

# K-12 COMPUTER SCIENCE ADVANCING GRANTS



## BETTER JOBS FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

PAsmart is a new workforce development initiative that helps connect Pennsylvanians with resources for working and training in Pennsylvania.

## ADVANCING GRANTS

As part of the innovative PAsmart initiative, Advancing Grants will support cross-sector partnerships that use the ecosystem and networked approaches to establish integrated and/or stand-alone Computer Science (CS)/Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) offerings and accelerate efforts such as:

- Expanding access to CS/STEM education (especially for historically underserved students and communities) through learning experiences such as dual enrollment, industry credentials, and work-based learning
- Expanding the number of CS/STEM educators
- Leveraging and expanding cross-sector partnerships through internships, externships and apprenticeships

Advancing grants are meant to operate on a larger scale by funding partnerships that provide quality CS/STEM experiences to K-12 students as part of a high-level strategic approach to workforce development.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- Post-secondary Institutions
- Public Libraries
- Community-based Organizations
- Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs)
- Businesses and Chambers of Commerce
- Labor Organizations
- Trade Associations
- Non-profits
- Economic Development Organizations

## ELIGIBLE USES

Examples include:

- Pre-service teaching experience that pairs a student teacher with a K-12 educator in CS or STEM
- Work-based internship experiences
- Training in CS/STEM content, job-embedded coaching, and industry-based learning/work-based experience
- Master Teacher Models and/or Fellowship Models
- Partnerships with workforce and economic development organizations, STEM Ecosystems, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, post-secondary institutions, etc., to build local capacity to provide CS/STEM experiences, particularly for underserved and underrepresented students
- Blending in-school and afterschool (or out-of-school time) and community learning experiences for students
- Integrated, stand-alone, or tracked CS or STEM experiences for all grades
- Post-secondary required coursework credit in CS or STEM
- Career pathways that include exploration activities, dual enrollment, industry-recognized credentials or certificates, work-based learning, Registered Pre-Apprenticeships, and Registered Apprenticeships
- Programs that expand access to rigorous CS and STEM education for students with exceptionalities, students in high poverty LEAs, female students, African American students, Latino students, and Native American students

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, December 28, 2018, at 11:59 P.M. (EST)

## WEBINAR/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALLS

Webinars will be scheduled for late November. For more information on webinar/technical assistance calls, please visit the PAsmart website at [www.governor.pa.gov/PAsmart-Grants](http://www.governor.pa.gov/PAsmart-Grants).

## CONTACT

Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board  
[PAsmart@pa.gov](mailto:PAsmart@pa.gov)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Are matching funds required?

Matching funds are not required. However, priority will be given to applications with matching funds.

## What is the total amount of funds available?

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

## Who is eligible to apply?

Only eligible lead applicants may apply for Advancing Grants. Eligible lead applicants include:

- LEAs, including school districts, charter schools, career and technical centers, and Intermediate Units
- Post-secondary institutions
- Public libraries
- Community-based organizations
- LWDBs
- Businesses and chambers of commerce
- Labor organizations
- Trade associations
- Economic development organizations

Applicants may apply as a consortium; however, grant funding will only be allocated to lead applicants. The lead applicants may use funds to pay partners in the consortium for their services.

## How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted on the form linked at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAsmartAdvancingCS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAsmartAdvancingCS).

## Who evaluates proposals?

Applications will be reviewed by a cross-sector team of evaluators and subject matter experts.

## What are eligible expenses?

Due to the limited amount of funding, only items and activities directly related to eligible programs and activities covered in this request for application will be funded. All budgets will be reviewed to evaluate appropriateness and connection to proposed grant activities and goals.

## What are the eligible uses?

In addition to the eligible uses outlined above, some examples of specific ideas are, but not limited to:

- 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 CS into existing math, science, humanities, English Language Arts or arts coursework
- Creation of secondary CS course offerings
- Creation of career exploration/career pathways
- Proposals that address policy and regulatory barriers to expanding CS offerings

## What is the activity period for the grant contract?

January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

## Is there a deadline to apply?

Applications for Advancing Grants are due by **Friday, December 28, 2018, at 11:59 P.M. (EST)**

## If successful, how will funds be disbursed?

All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All grant funds must be committed and services performed, by June 30, 2020.