

Ed Tech ARRA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: What does it mean to have a focus on Online Learning?

A: This means that Iowa has established a common goal for this funding.

Q: What are the goals of the Iowa ARRA Ed Tech program?

A: There are three major goals:

- 1:** Provide online content that is available across Iowa in the event of pandemics, disasters or district need.
- 2:** Develop teacher capacity to use online content, and to create lessons, units and courses online.
- 3:** Create a state-wide repository (clearinghouse) of online content to support Iowa schools in their efforts to deliver and eventually develop virtual learning opportunities for students that extend beyond the classroom to provide equity and diversity of curriculum for all.

Q: What does the Iowa Code say?

A: **Iowa Code (256.33)** provided a vision for long term goals for Educational Technology. **Establishment of a clearinghouse for information and research concerning practices relating to and uses of educational technology. Priority shall be given to programs integrating telecommunications into the classroom.**

Q: Can anyone apply?

A: No, these are federal title funds and only eligible LEAs and Consortiums may apply for these funds (details in the RFP).

Q: How will people apply?

A: We are moving to an online grant management system. www.iowagrants.gov

Q: What are the differences between the E2T2 and the Ed Tech ARRA?

A: First, while they use the SAME guidance, they are two distinct funding opportunities. For example, each has a different timeline. The Fed Ed Tech ARRA timeline is for 2 years. The EETT timeline is for 3 years.

The reporting requirements for the ARRA funds are more frequent (quarterly) with more transparency requirements compared to the E2T2.

Q: Will Iowa continue with the Consortium model for implementation?

A: Yes, This is not only an established model in terms of successful implementation in serving the needs of districts across the state, but has provided documentation on the projects that has been shared at the national level. Iowa is a leader in terms of quality projects that improve student achievement, documenting the work and providing data to support continuation of this effort. In addition, The U.S. Dept of Education strongly encourages every state to use a 100% competitive consortium model.

- **Minimum grant amounts** – *An SEA must award Ed Tech competitive grants that are of sufficient size and duration to carry out the purposes of the Ed Tech legislation effectively (11 EETT).*
- **Program scope and quality** – *An SEA must ensure that any program supported with Ed Tech competitive grant funds is of sufficient scope and quality to carry out the purposes of the Ed Tech legislation effectively (11 EETT).*

Q: What other information is required with a grant application?

A: Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa which are due beginning January 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism to require grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

Q: Are non-publics able to participate?

Yes. Grantees are required to document and manage non-public school participation. To accomplish this, an entity seeking E2T2 monies must engage in a timely and meaningful manner consultation with appropriate non-public school officials during the design and development of a E2T2 project. The consultation should address how the needs of the non-public school children would be identified, the services that would be offered, how and where those services would be provided, and service assessment. The consultation should also address the opportunities of non-public school teachers and other educational personnel to participate in professional development activities. There is a line item in the budget for non-public participation.

Q: What tie-ins will there be to other funding initiatives such as Microsoft Settlement or Federal Stimulus Funds?

A: There is no direct tie-in with the Microsoft Settlement since that is a legal action with its' own requirements for participation. There is a tie-in with the Federal Ed Tech ARRA funds because it will use the EETT guidance with the exception of more frequent (EVERY QUARTER) reporting by recipients via providing online data.

Q: Will our projects need to support the Iowa Core Curriculum?

A: Yes. The vision for the Iowa Core Curriculum is to ensure the success of each and every student by providing a world-class curriculum. The Core Curriculum is designed to improve achievement of all students, preparing them for the world of work and lifelong learning. It identifies the essential content and instruction that all students must experience.

Q: Will an evaluation be required?

A: Yes. Evaluation is a crucial component to a successful project. There are two types of evaluations conducted for the E2T2 Grant.

Internal Evaluation: Grant recipients should conduct an internal evaluation of their project(s) and publish their data online providing notification of any updates to the Iowa Department of Education.

External Evaluation: An independent evaluator will be subcontracted through this grant to provide a formal aggregate evaluation for the Title II, Part D (E2T2). Each grant applicant will budget 5% of the total grant to pay for contracted services of the evaluator. The evaluator will provide a comprehensive program evaluation plan, technical assistance to the local evaluator and a data reporting system. A memorandum of agreement will be sent to successful grant applicants.

In addition, the Iowa Department of Education may visit any grantee at any time to review data and observe the classroom implementation of the grant project.

References :

EETT- Guidance on Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) Program. U.S. Dept of Education, Washington D.C. March 11, 2002

Ed Tech- Guidance on Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) Program funds made available under the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009. U.S. Dept of Education, Washington D.C. July 2009