contract termination.

V. Contracts and Subgrant Agreements

Agreements for funding between PDE and the eligible recipient are in the form of a binding agreement. This agreement will be in the form of a Standard Contract or a Subgrant Agreement depending on the type of entity receiving the award. The eGrants system will print the appropriate document. All school districts, CTCs, intermediate units, and most postsecondary institutions now utilize a Grant Agreement.

A. Funding of Contracts

1. Payment Schedule

All projects are placed on a system of scheduled payments to provide operating funds during the period of the project. Monthly payments are determined by dividing the project amount by the number of months that the contract operates. PDE's Comptroller's Office will initiate payments upon approval of the project. In the event the start of payment is delayed, the Comptroller's Office will include back payments in the initial project payment up to a maximum of four monthly payments. No scheduled payments will be issued after the end of the project period.

2. Reconciliation of Cash on Hand Quarterly Reports (PDE-2030)

The Reconciliation of Cash on Hand Quarterly Reports are due on the 10th working day after each quarter (10th working day of October, January, April and July). All grant recipients are required to submit their quarterly reports electronically using the Financial Accounting Information (FAI) website. Paper copies will not be accepted

and will not be returned. Such reports will be considered delinquent. In order to use the FAI system, you need to first register for security clearance to use the PDE web portal at www.education.pa.gov. Click on “MyPDESuite” in the taskbar, middle of the page. Click on “Visit the MyPDESuite login page” under the **Login** heading, enter your username and password, click “Log In,” then click on the FAI hyperlink. Technical questions relating to the PDE web portal should be directed to the PDE Information Technology Help Desk at (717) 783-1087 or use the “Contact Us” link in the top right corner of the login page of the [eGrants website](#).

For payment related questions or assistance in completion of the quarterly report, email Comptroller Operations at ra-FAIECS@pa.gov.

- a. The quarterly reporting will begin with the first quarter in which payments are received. For example, if the first payment is received in November, the first quarterly report is due in January. Quarters end September 30, December 31, March 31, and June 30. If all payments are received by June 30, there is no need to submit a report for this quarter.
- b. Failure to submit the quarterly report on time or electronically will result in suspension of scheduled payments until the report is received.
- c. Quarterly reports can also be used to request an acceleration of payments because of unusual cash needs, such as a large purchase. Use the Comments section of the report to explain the need for an accelerated payment.

B. Revisions to Approved Contracts

The request for revisions must follow the same procedures as on the eGrants application. The revision feature will be available only after the original application is in “final approved” status.

If a revision is necessary, it must be submitted from January 15 through March 31 of each fiscal year. The eGrants system will not accept any revisions after March 31.

Revisions to approved projects shall be initiated by completing the applicable components of the eGrants application online.

No revisions may be made until a project has final approval.

No edits are permitted to the Narrative sections when completing a Budget Revision. Changing Narrative responses will not be approved, therefore will delay the approval of your Budget Revision.

Once Revisions have been closed in eGrants, any costs in a previously unbudgeted function or object code(s) will not be permitted. The Final Expenditure Report will be adjusted and/or the LEA will need to return funding to the State.

A project revision must be submitted under any of the following conditions:

1. Costs need to be budgeted in a previously unbudgeted function or object.
2. Changes are requested in equipment items (either new substitutions or quantity changes).

3. A budget revision is required to transfer funds from one or more budget function or object categories to other function or object categories when there is a variance in any major category of expenditure that exceeds 10 percent of the category amount in the approved budget.

For example, the grantee's approved budget for Object 100—Salaries is \$115,785.00, with a 10 percent variance allowed of \$11,578.50. The grantee has spent or encumbered \$153,431.13 in Object 100. The grantee has exceeded the approved budget amount by \$37,646.13, or 33 percent, and is over the 10 percent variance by \$26,067.63.

Programmatic changes (changes that involve or alter the objective of the project) need prior approval, even if within the approved parameters.

C. Final Expenditure Report

All grant recipients are required to submit their Final Expenditure Reports (FER) electronically using the PDE eGrants website. Paper copies will not be accepted and will not be returned. If an electronic copy of the report with an electronic signature on page one is not submitted, the report will be considered delinquent. Instructions for completing the FER are available on [PDE's website](#).

1. The Final Expenditure Report (FER) is due no later than 60 days after the close of the project (close of the project is June 30, FER is due August 31). Final Expenditure Reports may be submitted only after completion of project activities and payment of all obligations. All obligations must be encumbered on or before June 30. All obligations must be paid in full (on or before August 31) when the FER is submitted. However, recipients should submit the FER as soon as all project obligations are paid.
2. PDE's Bureau of Career and Technical Education, will conduct a review of the FER for completeness, accuracy, and budget compliance. Approved reports are forwarded to the Comptroller's Office for closure and final payment. Reports found to be incomplete or incorrect are returned to the recipient for further explanation or correction.
3. Costs found to be unallowable will be deducted from the total expenditures claimed and will either be subtracted from the final payment or requested as a refund. Upon receipt of notification of a disallowance, a recipient may write to Elizabeth Brennan at the address below and request reconsideration by explaining the reason for the request. Any documentation that will substantiate the recipient's request should accompany the letter. A notification will be sent to the recipient regarding the Bureau's decision. If the recipient is dissatisfied with the response, a request for further reconsideration may be sent to Judd Pittman, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, at the address below.

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Career and Technical Education
607 South Drive, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600

4. If circumstances prevent timely submission of the report due to a large volume of information being collected, approval for an extension of time must be requested by writing to Elizabeth Brennan at Bureau of Career and Technical Education; either at address below or by emailing elbrennan@pa.gov. An extension will not be approved because of outstanding obligations.
5. PDE reserves the right to stop any and all payments of state and federal funds to a recipient for failure to submit the Final Expenditure Report within 60 days after the close of the project. If a recipient fails to submit a Final Expenditure Report, even after notification of delinquency, PDE may require the recipient to return all funds advanced under the project.
6. Any omissions in, or corrections to, the initial submission may be made by submitting a revised Final Expenditure Report. Revised Final Expenditure Reports must be submitted no later than four months after the original due date.
7. A check for any unused funds **must be sent to PDE along with** an electronically signed copy of **page one of the FER**. The check should be made payable to the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** and mailed to Mukta Sharma at the address below.

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Career and Technical Education
607 South Dr, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600

8. Questions concerning the instructions for completion of the Final Expenditure Report should be directed to Mukta Sharma, PA Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education at (717) 395-9294 or at email address msharma@pa.gov.

D. Record Keeping and Cost Principles

1. Each grant recipient is required to maintain adequate records to provide full disclosure of grant expenditures. Such records include purchase orders, invoices, payroll records, time, and effort records in support of payroll, bid solicitation, contracts, and checks issued.
2. Each grant recipient shall retain records of grant activities for six years after completion of the activity for which they use grant funds as required by the Public School Code. Equipment records shall be maintained for six years.

E. Equipment – Inventory, Usage and Disposition

1. Equipment is defined as items of equipment costing \$1,500 or more per item.
2. Equipment purchased with a state-funded grant should be used primarily for the purposes of the grant. During idle periods, the equipment may be used for other purposes.
3. Grant recipients are required to maintain an inventory of equipment purchased with grant funds and take steps to safeguard such equipment.

4. When equipment is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was acquired, the grant recipient should contact the program advisor in the Bureau of Career and Technical Education for disposition instructions.

F. Final Performance Report

An annual Final Performance Report is required to demonstrate that a self-evaluation has taken place to track progress toward achieving goals. Progress is tracked through documentation of Assurances, Expenditures, and Narrative Report.

The 2025-2026 Final Performance Report (Interim Report) must be submitted online via the eGrants system prior to final approval of a new contract for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Paper copies will not be accepted and will not be returned. If an electronic copy of the report is not submitted, the report will be considered delinquent.

The 2025-2026 Final Performance Report must be submitted on/or before July 14 for an applicant to be eligible for continued funding.

Similarly, in order to be eligible for future funding after approval and receipt in ensuing years, a Final Performance Report is required at the end of the 2026-2027 cycle for all grant-receiving entities in said cycle.

For information and guidance on the Final Performance Report, contact:

Lynn Aul
Career and Technical Education Advisor
Phone: (717) 772-2499
Email: lyaul@pa.gov