




## **PAsmart Grants Webinar**

Advancing Computer Science & STEM Education Grants

Tuesday November 20, 2018  
2:00PM to 3:00PM

Hosted by:  
Pennsylvania Department of Education





As you have questions, please drop them silently in the chat. We will monitor the questions and get to them at the end.

We will also have open question time at the end.



# What is PAsmart?

PAsmart is a new strategic approach to education and workforce development:

1. Investing in initiatives to support economic growth, education and training opportunities
2. Strategic coordination and alignment of public programs, services, and funding
3. Transforming inter-agency, cross-sector collaboration to enhance resources
4. Creating better outcomes for PA students, workers, businesses, and communities



# ▶ What are the PAsmart Grants?

PAsmart Grants is a **\$31.6 million investment** in education and workforce development.

- **\$20 Million:** Computer Science and STEM Education
- **\$7 Million:** Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship
- **\$4.6 Million:** Next Generation Industry Partnerships



# ▶ What are the PAsmart Grants?

For more information on the PAsmart grant initiatives, please visit:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/pasmart-grants/>



# ▶ What are the Education Grants?

## Computer Science and STEM Education

- 1. Targeted Grants** – structured to meet the needs of LEAs and their schools that have zero, or very few, CS offerings of any kind. These grants have a low risk entry point for applicants and are to help applicants build the infrastructure to apply for “Advancing” Grants in the future.
- 2. Advancing Grants** – high-level comprehensive grants meant to support entities that have 50 or more students participating in CS/STEM experiences. The purpose of these grants is to give regions a chance to leverage or expand CS/STEM ecosystems.

# ➤ What are Advancing Grants?

Advancing Grants are designed to support broad, cross-sector partnerships that

- Expand access to CS/STEM education (especially for historically underserved students and communities) through learning experiences such as dual enrollment, industry credentials, work-based learning, internships, apprenticeships, etc.
- Expand the number of CS/STEM educators.

# ► Funding Priorities for Advancing Grants

Specific funding priorities include:

- Pairing educators with industry level professionals.
- Focusing on K-8 educators and educators who are mid-career (those with 3-8 years of service).
- Master Teacher and/or Fellowship Models.
- Learning experiences coherent with labor market priorities.
- Partnership models that have a deep understanding and evidence of the STEM ecosystem.
- Cross-sector alignment with regional initiatives (such as, but not limited to, local K-12 Guidance Plans, WIOA State, Regional and/or Local Plans, Industry cluster analyses, etc.)
- Integrating computer science into existing math, science, humanities, English Language Arts or arts coursework.
- Creation of secondary CS/STEM course offerings.
- Creation of career exploration/career pathways.
- Proposals that address policy and regulatory barriers to expanding CS/STEM offerings.



# ▶ Examples of Projects (non-exhaustive)

- Pre-service experience that includes pairing/student teaching with a K-12 computer science teacher.
- Post-secondary required coursework credit in computer science.
- Work-based internship experience/s.
- Training in computer science content, job embedded coaching, and industry based learning/work based experience.
- Blending of in-school afterschool and community learning experiences / opportunities for students.
- Integrated, stand-alone, or tracked CS experiences for all grades.
- Career pathways that include exploration activities, dual enrollment opportunities, Industry-recognized credential or certificate, Work-based learning, Apprenticeship, Pre-Apprenticeship
- Programs that expand rigorous CS access to students with exceptionalities, students in high poverty LEAs, female students, African American students, Latino students, Native American students

# ▶ What funding is available?

Eligible applicants may request up to \$500,000.



# Who is eligible to apply?

Lead applicants for Advancing Grants may include:

- LEAs - school districts, charter schools, CTCs and IUs
- Postsecondary institutions
- Public libraries
- Community-based organizations
- Local workforce development boards
- Businesses and chambers of commerce; • Labor organizations
- Trade associations
- Economic development entities.

Lead applicants may apply as a consortium.



# Who is eligible to be a fiscal agent?

**Only LEAs** may serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

They will receive, manage, and disburse grant funds.

Fiscal agents may use funds to pay partners in the consortium for their services.



# Who is an eligible partner?

To be considered for funding, lead applicants must identify partners to assist with expanding access to CS/STEM education and expanding the number of CS/STEM educators. Eligible partners include:

- LEAs
- Postsecondary institutions
- Public libraries
- Community-based organizations
- Local workforce development boards
- Businesses and chambers of commerce
- Labor organizations
- Trade associations
- Non-profits
- Economic development entities



# ▶ What is in the current application?

The application asks you do describe your initiative through:

- Established existing resources.
- Identifying a target population.
- Describing the education, workforce and economic needs of that target population.
- Strategy to address barriers to that target population.
- Stakeholder engagement around the proposal.
- Performance outcomes, timeline and evaluation plans.
- Capacity and sustainability plans.

# ➤ Application Checklist

- Pull your team of stakeholders together to start talking ideas and partnerships. Ecosystem work is preferred.
- Look at local workforce needs with stakeholders. How will this grant be used to address these needs, and address barriers to those needs?
- Decide who the applicant shall be, and what the nature of the partnerships will be.

# Application Checklist

- Documents:
  - Make sure to get letters of commitment/support from each partner for the application.
  - Budget document
  - Optional: Timeline/Workplan document
- Review relevant grant information:  
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/PAsmart-Grants>
- Start drafting your application! Because you can only submit the application once, it is highly recommended that you draft your answers in a separate document to copy and paste into the application portal.



# Documents

There are no document templates for the Budget or the optional Timeline/Workplan documents.

For each partner's letter of commitment include:

- Partner's name, contact information and role.
- An explanation of the relationship between the lead applicant and the partner, and their ability to lead and coordinate the proposed initiative.
- The partner's relevant experience, role, responsibility, and commitment.
- How the partnership will work collaboratively to support this proposal and achieve the intended outcomes.

# ➤ What is the PAsmart Framework?

- **Data-driven Innovation** – Clear problem, challenge or opportunity supported by relevant data, and a strategy to increase equitable access to CS/STEM opportunities for students.
- **Cross-sector Partnership** – Strong, high-quality, cross sector partnerships committed to working collaboratively to implement the proposal.
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – Serve and increase access for students with exceptionalities, high poverty students, and female, African American, Latino and Native American students.



# ➤ What is the PAsmart Framework?

- **Capacity Building** – Build educator capacity to offer CS/STEM programming to K-12 students.
- **Leveraging Existing Resources** – Supplement, not supplant, existing resources.
- **Performance Outcomes** –
  - Measurable
  - Strategy to collect, analyze and report those outcomes.
  - Strong goals increasing the percentage of students, course/program offerings and trained educators in CS/STEM.



Questions?



➤ Thank you!

We really look forward to reading  
your application!

**Due Friday December 28!**

