



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GEER Excels

2021 Request for Proposals

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) is pleased to provide this GEER Excels Request for Proposals (RFP). We look forward to receiving your submissions. Please send questions and submissions to Samantha Dickey at Samantha.Dickey@dhewd.mo.gov.

Background Information

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The act includes additional funds for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. Governors may use GEER funds for purposes including providing subgrants to institutions of higher education that have been most significantly impacted by the coronavirus. Additional information about GEER funds, including the USDE's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, is available on the U.S. Department of Education [website](#).

General Information

Purpose. GEER Excels awards will fund projects that will allow institutions to continue to provide educational services to students, support the on-going functionality of the institution, and drive progress toward recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19, either in terms of meeting specific workforce needs or removing barriers to student success.

Who May Seek Funding. Public institutions of higher education, including community colleges, State Technical College of Missouri, and public universities, may submit proposals. For purposes of this grant program, multi-campus systems are considered a single institution.

Maximum Awards. Each institution may request up to \$1 million.

Number of Awards. DHEWD staff expect to award funding for 10 projects, although that number may vary based on the dollar amount of each funded project.

Allowable Activities. Requests can include funds for equipment, construction/renovation, professional development, enhanced student services that promote a student's emotional and physical well-being outside the context of the formal instructional program, and other expenses directly related to economic recovery, as well as for making grants to cover the cost of lost wages

for incumbent workers who enroll in training programs, provided that such costs cannot be offset by Missouri One Start or another program. Funds may not be used to offset administrative overhead associated with managing the grant.

Funding. Funding will be released to reimburse institutions for project expenditures incurred on or after March 13, 2020. Institutions must submit the GEER Excels Reimbursement Form and supply copies of all invoices to the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to receive reimbursement.

Performance and Project Reporting. Funding recipients must report on performance on October 30, January 30, April 30, and June 30 annually until the program has achieved its objectives. DHEWD may invite grant recipients engaging in similar activities to meet periodically to provide updates, identify best practices, problem-solve, and celebrate successes.

Proposal Requirements

Applicants must complete the GEER Excels application form. You do not need to submit any additional documents unless you are asked to do so by the review committee.

Timeline

- March 1, 2021:** Preliminary request for proposals issued
- March 5, 2021:** Final RFP and supporting documents issued
- April 1, 2021:** 5:00 p.m.: Deadline to submit proposals to Samantha.Dickey@dhewd.mo.gov.
- April 1-30, 2021:** Review committee evaluates proposals
- TBD:** CBHE meeting to review and approve staff recommendations; likely early May; awards will be made as soon thereafter as practicable
- September 30, 2022:** Deadline to spend grant funds; note that DHEWD may impose an earlier deadline to submit final requests for reimbursement to allow time for processing and comply with other agencies' requirements

Review and Award Process

Proposals will be scored by a committee comprised of staff from DHEWD and the Department of Economic Development. The committee will score proposals based on a standardized rubric (attached). The committee's recommendations will be conveyed to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, which will make final ranking and funding recommendations.

Funding

DHEWD reserves the right to recommend funding for a project in whole or in part, to request additional information, to reject any of the proposals submitted, and to re-issue this RFP and accept new proposals if the review committee determines that doing so is in the best interest of the state of Missouri. In the event that available funds exceed the total amount requested by all institutions, DHEWD may invite institutions to submit requests for additional funding.

All costs incurred in preparation of proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne by the institutions that apply for funding.