



**Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Grant Opportunity: Competency-Based Education Expansion Pilot
Request for Applications #22-024**

Oregon public universities and community colleges are invited to apply for funding to develop, enhance, and deliver competency-based education programming in support of Oregon’s postsecondary attainment goals. The legislature has appropriated a total of \$200,000 of state funds for this pilot program for the biennium ending June 30, 2023 (House Bill 2378, Section 1 (2021) (“HB 2378”). HECC’s intent is to make one award, but HECC reserves the right to make multiple awards if it is in the state’s best interest to do so.

This purpose of this Request for Applications is for the successful applicant to “Recommend specific policy changes and initiatives that public postsecondary institutions of education in this state may implement to expand competency based education.” Although programs do exist across most of the postsecondary education spectrum, there are relatively few opportunities for students to access Oregon-based competency-based education programs. This pilot should expand those opportunities.

Pursuant to HB 2378, codified as ORS 350.125, this pilot grant program is intended to:

1. Fund start-up costs to implement a competency-based education program within the successful applicant’s institution
2. Encourage public post-secondary institutions of education in this state that have competency-based programs to promote and market their programs to out-of-state individuals.

Interested Oregon public universities and community colleges should submit applications in the form of a letter of interest to Veronica Dujon at Veronica.Dujon@hecc.oregon.gov no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 30, 2022, and must include:

- A description of your proposed pilot program
- The academic programs you intend to implement
- The lead contact persons for the grant agreement and project
- A tentative schedule of project activities

Applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- Description of Pilot Program (50%)
 - Either the applicant describes start-up activities to implement a new CBE program **or** describes activities to promote and market their existing programs to new markets, to out-of-state individuals for example.
- Description of Student Outcomes (30%)

- The applicant describes the intended audience for CBE pilot work and criteria for participants and links this information with expected student outcomes including fields of study (academic area) and a labor market need. Applicant describes how they will measure program success after pilot.
- Schedule of Project Activities Completed within the Allowable Timeframe (before 6/30/2023) (20%)
 - The applicant describes an allowable schedule of activities aligned to full execution of pilot and/or describes how this funding is used within allowable timeframe and also leveraged with other institutional or external funding to support success of pilot and sustainability of program.