

CWTP CTE Questions

The following list are questions received by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation ("PennDOT") and are reproduced below as received. However, PennDOT redacted personally identifiable information in the below reproduction.

Question #	Question	Answer
1	Question 1: Could this grant be used for the purchase of a new CDL truck and the updating of our current lot like repaving etc? This would allow us to expand the program to offer it to more students thus creating a stronger pipeline.	Answer 1: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. Please refer to the

		NOFO page 11 in Section "What award conditions apply to this funding opportunity?" PennDOT reserves the right to negotiate scope, budget, and performance measures; make partial awards; not make an award to any Applicant; and consider geographic distribution and overall Program balance when selecting Grantees. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
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2	Question 2: Would grant funds be eligible to support cooperative education student wages? Currently, I partner with Workforce Solutions to reimburse employers for 50% of student wages (up to \$3,000 per student). Unfortunately, that funding has recently been reduced and is now limited to students working in the manufacturing sector. If PennDOT grant funds could be used for this purpose, I would be able to provide wage reimbursement for students in our construction and automotive programs. This would be a tremendous benefit to the employers we partner with, while also expanding opportunities for students to participate in cooperative education	Answer 2: Student wages are not eligible for reimbursement. Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs, and 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
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	and gain valuable work-based learning experience. Because student wage reimbursement is not directly related to equipment or curriculum, I wanted to confirm whether it would be an eligible use of the grant.	
3	Question 3: We are working on adding heavy equipment program. Would this grant apply to the heavy equipment field?	Answer 3: Please see the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the FHWA program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving

		each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
4	Question 4: I would like to include the purchase of a truck or equipment that would allow us to better train individuals to the needs of PennDot Operators. I would really like to look at the opportunity to include a repaving and	Answer 4: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the FHWA program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?"

	restriping of our CDL lot in the grant to better assist our drivers on preparing for the skills portion of the CDL licensing exam.	An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
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5	Question 5: Intermediate Unit Eligibility: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is an educational service agency established under the Pennsylvania Public School Code that provides educational programming, workforce development initiatives, career readiness programming, and work-based learning opportunities for students and young adults [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. Would a Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit qualify as an eligible Pennsylvania Educational Institution (PEI) and be permitted to serve as the primary applicant for this grant program?	Answer 5: See page 2 of the NOFO, which refers to eligible applicants.
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6	Question 6: Heavy Highway Electrical Curriculum Eligibility: The funding opportunity identifies electricians among the Heavy Highway Industry trades experiencing workforce shortages. However, electrician or electrical training does not appear in the list of eligible occupations for curriculum expansion under Options 1 and 2 on pages 4 and 5 of the NOFO. Would a curriculum focused specifically on Heavy Highway electrical occupations qualify as eligible curriculum under this funding opportunity? Examples may include: Traffic signal systems , Roadway and bridge lighting , Underground conduit and electrical infrastructure, Work-zone electrical safety ,	Answer 6: You may submit an application that fully documents your request based on the information PennDOT has provided. PennDOT cannot determine eligibility until review of full application. Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2.
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	Heavy Highway electrical construction practices , Electrical apprenticeship preparation aligned with transportation-related occupations	
7	Question 7: Third-Party Training Providers If an Intermediate Unit or other eligible Pennsylvania Educational Institution serves as the primary applicant, may grant funds be used to contract with a third-party training provider to deliver Heavy Highway Industry curriculum, provided all procurement and grant requirements are met?	Answer 7: See page 2 of the NOFO, which refers to eligible applicants.
8	Question 8: [REDACTED] is preparing an application for the PennDot CTE grant and has a question regarding the Federal Lobbying Certification Form. We pulled the attached	Answer 8: Please complete the Lobbying Forms to the best of your ability. For #6, the Federal Department/Agency is the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway

	version from the keystone grants portal and are confused as to how to complete it, since we have no lobbying activities to report. Do we leave it blank in boxes 5-10? Any guidance on how to complete this is appreciated.	Administration. For #7, the Federal Program Name/Description is If additional information is needed, PennDOT will contact you. Please reference the NOFO Addendum under the eGrants/Forms section to see all forms that are requested in the application.
9	Question 9: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] currently has an automotive and diesel program at their facility. They are looking to establish a CDL training program that would be a new program to their curriculum and would be ideally offered to both students and adults. This would likely fall under Option 2 in the program guidelines. Assuming this would be a viable application, I have some specific	N/A

	questions as it relates to the application submission and the funding.	
	Question 9(a): Are we able to include within the budget/application funds to assist with both standing up the program and the salary of the instructor and/or the cost to get someone certified to teach this program?	Answer 9(a): Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
	Question 9(b): Are we able to submit for equipment costs that are necessary to stand up this program such as the truck, etc.	Answer 9(b):

		Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the FHWA program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. Determination will be made upon receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards.
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		PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
	Question 9(c): Are you able to use funds as it relates to site prep and renovations that might need to be done at the current facility to house this program?	Answer 9(c): Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the FHWA program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed.

		Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
	Question 9(d): What does the reimbursement draw down look like?	Answer 9(d): Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum, "What Types of expenses can be reimbursed"? Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and

		approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
	Question 9(e): Are you able to submit for reimbursement as you have expenditures or do you need to wait until all funds are exhausted to then submit? Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.	Answer 9(e): Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
10	Question 10: Equipment Purchases The NOFO indicates that equipment with a per-	Answer 10:

	unit cost of \$5,000 or more generally requires prior written approval. If approved, may grant funds be used to purchase heavy equipment that will be used exclusively for Heavy Highway workforce training? If so, what documentation should be included with the application or submitted during the grant process?	Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of the FHWA program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards.
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		PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
11	Question 11: Work-Based Learning Requirement The NOFO requires that at least 10% of the award be dedicated to field and work-based learning. May this requirement include costs associated with internship coordination, transportation, personal protective equipment (PPE), student wages (where applicable), employer supervision, and other direct expenses related to work-based learning experiences?	Answer 11: PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
12	Question 12: Expansion of Existing Curriculum For applicants expanding an existing program,	Answer 12: The requirement that an applicant service at least twenty additional students applies to the term of the grant period of performance,

	the NOFO states that the project must serve at least 20 additional students. Is this requirement measured annually, over the full grant performance period, or by individual cohort?	which is the date of the last signature on the fully executed grant agreement through the period of performance date: September 30, 2029.
13	Question 13: Student Financial Assistance The NOFO identifies tuition and direct educational expenses as allowable costs and also references separate PennDOT supportive services funding for eligible students. May grant-funded tuition assistance be coordinated with Title IV financial aid, WIOA funding, or other eligible financial assistance sources, provided there is no duplication of benefits?	Answer 13: PennDOT cannot comment on the requirements of other assistance outside of PennDOT programs. A close review of other programs, by an applicant would be needed to answer this question. However, applicants may receive CTE program funds, even if they receive funds from another source, provided an applicant has confirmed that other sources of funding do not restrict or otherwise limit the receipt of other funds, such as CTE program funds.

14	Question 14: 5. Project Management and Data Reporting Are personnel costs associated with grant administration, performance reporting, employer coordination, and data collection allowable if they are directly attributable to the implementation and management of the funded project?	Answer 14: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs, and 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
15	Question 15: Regarding the Budget section of the web application, is the department requiring applicants to enter the total dollar amount in each section, e.g. Administration \$50,000.00, and create their own version of a Budget	Answer 15: The applicant is required to submit a line-item project budget and budget justification as a requirement for the narrative on page 10 of the program requirements.

	Narrative, to be uploaded in the Attachments section of the web application?	
16	Question 16: What types of curriculum are eligible for expansion under Options 1 and 2? Twelve areas are listed as eligible for expansion on pages 4 and 5. Should the proposer develop all or could be selective. For example, just do two of them?	Answer 16: Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2.
17	Question 17: On Page 1, it is stated that each eligible applicant will be awarded up to \$500K. Further down on Page 3, it is stated that the program funding may be used to develop and implement new technical training curriculum or expand technical training curriculum and/or delivery. Is it the correct understanding that under expanded curriculum, the program must provide training to 40 students?	Answer 17: If the curriculum is new, it must serve at least 20 students during the period of performance. If the proposal expands an existing curriculum, the expanded curriculum must serve at least 20 additional students during the period of performance. See NOFO page 3, under: "What types of projects are eligible for funding."

18	Question 18: The RFP indicates one letter from an industry partner, however the system upload indicates three letters from an industry partner are required. Please clarify which guidance should be followed	Answer 18: One letter is required; however, additional letters can be uploaded. See page 10 of NOFO.
19	Question 19: Under "What types of projects are eligible for funding?" (Options 1 and 2), an expanded-curriculum application must serve at least 20 additional students. Can those 20 students be counted across a combined program that covers more than one Heavy Highway Industry occupation (for example, carpentry along with other eligible trades), or does the 20-student threshold have to be met within a single occupation?	Answer 19: PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2.

20	Question 20: Under "Are grantees required to partner with workforce development entities and/or employers?" and "What additional documentation will Applicants be required to submit?": if we already have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a partner that includes one of the required commitment elements, can that MOU serve as the letter of commitment, or do we need to submit a separate letter as well? Also, does PennDOT have a suggested template for the letter of commitment?	Answer 20: Please refer to the NOFO Addendum under "What additional documentation will Applicants be required to submit"? section.
21	Question 21: Under "What types of curriculum are eligible for expansion under	

	Options 1 and 2?", we would like to confirm whether the following might be eligible:	
	21 a. Bridge painting	Answer 21 a: An applicant may submit any curriculum that serves the Heavy Highway Industry. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
	21b. A drone/UAS program that trains students in aerial surveying, construction-site mapping, and bridge/structure inspection;	Answer 21b: An applicant may submit any curriculum that serves the Heavy Highway Industry. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
	21c. CAD instruction that supports surveying and highway/bridge design; and	Answer 21c:

		An applicant may submit any curriculum that serves the Heavy Highway Industry. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
	21d. CAD instruction as part of diesel mechanic and fabrication training — for example, designing and modeling replacement parts and equipment components.	Answer 21d: An applicant may submit any curriculum that serves the Heavy Highway Industry. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
	Question 22: Under "What types of expenses can be reimbursed?": the allowable expenses include student internships and on-the-job training, but salaries are excluded from tuition	Answer 22: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student

	and direct educational expenses. When an earn-and-learn or work-based learning activity requires paying participants (Davis-Bacon or the \$15/hour minimum), can that participant pay be reimbursed from grant funds, or does it have to be covered by the employer or partner outside the grant?	activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
23	Question 23: Under "What types of expenses can be reimbursed?" and "What types of projects are eligible for funding?" (Options 1 and 2): when a school contracts with an outside partner or provider to deliver curriculum or instruction on its behalf, are the fees paid to that provider reimbursable? The third-party training provider allowance is stated directly under Option 3, and	Answer 23: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of FHWA's program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value.

	we want to confirm that contracted delivery is also reimbursable under Options 1 and 2, and how those provider fees relate to the exclusion of salaries.	PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
24	Question 24: Under "What are the scoring criteria?" (Criterion 1f, facilities and resources): for a cyber charter school that delivers much of its hands-on, field, and work-based learning	Answer 24: All scoring will be evaluated based on the criteria in the NOFO, pages 13 and 14. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving

	through partners and community sites rather than school-owned facilities, which is the model Option 3 anticipates, how will "availability of facilities and resources" be evaluated for partner-delivered instruction?	each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
25	Question 25: In the NOFO information, it notes: Costs must be reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable Federal requirements. The following costs are generally not eligible for reimbursement under the Program unless expressly approved in writing by PennDOT and permitted by law: General institutional overhead or indirect costs not supported as allowable under the approved budget. Clarification?	Answer 25: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A).
26	Question 26: The NOFO also notes that the funding for the program is 100% federal. If our	Answer 25:

	institution has a federally negotiated indirect rate, would indirect costs be allowable, as they would be "permitted by law?"	Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A).
27	Question 27: “20 Additional Students” The Funding Opportunity states that expanded curriculum applications must serve at least 20 additional students. Our proposed project would expand an existing CTE program that currently serves more than 45 students, with all students enrolled in the program receiving the new grant-funded HHI curriculum and training. For	Answer 27: If the curriculum is new, it must serve at least 20 students during the period of performance. If the proposal expands an existing curriculum, the expanded curriculum must serve at least 20 additional students during the period of performance. See NOFO page 3 under: “What types of projects are eligible for funding.”

	purposes of this requirement, would students newly receiving the expanded HHI curriculum be considered “additional students” served, or does the requirement mean that enrollment in the existing program must increase by at least 20 students above current enrollment?	
28	Question 28: 10% Field and Work-Based Learning Set-Aside: For Options 1 and 2, at least 10% of awarded funding must be set aside for field and work-based learning. Please clarify how the required 10% is calculated and which allowable expenditures may be counted toward the set-aside. For example, may direct costs necessary to provide field/work-based learning, including student transportation to industry sites,	Answer 28: Applicants must commit in the application to a ten percent set-aside and must provide an industry commitment letter to show that the opportunities will be available. Grantees will be expected to maintain documentation and report progress to demonstrate field and work-based learning during the period of performance.

	required PPE and materials, internship costs, industry-based training, and pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship activities, be counted toward the required 10%?	Some of the expense examples may qualify for supportive services. Please refer to the NOFO page 14 for information regarding supportive services. Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
29	Question 29: Equipment – Prior Written Approval: The Funding Opportunity permits equipment costs	Answer 29: If a grantee’s application is selected and a grant agreement is fully executed, then the

	subject to applicable federal requirements and states that certain equipment generally requires prior written approval from FHWA or the State DOT acting as the pass-through entity. If equipment is specifically identified, priced, and justified in the application and subsequently included in PennDOT's approved project scope and line-item budget, does that constitute the required prior written approval? If not, what additional approval is required, and when must it be obtained before the District issues a purchase order or otherwise commits funds?	grantee is approved for the activities proposed in its application.
30	Question 30: Reimbursement – Requirements Before Committing Funds: For an expenditure included in an approved project scope and budget, what additional approvals, if any, must be obtained before the District issues a purchase order, executes a contract, or otherwise commits	Answer 30: Once a grant agreement is fully executed, a grantee may begin work in accordance with the agreement.

	funds in order to preserve eligibility for reimbursement? Are there specific categories of expenditures or dollar thresholds, in addition to the equipment requirements identified in the Funding Opportunity, that require separate prior approval?	
31	Question 31: Pre-Expenditure Confirmation: For significant expenditures, will grantees have a process to obtain written confirmation from PennDOT that a planned expenditure is consistent with the approved scope and eligible for reimbursement before committing institutional funds? If so, what process should a grantee follow to obtain that confirmation?	Answer 31: PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If a grantee's application is selected and a grant agreement is fully executed, then the grantee is approved for the activities proposed in its application. Once a grant agreement is fully executed, a grantee may begin work in accordance with the agreement.
32	Question 32: Reimbursement Process and Payment Timeline: How frequently may grantees submit reimbursement requests, what	Answer 32: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's

	documentation will be required with a complete reimbursement request, and what is the anticipated timeframe for PennDOT's review and payment of a complete request?	review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
33	Question 33: Questioned or Denied Reimbursement Requests: If PennDOT questions a reimbursement request because of documentation, procurement, allowability, or another compliance concern, will the grantee receive notice identifying the specific concern and have an opportunity to provide clarification, additional documentation, or corrective information before reimbursement is denied? If all or part of a reimbursement request is denied, what	Answer 33: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process.

	reconsideration, administrative review, or other dispute-resolution process is available to the grantee?	
34	Question 34: (Previously Approved Expenditures: If PennDOT provides written approval for a specific expenditure before the grantee commits funds, and the grantee subsequently incurs that expenditure during the approved period of performance in accordance with the approved scope and budget and applicable procurement and documentation requirements, under what circumstances could the expenditure later be determined ineligible for reimbursement?	Answer 34: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
35	Question 35: Procurement Requirements: The Funding Opportunity requires grantees to use applicable competitive procedures but does not identify specific procurement thresholds or	Answer 35: Please refer to NOFO page 10. In addition, public procurement entities are required to comply with the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa.

	procedures. What procurement standards and thresholds will apply to purchases under this award, and will PennDOT provide written procurement guidance to funded grantees before expenditures are incurred?	C.S.. Grantees may contact PennDOT at the resource account on the program webpage during the period of performance, for general guidance regarding compliance questions.
36	Question 36 any specific Budget and Project Modifications: If actual costs differ from the estimates in the approved budget, or circumstances require a change to an approved budget line, equipment item, activity, curriculum component, timeline, work-based learning activity, or project partner, what process should a grantee follow to obtain approval before incurring the affected expenditure? Are there	Answer 36 : Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about amendments and adjustments.

	budget modification thresholds below which prior PennDOT approval is not required?	
37	Question 37: Performance Projections and Reimbursement: The Funding Opportunity requests anticipated or estimated outcomes related to students served, work-based learning, credentials, apprenticeship/OJT opportunities, and employment. Are these projections performance targets for reporting and evaluation, or minimum performance conditions of the grant award? If a grantee implements the approved project and complies with grant requirements but actual outcomes differ from projections due to enrollment, student participation, completion, employer hiring	Answer 37: PennDOT expects that all commitments made in the application and grant agreement will be met. PennDOT will rely on the applicant's representations when providing the grant funds. The grant agreement will provide for enforcement for noncompliance. Please reference the NOFO, page 14, Performance Outcomes.

	decisions, labor-market conditions, or other circumstances, would that affect reimbursement of otherwise allowable and properly documented expenditures?	
38	Question 38: Monitoring Findings and Corrective Action: The Funding Opportunity states that PennDOT may conduct desk reviews, request supporting documentation, and perform monitoring activities to verify progress and compliance. If monitoring identifies an area requiring improvement or a compliance deficiency, what process will PennDOT follow? Will the grantee receive written notice of the finding and an opportunity to address the issue or implement corrective action within a specified timeframe? Please clarify the process and timelines for resolving monitoring findings and under what circumstances a monitoring finding could affect reimbursement or result in repayment or other financial action.	Answer 38: Remedies will be in accordance with the contract, and opportunities to rectify problems will be proportional to the severity of the issues presented.
39	Question 39: Material Changes During Implementation: If unforeseen circumstances require a material change or reduction in an	Answer 39: Grantees may contact PennDOT at the resource account on the program webpage

	approved project after implementation has begun, what process should the grantee follow with PennDOT? If the District has already incurred and received reimbursement for allowable, approved, and properly documented expenditures before such a change occurs, under what circumstances, if any, could those previously reimbursed expenditures become subject to repayment?	during the period of performance, for general guidance regarding compliance questions.
40	Question 40: Equipment Ownership and Disposition: For equipment purchased with Program funds, what ownership, inventory, use, and disposition requirements will apply during the grant period and after the period of performance ends?	Answer 40: PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.

41	Question 41: Contracted Grant Administration and Compliance Services: May grant funds be used to reimburse contracted professional services for post-award grant administration, fiscal/compliance support, reimbursement preparation, required reporting, or other administrative services necessary to manage the funded project? If so, are there limitations, prior-approval requirements, procurement requirements, or documentation requirements applicable to these costs?	Answer 41: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement. Under the agreement, a grantee will be required to obtain PennDOT's written consent before assigning or transferring its rights or duties.
42	Question 42: Local Fiscal and Administrative Controls: In addition to the financial recordkeeping, procurement, documentation, reporting, and record-retention requirements	Answer 42: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the grant requirements. The grantee will be required to submit expense

	identified in the Funding Opportunity, are there specific local fiscal or administrative controls PennDOT will expect grantees to maintain for this award? For example, are there specific requirements for segregation of duties, expenditure approvals, grant-specific accounting or coding, equipment inventory controls, personnel/time documentation, reconciliation of expenditures to reimbursement requests, or other internal controls? Will PennDOT provide grantees with fiscal and administrative guidance before grant expenditures begin?	receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
43	Question 43: Student Data and FERPA: For secondary educational institutions subject to FERPA, will required reporting of student	Answer 43: PennDOT may require participants' names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, grade level, documentation for class

	enrollment, participation, completion, credentials, work-based learning, and outcomes be submitted in aggregate/de-identified form, or will PennDOT require student-level personally identifiable information? If student-level personally identifiable information is required, what data elements will be collected and what data-sharing, privacy, security, and retention requirements will apply?	completion, and further information for compliance and auditing purposes.
44	Question 44: Scope of Curriculum Expansion: For an Option 1 project that expands an existing CTE curriculum, does PennDOT require a minimum number of new HHI instructional hours, competencies, credentials, or percentage of curriculum to constitute an eligible expansion,	Answer 44: Instructional hours, competencies, credentials, and percentage of curriculum will vary based on the program selected. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and

	or will the sufficiency of the expansion be evaluated based on the overall scope and impact described in the application?	reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
45	Question 45: Documentation of Existing vs. Expanded Curriculum: For an Option 1 application, does PennDOT have a preferred method for demonstrating which curriculum, competencies, credentials, equipment-based instruction, and work-based learning opportunities currently exist and which components will be newly added or expanded through the grant?	Answer 45: Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity pages 4 and 5 and the Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit.
46	Question 46: Can grant funds be used to pay stipends to staff or faculty for time spent leading program activities, developing new curriculum,	Answer 46: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of

	or delivering training under this grant? The funding opportunity notes that tuition and direct educational expenses exclude salaries, so we want to confirm whether staff stipends for these specific curriculum development and program leadership activities are treated differently and would be an eligible expense. (pg.6)	students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs, and 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
47	Question 47: Can PennDOT provide a specific, itemized list of final deliverables required at grant closeout (e.g., final curriculum documents, completion reports, credential verification), separate from the periodic financial and performance reports described in the funding opportunity? (pg.11)	Answer 47: Grantees will be expected to complete a grant closeout report. Closeout requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

48	Question 48: (Salaries and Wages) Could program funds be used to hire a full-time faculty member to recruit students, develop needed curriculum, teach content, and oversee all internships and placements for a Postbaccalaureate Certification Program in Construction Project Management with a focus on HHI?	Answer 48: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs and 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
49	Question 49: If awarded, when can PEIs expect to be able to start programming/have fully executed grant agreement?	Answer 49: Programming can begin once the grant agreement is fully executed.
50	Question 50: The RFP states that a Project Summary and Project Narrative are required extra documentation. Where should these be uploaded	Answer 50: Please see the addendum, section “What additional documentation will Applicants be required to submit”, for specific instructions

	in the submission site as the addenda tab does not have a section for either of these?	regarding uploading Project Summary, Narrative, and at least one Letter of Commitment documenting strong workforce development and employer partner relationships relative to the proposed project.
51	Question 51: On page 2, it states that the grantees are required to partner with workforce development entities. Further down, it states that the applications must include letter of commitment from an industry partner. One question is if “workforce development entity” and “industry partner” are used interchangeably in this document and refer to the same entity.	Answer 51: Please see the NOFO, pages 2 and 3. and section: “Are grantees required to partner with workforce development entities and/or employers?”

52	Question 52: On page 2, it also asks for a letter of commitment from an industry partner. It states that the letter is to demonstrate strong partnership, but what is it that is needed from the workforce development entity? For example, should they make a commitment that upon completion of the program, they will hire the student or students who have completed the program? Or, should they state that they will provide a post-training opportunity after completion of the program, or should they state that they will be able to provide work-based learning opportunity during the program? Or maybe all of these? So, in brief, what kind of commitment is needed from	Answer 52: Please see the NOFO, pages 2 and 3. section: "Are grantees required to partner with workforce development entities and/or employers?" The applicant must determine the commitment between itself and its partners.
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	the industry partner (which is assumed to be the same as workforce development entity)?	
53	Question 53: What entities would be considered as industry partners stated in the document and if they are the same as workforce development partners. Could organizations such as paving contractors or construction contractors also count as workforce development partners or industry partners to team with, or we should only consider entities such as vocational schools, institutions of construction education, etc.	Answer 53: Please see the NOFO, pages 2 and 3 section: "Are grantees required to partner with workforce development entities and/or employers?"
54	Question 54: (Curriculum) The curriculum eligible for expansion under Options 1 and 2, do we need to provide training for what's included in the entire list or can we focus on one or two curriculum?	Answer 54: Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2.

55	Question 55: For the budget, is there a line-item budget or just a dollar figure?	Answer 55: A line-item budget is required.
56	Question 56: Is there limitations on the amount of grant funding awarded towards purchasing equipment to facilitate the execution of the curriculum?	Answer 56: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of FHWA’s program guidance in Section: “Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?” An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed.

		Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
57	Question 57: Is there specific or optimal allocation within the 500K per school that should be designated towards equipment, curriculum development and instructor training?	Answer 57: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of FHWA's program guidance in Section: "Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?" An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. Determination will be made upon receiving each

		application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
58	Question 58: Is there an estimated timeline on when the grants will be awarded after the submissions close on September 1st?	Answer 58: Selection letters are anticipated to be sent in fall, 2026

59	Question 59: Can you clarify the additional \$3M (up to 10K per student) in supportive services? What does that all encompass?	Answer 59: Please refer to page 14 of the NOFO. For more information regarding supportive services for eligible program participants visit: PA OJT SSC – Pennsylvania On-the-Job Training (OJT) Supportive Services.
60	Question 60: Under the PennDOT Career and Technical Education Program, are capital equipment purchases including Class A and Class B CDL instructional tractors and trailers eligible reimbursement costs when the equipment is required for implementation of a new heavy-highway workforce training curriculum and used primarily for student instruction? Over half of the grant costs would be for equipment necessary to implement the CDL program at the College;	Answer 60: Please refer to the 504e guidance here and page 8 of FHWA’s program guidance in Section: “Can program funds be used for travel, equipment, or materials purchases?” An education institution may submit an application that includes equipment and or capital expenditures exceeding \$5,000 each in value. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual

	equipment would be solely for the use of the training program. Would this be an allowable expense?	expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. Section 200.436 of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E) defines when and how depreciation is an allowable cost under Federal awards. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
61	Question 61: Curriculum eligibility. Does a management-focused program of study in Construction Project Management qualify as technical training curriculum directly related to	Answer 61: Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity pages 4 and 5 and Addendum for additional instructions on expanding curriculum under Options 1 and 2.

	the Heavy Highway Industry for the purposes of this grant? NOFO p. 5	
62	Question 62: (Eligible Participants) Participant eligibility. Do participants already employed in the count as students served, and does the minimum participant count apply per cohort or across the full program? NOFO p. 3	Answer 62: The requirement that an applicant service at least twenty new students applies to the term of the grant period of performance, which is the date of the last signature on the fully executed grant agreement through the period of performance date: September 30, 2029.
63	Question 63: Placement metrics. For partnership-impact scoring, do both advancing incumbent employees and hiring professionals new to the employer, and/or emerging professionals count toward placement outcomes, or is credit limited to new hires placed into a position? NOFO p. 13	Answer 63: PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.

64	Question 64: Work-based learning for employed participants. Does structured, supervised in-work application of the coursework by already-employed participants satisfy the work-based-learning requirement and count towards [CG1] [C2] its ten-percent set-aside, or must work-based learning take the form of internships or apprenticeships for not-yet-employed participants? NOFO p. 9	Answer 64: Please refer to page 9 of the NOFO. The application must include the required partner letter of commitment.
65	Question 65: Develop-and-implement scope. May the award fund both one-time curriculum development and delivery of multiple cohorts within the period of performance, and is there any limit on the share directed to development? NOFO p. 3	Answer 65: Please refer to page 3 of the NOFO. Applicants may use Program funding to develop and implement new technical training curriculum or to expand existing technical training curriculum and/or delivery.

66	Question 66: Indirect costs. Is an all-direct-cost budget acceptable, and under what conditions, if any, are indirect or overhead costs reimbursable?	Answer 66: Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs. Please reference 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
67	Question 67: Credential recognition. Do Professional Development Hours, Continuing Education Units, or a certificate through an institution of higher education satisfy the industry-recognized credential element of the	Answer 67: No specific external credential is expected. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including

	scoring, or is a specific external credential expected?	those expenditures will not be awarded and executed. PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
68	Question 68: Curriculum ownership and delivery rights. What intellectual-property, data-rights, and delivery conditions apply to curriculum developed with Program funds? Specifically, may the developing institution retain copyright and serve as the primary or sole delivery provider, and what rights does PennDOT or the Federal Highway Administration retain to reproduce, use, or authorize others to	Answer 68: Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the intellectual property rights.

	use the developed materials, including any requirement to make them publicly available?	
69	Question 69: Intended scope: school-based pipeline versus professional advancement. The eligible-applicant list, the K-8 through community-college example curricula, and PennDOT's own model curriculum (the Transportation Construction Inspection Certification Program) all describe school-based, entry-level, into-the-workforce pathways. Is a university-delivered professional certificate for working and aspiring project leaders at the project-manager level and above — one that advances people already in the Heavy Highway Industry rather than feeding an entry pipeline —	Answer 69: Please refer to page 3 of the NOFO. Applicants may use Program funding to develop and implement new technical training curriculum or to expand existing technical training curriculum and/or delivery. PennDOT will determine eligibility after receiving each application and reviewing each individual expenditure on its own merit. If an expenditure is deemed ineligible, a grant including those expenditures will not be awarded and executed.

	within the Program's intended scope? NOFO pp. 1, 4-6, 11	
70	Question 70: Salaries and personnel costs. The eligible-expense list allows tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, and separately allows university, college, community college, or vocational school support (for example, curriculum development and experiential learning) and employee professional development. Does the salary exclusion apply only to the tuition line, so that university personnel effort for curriculum development, program administration, and instructional delivery remains reimbursable under the university-support and professional-development categories?	Answer 70: Program funding cannot be used to pay salaries. Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, are eligible in connection with the education and training of students. Student activity costs are eligible. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.412 – 200.415 for eligible Direct and Indirect Costs and 23 U.S.C. § 504(e)(1)(A). PennDOT has provided additional guidance in the addendum.
71	Question 71: One award per applicant. The notice states that PennDOT intends to award grants of up to \$500,000 per eligible applicant.	Answer 71: A single federal employer identification number constitutes one applicant.

	For a large institution of higher learning operating under a single federal employer identification number, does “per eligible applicant” limit the University to one application and one award, or may distinct schools within the University apply separately? NOFO p. 1	
72	Question 72: Supportive services eligibility. The notice states that enrolled students may receive up to \$10,000 each in supportive services funding, separate from the grant, administered through PennDOT’s Supportive Services Center. Are participants in a professional certificate – working professionals and emerging professionals – eligible as	Answer 72: Please refer to page 14 of the NOFO. Supportive services is a separate program. For more information regarding supportive services for eligible program participants visit: PA OJT SSC – Pennsylvania On-the-Job Training (OJT) Supportive Services.

	students enrolled in the Program, and what categories of expense qualify?	
73	Question 73: Reimbursement timing and pre-cohort development costs. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, costs incurred before grant execution are ineligible, and the period-of-performance start date is pending fully executed grant documents. What is the expected reimbursement cycle once an expense is incurred, and are curriculum-development costs incurred after execution but before the first cohort reimbursable?	Answer 73: Curriculum development is eligible. Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity Addendum, Reimbursement section. Selected applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement, which will contain more detail about the reimbursement process. The grantee will be required to submit expense receipts or other documentation for PennDOT's review and approval prior to PennDOT processing payment for reimbursement.
74	Question 74: Letter of commitment and letter of support. The application requires a letter of commitment from an industry partner and,	Answer 74: See page 10 of NOFO. One letter is required; however, additional letters can be uploaded.

	separately, at least one letter of support from regional Heavy Highway Industry employers or workforce-development partners. May a single partner's letter satisfy both roles, or must the commitment and the support letters be distinct documents from distinct entities?	
75	Question 75 : Award notification and start-date timing. The notice posts answers to written questions on August 10, 2026, closes applications on September 1, 2026, and sets the period-of-performance end date at September 30, 2029, but states the start date only as pending fully executed grant documents and gives no award-announcement date. When does PennDOT anticipate notifying applicants of	Answer 75: Selection letters are anticipated to be sent in the fall, 2026.

	award decisions, and what interval should applicants expect between notification and a fully executed grant agreement?	
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