

# reVISION

## Action Grant 2020-2021 Application Guidelines

**Program Overview/Purpose:** The purpose of the *reVISION Action Grant* is to improve, modernize, and expand career and technical education (CTE) programs to align with Nebraska’s economic priorities and workforce demands. The *reVISION* Action grant program provides Perkins funds for eligible secondary and postsecondary recipients to help implement the *reVISION* action steps developed and identified throughout the *reVISION* local and regional CTE assessments.

This supplemental grant initiative is aimed at fostering innovation in CTE programming across Nebraska. Grant activities should be part of a larger effort for transformational change and school improvement and aimed at addressing the strategic priorities of Nebraska CTE.

*reVISION* Action grants provide eligible recipients an opportunity to apply for additional Perkins dollars awarded through a competitive process to implement innovative strategies to transform and expand the quality of CTE programming in Nebraska. This initiative will help distribute federal CTE dollars broadly across Nebraska to applicants who may not otherwise have the resources to implement significant innovations in CTE with only the funds generated through the Perkins formula grant. Over time, best practices will be identified along with opportunities to appropriately scale successful strategies across the state.



### Eligibility:

- Any individual secondary or postsecondary Perkins recipient (stand-alone or consortia) or combination of recipients\*, are eligible to apply for this grant.
- Each applicant (including collaborators) must be participating in the regular, formula-based Perkins grant program for the fiscal year of the application.
- Per Section 112(c), each applicant must meet at least one of the following criteria for serving a specific target population:
  - Rural areas (located outside of Omaha/Lincoln metropolitan areas);
  - Areas with high percentages of CTE students (50% or more of 9-12 population, unduplicated),

- Areas with high numbers of CTE students (9-12 student population of 300 +, unduplicated), or
- Areas with disparities or gaps in performance

\* If a group of Perkins recipients choose to collaborate for a reVISION Action Grant, they must designate a single fiscal agent from that group.

**Criteria:** New demands in the 21st century workplace, rapid globalization, shifts in the State’s demographics, and raised expectations for equitable outcomes for K-12 and postsecondary students have highlighted the critical need to elevate innovative practices within CTE programming. As such, each application must clearly outline how the project proposed addresses a minimum of two of Nebraska CTE’s Perkins V [strategic priorities](#).

Proposed Action Grant activities must be directly related to the implementation of the reVISION action steps identified throughout the reVISION process.

**Priority and Preference:** Priority and preference will be given to:

- Projects focused on implementing or scaling local and/or regional work-based learning opportunities;
- Projects specifically aimed at addressing barriers to implementing high-quality CTE in rural areas;
- Projects that include specific strategies designed to address equity gaps for special populations in CTE; and
- Projects that promote strategic partnerships, including secondary, postsecondary, and industry partnerships. Multi-partner grant applications that highlight new or existing collaborations, benefiting multiple recipients, are encouraged.

The geographic location and/or size of participating institution(s) of all proposals will also be taken into funding consideration to ensure equitable access to funds and diverse representation across the state of Nebraska.

**Use of Funds:** Grant proposals up to \$100,000 will be accepted. Grant award amounts will vary depending on the scope of the project. Applicants may apply for smaller grants. Any proposal that meets the criteria, eligibility, and application requirements will be considered. Examples of possible proposal activities include:

- Projects that expand access to CTE programming such as through the creation of a mobile lab, shared instructor, or regionally coordinated CTE program;
- Development of shared resources within a community to increase capacity or quantity of work-based learning experiences available to CTE students;
- The development of a new CTE program, including Rule 47 approved career academies;
- Conducting a feasibility study to develop a comprehensive action plan to address CTE teacher shortages on a regional basis

Grant funds may not be used to purchase instructional materials or equipment for *current* CTE programs unless the proposed expenditures are identified as needed action steps to enhance the

program(s) throughout the reVISION local and regional CTE assessments. Similarly, funds may not be used for general use equipment, broad, whole-school faculty professional development, or for students below grade five. Only professional development opportunities and equipment that are directly connected to a CTE program and action steps identified and justified in the local Perkins application (either stand-alone or as part of a consortia) will be considered fundable.

Administrative expenditures are limited to 5% of the total budget and can be spent for meeting the general requirements of administering the grant (records retention, financial management).

The Perkins Guidelines for use of Federal Perkins Funds as defined in the Nebraska Perkins Management Guide apply to these funds as well. In particular, no consumable items, furniture, or items that become part of a permanent structure may be purchased. Please visit <https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/management-guide-perkins/> for additional information related to allowable uses of funds. Funds must supplement, not supplant other funding sources. reVISION Action grants are reimbursement-based grants.

#### **Timeframe:**

- June 17, 2020: Application Available
- September 1, 2020: Applications Due by 5:00pm CST
- October 2, 2020: Grant Award Notification
- October 2, 2020 – June 30, 2020: Grant Award Period

*\*Dates are subject to change. See, <https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/revision/action-grant-2020/> for updates.*

#### **Submission Information:**

Completed applications must be uploaded by September 1, 2020 by 5 p.m. CST to: [https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9nqEXhTnFEPswor](https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9nqEXhTnFEPswor)

#### **Application Format**

- All applications must be typed and prepared as a Microsoft Word document based on the provided template and saved as an Adobe Acrobat pdf file.
- All applications must be single-spaced in font point size of 10 or higher with top, bottom, and side margins of one inch.
- Applications should not exceed 10 pages in length, excluding the budget and any appendices.
- All applications must include the cover page included in the grant application template.
- Each page of the application must include a footer with page number and the name of the applicant(s).
- All pages of the application, including the budget, supplemental documents, and cover page should be saved and submitted as one single document.

#### **Application Evaluation**

As applicants submit their grant application, they will be reviewed for eligibility, completeness, and adherence to application requirements. Those that meet the established requirements will be moved forward in the competition.

A review committee will then be established and may include NDE career education specialists and external individuals with expertise in CTE, school reform efforts, and the needs of Nebraska's economic priorities and workforce demands. The committee will evaluate each eligible application, assign a score, and make recommendations to Nebraska Career & Technical Education (NE CTE) leadership based on the selection criteria described in this document.

### **Selection Criteria**

The ideas and content described within the following sections of this document will form the foundation for the selection of districts to receive reVISION Action Grant awards. Grants may be awarded partially or in-full at the discretion of the evaluation committee, NE CTE leadership, and available funds.

The following general selection criteria (a total of 50 possible points) are summarized below to help eligible applicants develop their applications. Additional criteria may be used consistently at the discretion of NE CTE leadership and the evaluation committee. All selection decisions are final.

#### **1. Overview & Key Objectives of reVISION (up to 15 points)**

In determining how well the proposed project and the purpose of this grant align, the following will be considered:

- To what extent does the grant application clearly outline how the project proposed addresses a minimum of two of Nebraska CTE's Perkins V strategic priorities?
- To what extent does the grant application clearly demonstrate how the applicant will align their CTE programs with Nebraska's workforce needs and economic development priorities?
- How well does the application connect findings from the reVISION process and proposed activities and/or align with work already underway?
- How well does the application describe the impact the potential grant funds may have on students' preparation for success in postsecondary education and in Nebraska's workforce?

#### **2. Project Activities (up to 20 points)**

In determining the strength of the project goals and activities, the following will be considered:

- How well are each of the project's activities described and justified based on the reVISION process findings?
- How well does the application and proposed uses of funds reflect an understanding of what it will take to meet their Perkins V application objectives?
- How feasible and well justified is the sustainability plan for each proposed goal/activity?

#### **3. Commitment, Capacity, & Cohesion (up to 10 points)**

In determining the overall commitment, capacity, and cohesion of the application, the following will be considered:

- To what extent does the application present a compelling rationale and logical plan of execution?
- To what extent are collaborative efforts detailed in the application (are business, community, and other education partners identified and involved?)?

- To what extent is the required information and documentation included in the application?

#### 4. Budget (up to 5 points)

In determining the logic of the budget and proposed expenditures, the following will be considered:

- To what extent does the budget and activity sections provide detailed information of how the grant funds will be used to support the proposed activities?
- How reasonable are the expenditures in relation to the proposed activities?
- Are proposed uses of funds considered allowable?

#### 5. Bonus Points –

- **Priorities and Preference (up to 5 points)**

- Bonus points will be given to applications that meet one or more of the grant priorities and preferences:
  - Projects focused on implementing or scaling local and/or regional work-based learning opportunities;
  - Projects specifically aimed at addressing barriers to implementing high-quality CTE in rural areas;
  - Projects that include specific strategies designed to address equity gaps for special populations in CTE; and
  - Projects that promote strategic partnerships, including secondary, postsecondary, and industry partnerships. Multi-partner grant applications that highlight new or existing collaborations, benefiting multiple recipients, are encouraged.

- **Partnerships & Matching Funds (up to 3 points)**

- Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with community partners, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations for support (time and resources) and/or to “match” reVISION Action grant funds using local dollars.

**For any additional questions, please contact Therese Marzouk: [therese.marzouk@nebraska.gov](mailto:therese.marzouk@nebraska.gov)**



It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, or genetic information in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

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