

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Request for Applications:
26-013-RFA Workforce and Talent Development Board Short-Term
Credential Grants and 26-014-RFA Future Ready Short-Term
Credential Grants**

Date: July 6, 2026

	26-013-RFA Workforce and Talent Development Board Short-Term Credential Grants	26-014-RFA Future Ready Short-Term Credential Grants
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Questions & Answers 1

- 1. May funds be used for participant supportive services or participation stipends if clearly identified as a program development/access and retention strategy?**

No, funds are only for curriculum development.

- 2. Is there a different registration link to use, or should attendees just use that link on June 16th?**

No. Just hop on the call at the specified time.

Questions & Answers 2

- 3. Is the indirect rate 15%?**

Yes

- 4. Can applications include multiple credentials in a single area? (Example submitting applications for two or three healthcare programs within one budget, specifically for the expansion of an existing Short-Term Credential?)**

Yes

- 5. Are letters of support also required of additional partners similar to the letters from required partners?**

Yes

- 6. Does the credential that gets developed need to be credit, or can it be non-credit as long as it is industry recognized and validated?**

Non-credit is acceptable.

Questions & Answers 3

- 7. Can a program be noncredit?**

Yes, a program can be noncredit providing it meets all other criteria

- 8. If non-credit credentials are allowed – during the performance period – if multiple (sequential or quasi-sequential) micro-credentials are created in year 1 that could then be bundled into a Workforce Pell-Eligible Short-Term Training Certificate at a later date (completable w/in 11 weeks, over 150 hours, leading to industry validated jobs, etc.), would this still receive the additional review “bonus points” as being Workforce Pell Eligible. Bundling is the intent – but the date is dependent on the roll-out...and all of the micro-credentials developed through the grant won’t be rolled out immediately.**

Yes, since they are modifying an existing program to align with WFP.

- 9. Question about the budget for the RFA# 26-013. My overall project cost will far exceed the \$75,000 potential allocation of the grant. On the budget worksheet, the totaled formula indicates that this is the “Total Budget Requested.” With that in mind, should I only include the items that will come out to the \$75,000 or should the entire project cost and justifications be included? If it is the latter, do we need to adjust the “Total Budget Requested” to reflect just the \$75,000 and not the sum of all lines?**

Please include the full budget but indicate in some way how the \$75,000 investment will be applied to the overall budget. You can include the funds for the larger budget in your leveraged resources and/or sustainability plan in the application.

Questions & Answers 4

10. Will HECC consider a short-term credential that does not stack to an Associates, but is stackable on top of an Associates? (For example, there are several short-term certifications that can be earned once one has an AAS in Medical Imaging)

The credential would still need to stack to something else, its fine if someone has to earn the AAS before they earn the short-term certificate, but that short-term certificate needs to stack to something else – like a BA.

11. Regarding the question, "Will the developed curriculum be hosted on an open-source platform for public use?" If an applicant responds "no," will they still be considered for funding? My colleague attended the webinar last week and had the impression that the OER capability was a requirement.

Not a requirement, but additional points will be added for including it

12. Could you please clarify whether the 25% co-investment must be a monetary contribution, or whether in-kind contributions may be counted toward this requirement? Examples may include faculty and staff time, curriculum development, project management, partner participation, advisory committee service, employer engagement activities, and other documented project-related contributions.

In-kind contributions, as described may contribute to the co-investment requirement.

13. Is the RFA Future Ready Grant an annual grant?

This will not be an annual grant. There may be more opportunities in the future, but at this time, they are not identified. Please keep an eye out on the website for additional opportunities. You may benefit from being connected to their local workforce board, East Cascades Works.