



Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity Grant

This resource answers questions from educators regarding Iowa's COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity Grant. This represents the most current official position of the Department related to these questions and supersedes previous Department guidance on this topic.

- 1. Our school was previously designated a school "in need," but this year our school is "commendable" and our elementary school is "acceptable". Is our district eligible to apply for the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity Program?**

Answer: Yes. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) public school districts are eligible to apply for this grant. School districts that do not currently receive additional federal funding to cover the costs of professional learning and coaching beyond currently available relief funds and Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) school improvement funds will be given priority in grant funding.

- 2. I have a question about the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity. I see that only LEAs are eligible applicants, but I am wondering whether it is possible for a university to collaborate with an LEA as a subawardee.**

Answer: Only Local Education Agencies (LEAs) public school districts are eligible to apply for this grant, but public school districts may identify potential partners in the grant application, including area education agencies (AEAs), institutes of higher education, or other content experts in implementing professional training and coaching to address Social-Emotional-Behavioral-Health (SEBH) needs of the school district.

- 3. Could the coach for the health team be someone from the AEA or someone the district hires?**

Answer: Yes, please see answer to question number 2.

- 4. Can the 12 in-person professional development sessions and/or coaching be designed and provided by a university partner or have these sessions already been created by IDOE / IDPH?**

Answer: As stated in the answer to number 2, school districts may identify potential partners in the grant application, including area education agencies (AEAs), institutes of higher education, or other content experts in implementing professional training and coaching to address Social-Emotional-Behavioral-Health (SEBH) needs of the school district. School districts may, but are not required, to identify potential partners for the professional development and coaching sessions.

5. **In the description there are 12 PD sessions hosted by the implementation network. Would this be led by DE staff, AEA staff, a combination of the two, or someone else? Are the 12 in-person professional development sessions the same as the Implementation Network sessions?**

Answer: The Department of Education will provide two professional learning days through the Implementation Network during the Iowa BEST Summit on October 10 and 11, 2022 in Des Moines. The content of the sessions is in development and will address SEBH in schools.

School districts have an opportunity to submit for a maximum of 10 additional, in-state professional learning and coaching sessions that address SEBH, diversity, inclusion and health equity based on their district data and needs.

6. **Will the State provide the PD for this grant or does each individual district need to submit what they intend to use for PD?**

Answer: It is a combination. The Department of Education will provide two professional learning days through the Implementation Network during the Iowa BEST Summit on October 10 and 11, 2022 in Des Moines. School districts may identify a maximum of 10 additional in-state professional learning and coaching sessions that address SEBH, diversity, inclusion and health equity based on their districts' needs.

7. **Am I correct that this grant would cover building capacity of all our district staff in regards to SEBH related items?**

Answer: Yes. The grant includes the provision to expand the workforce for training and coaching to sustain building capacity around the district's identified SEBH needs, diversity, inclusion and health equity

8. **I am with a district and we are looking at the SEBH grant available for schools. Can you provide more information about the training that is provided? Is it a specific training or do we choose training that we want to attend? Is the coaching provided from the state or is that something that we would need to secure ourselves?**

Answer: Two professional learning days focused on SEBH will be sponsored as part of the Implementation Network on October 10-11: Iowa BEST Conference. School district proposals may include a maximum of 10 additional professional development or workforce training sessions based on their SEBH needs and aligned with their district data. Proposals should include how the training will address SEBH needs, diversity, inclusion and health equity related to the after effects of COVID 19 pandemic.

9. **I was looking through this grant application and had one question. It refers to participation in an Implementation Network of district and school leaders focused on SEBH. Is that something through the DE? Something our school would have to locate and connect on our own? Or is it something through our AEA (I did see our AEA announce some mental health program).**

Answer: Professional learning session opportunities through the grant are available both through the Implementation Network and chosen by the school district based on their specific SEBH needs. Please see answers to questions 5,6 and 8 above.

10. **I am trying to interpret the intent of the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity. One of the items it mentions is: "Costs associated with attendance at meetings of the Implementation Network to engage in professional learning on SEBH". Can you share what the "Implementation Network" is?**

Answer: Two professional learning days will be sponsored by the Implementation Network on October 10-11: Iowa BEST Conference in Des Moines. The Implementation Network, "will leverage expertise in all corners of the state, including professionals from universities, community agencies, Area Education Agencies, and district leaders supported through Teacher Leadership and Compensation."

11. **When I click on the online application, COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity is not listed as one of the options under "Program Area of Interest." Is this the correct place to fill out the application for this grant? Can you please lead me in the right direction for the application?**

Answer: If you are not a registered user in Iowa Grants, you can view the funding opportunity by going to IowaGrants.gov and selecting Grant Opportunities from the left side of options under FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY IOWA STATE AGENCIES. You will see a list of funding opportunities and will want to scroll down to select Round 2 - COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity from the Title column (ID# 454989). The next screen will provide details for the grant application. If you choose to apply, you will need to register and select Education Nutrition and Health as the Program Area of Interest.

If you are a registered user in Iowa Grants: Login to IowaGrants.gov and then select Funding Opportunities from the Main Menu. You will see a list of funding opportunities and will want to scroll down to select Round 2 - COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity from the Opportunity Title column (ID# 454989). The next screen will provide details for the grant application. If you choose to apply, select Start a New Application from the top, right-hand corner of the screen.

12. **Due to staffing changes that could happen between now and the start of the next school year, do I need to know the names of everyone that would be on the team at the time the application is submitted?**

It is not necessary to identify the names of your team members in the application. Please identify the roles/responsibilities of those who will be represented on your team.

13. **In the budget, where do I specify adding additional days to existing staff who will be coaching?**

Answer: In the budget line for "contracted services", Please include the costs of contracting with staff or with potential partners for coaching or consulting purposes for professional development to include up to \$500 for up to two full days per week for the period of performance.

- 14. In the budget, where do I specify additional days added to the school health leadership team that fall outside of their contract? We plan on completing the grant work on Saturdays during the grant period.**

Answer: In the “Other” section of the grant application, please include additional days added to existing staff for the opportunity to participate in professional development that falls outside of contracted hours. Please provide any substantiated additional costs associated with a successful application as identified in the action plan.

- 15. I have an employee who is 0.5 FTE. I would like to add a 0.5 FTE for this employee to coach our school health leadership team on our identified SEBH needs in the action plan. Is this acceptable? We plan on hiring another individual to perform the work of the employee during the grant period.**

Answer: Yes, you can add to an existing employee’s contract or contract with a potential partner for up to \$35,000 or 0.5 FTE. It is unallowable to supplant an existing or new employee’s position with grant funds that include activities or job responsibilities that fall outside of the scope of the grant.

- 16. I want to contract with an agency to provide training to students that will require the purchase of furniture and the creation of a space within our facility to allow our students to decompress using strategies that are implemented with students. Is this allowable?**

Answer: No. The scope of the grant work is for professional development, not for building, facilities, or furniture.

- 17. Is this grant available for accredited nonpublic schools?**

Answer: Local Education Agencies (LEAs) public school districts are eligible to apply for this grant.