



# **Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities (HB22-1107) Grant Program**

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**from Qualified Existing Inclusive Higher Education Programs**

**Grant Cycle 1 of 3**

Application Opens: July 17, 2023

Deadline for Submission: September 1, 2023 11:59pm

Award Announcement: September 15, 2023

Grant Year: November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

Grant Program Website: [inclusivehighered.org/expansion](https://inclusivehighered.org/expansion)

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# I. Grant Program Description

## Background

The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program was created as a result of the passing of HB22-1107. *Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities (HB22-1107)* was signed into law in order to establish and expand college pathways for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) at state institutions of higher education across Colorado.

In 2016, the general assembly enacted a five-year inclusive higher education pilot program at Arapahoe Community College, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and the University of Northern Colorado. The success of the pilot programs created a demand for more opportunities throughout Colorado, leading to the need for expansion of inclusive higher education programs either in the form of increased enrollment available and/or the increased equitable access for historically underserved students with IDD.

## Purpose

IN! is interested in leveraging the resources offered by Colorado state legislation to increase equitable access to inclusive higher education programming, further increasing competitive integrated employment and independent living outcomes for students with IDD. This grant program provides an opportunity to expand and/or diversify enrollment within high-quality transition and postsecondary education programs.

The purpose of this Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities grant application is to allow for qualified existing inclusive higher education programs in the state of Colorado (Elevate at ACC, Office of Inclusive Services at UCCS, and GOAL at UNC) to apply for needed funding to further expand and/or diversify student enrollment.

Applicants will need to clearly address how they seek to increase enrollment or diversify programming in order to increase equitable access for students in Colorado, which might include but is not limited to serving students with IDD from BIPOC, rural, or low-income communities and/or who require a higher level of needed support.

## Duration and Funds

The Colorado Department of Higher Education provides oversight to the The Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities Grant program, made possible by HB22-1107. IN! Pathways to Inclusive Higher education has been appointed by CDHE to administer the grant program and award funds. The total duration of funds, to be allocated over three grant applications, for existing inclusive higher education programs is \$250,000. The grant program will offer grant cycles specifically for existing inclusive higher education providers throughout the five years of funding provided by HB22-1107. For this first cycle of grant applications, \$80,000 of legislative funds will be allocated amongst award recipients for one year. There will be subsequent applications opening for additional funding years. Applicants may plan to apply for each grant application cycle, though it is not required. Award amounts could vary by institution and will

be determined by the appointed Grant Review Committee. Below are details regarding duration and funds for this first application cycle:

- Cycle 1 total funds available: \$80,000
- Estimated grants awarded: 1-3
- Award duration: 1 year (November 1, 2023-October 31, 2024)

*Awards, timing and funding subject to change as a result of grant applications received and progress made by grantee.*

## Requirements

Grant applicants must be existing inclusive higher education programs that adhere to the following:

- Supports students with intellectual and developmental disabilities as defined:
  - A. With a cognitive impairment, characterized by significant limitations in:
    - a. Intellectual and cognitive functioning.
    - b. Adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills.
    - c. Who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for free appropriate public education under IDEA.
- Provides individualized programmatic support representing the four key pillars of inclusive higher education in Colorado: academics, social, career, and independence.
  - Integrate the students academically and socially into the normative offerings of the state institution of higher education.
  - Provide peer mentoring services for the students.
  - Provide programs and supports that prepare the student for gainful employment.
  - Provide programs and supports for the students to develop independent living skills.
- Offers alternative admission standards and allows for modified coursework.
- Offers an institutionally approved certificate credential for students with intellectual disabilities upon program completion.
- Integrates person-centered planning in the development of each student's postsecondary plan.
- Maintains Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP) status
- Participates in the Colorado Inclusive Higher Education Consortium

Applicants must propose programming that leads to increased enrollment for students with IDD at the institution and/or increased equitable access in Colorado for students with IDD and those that are underrepresented in inclusive higher education.

Applicants will need to submit a proposal that includes the following:

- Clearly defined definition of program expansion and/or diversification
- Assessment of institutional and/or programmatic practices that pose barriers to equal access for students with IDD and how proposals will meet identified needs.
- Measurable outcomes and timeline of proposal implementation.
- Attached budget.
- Letter of support from the institution of higher education.

## Eligibility

The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program will ***provide grants to qualified state institutions of higher education across Colorado that have already established inclusive higher education pathways with active CTP status and Colorado Inclusive Higher Education Consortium membership.***

HB22-1107 defines a state institution in the following manner: "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10). The following defines CRS 23-18-102 (10) and must be true to be eligible to receive grant funding as a result of HB22-1107:

- (a) "State institution of higher education" means a public postsecondary institution that is governed by:
- (I) The board of governors of the Colorado State University system;
  - (II) The board of regents of the University of Colorado;
  - (III) The board of trustees of the Colorado School of Mines;
  - (IV) The board of trustees of the University of Northern Colorado;
  - (V) The board of trustees of Adams State University;
  - (VI) The board of trustees of Western Colorado University;
  - (VII) The board of trustees of Colorado Mesa University;
  - (VIII) The board of trustees for Fort Lewis College;
  - (IX) The board of trustees for Metropolitan State University of Denver; or
  - (X) The state board for community colleges and occupational education.

Of the provided list of state institutions of higher education, only the **University of Colorado Colorado Springs, University of Northern Colorado, and Arapahoe Community College** have existing inclusive higher education pathways and are eligible for this grant.

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## II. Application and Submission Details

### Key Dates

- Application opens: July 17, 2023
- Deadline for Submission: September 1, 2023 11:59 pm
- Virtual Q&A Session with Applicants: September 13, 2023
- Deadline for award selection: September 15, 2023
- Grant funding disbursed: October 31, 2023
- Grant year: November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

### Submission Format and Process

- Applications must include completion of application cover page (pg. 7), application narrative that answers the grant application questions and utilizes the corresponding headings, an attached budget and leadership approval letter.

- Use 11 point or larger font on 8.5x11 with 1” margins at top, bottom and both sides
- Applications must be no more than 20 pages, not including cover page, budget or any attached addendums.
- Applications must be submitted and received in PDF format by the deadline via email to [info@inclusivehighered.org](mailto:info@inclusivehighered.org). *Your submission is not complete until you receive email confirmation verifying the date of receipt.*

# Required Elements

## A. Application Cover Page

Applicant Information			
Institution Name			
Inclusive Higher Education Program Name			
Program Website			
Mailing Address			
Primary Phone			
Primary Contact / Program Director		Authorized Representative <small>*Contract/MOU Signing Authority</small>	
Name		Name	
Title		Title	
Email		Email	
Phone		Phone	
Proposal Summary			
Provide a brief summary of your expansion proposal below			
Total Requested Funding for 1 year:			

## **B. Narrative Questions**

1. Describe your program proposal.

### **Commitment to Equitable Expansion**

2. How do you define the increase of enrollment and/or diversity for your inclusive higher education program? Please be clear about the intended populations you seek to serve to potentially include categories of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, ability level, etc.
3. Describe your institution's plan for diversity, equity and inclusion and how your expansion proposal for students with IDD fit into that plan.
4. Describe current institutional or programmatic barriers for students with IDD, including underserved populations and gaps in equal access, and how said barriers were assessed.
5. Describe how the funds requested will address identified barriers, gaps, or weaknesses.

### **Outcomes and Sustainability**

6. Describe proposal outcomes and identify how success will be measured.
7. Provide a timeline for proposal implementation and achieving stated outcomes.
8. Describe how the program expansion proposal will be sustainable following grant funding.

### **Supportive Elements**

9. Describe the institutional or programmatic supports that will be required for proposal success.
10. Describe partnerships that might be utilized to implement your proposal (internal and external).
11. Describe any barriers you foresee in implementing the proposal.
12. Describe how your institution will conduct outreach to inform prospective students about new opportunities created by this expansion grant.

## **C. Budget**

Please attach a general budget for the proposal. You may attach a one-page budget narrative as necessary.

While subcontracting is acceptable if required to successfully implement proposal, the institution of higher education will remain the primary fiscal agent.

## **D. Institutional Support**

Please attach a signed letter of support from the institution of higher education.

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### III. Application Review Process

All submissions will be initially scored by a multidisciplinary review team in accordance with the rubric found on the grant website and attached to this packet.

**Grant applicants will be scheduled to attend a virtual Q&A session with the Grant Review Committee on September 13, 2023.**

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### IV. Requirements if selected

If selected, grantees will be expected to participate in quarterly progress reporting and end of grant year final report.

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### V. Application Technical Assistance

All applicants can submit written questions to [info@inclusivehighered.org](mailto:info@inclusivehighered.org). Answers will be provided to each question and shared publicly on our grant webpage.

Updates, supporting documents, and helpful resources can be accessed on our grant website at: <https://inclusivehighered.org/expansion.html>

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# VI. Scoring Rubric

Grant Application Scoring Rubric		
Area of Focus	Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Define Proposal	Applicants must provide a detailed overview of program proposal that defines the increase of enrollment and/or diversity for their inclusive higher education program. Responses should clearly state the populations of students with IDD intended to be served by proposal implementation, which may include categories of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, ability level, etc.	30
Equitable Expansion	Applicants must outline the broader university plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and describe how their expansion proposal fits into it. Applicants must assess institutional and/or programmatic practices that pose barriers to equal access and how their proposal will address the identified barriers, gaps, or weaknesses.	20
Measuring Outcomes	Applicants must include measurable outcomes of program implementation and indicate a plan for measuring outcomes.	15
Implementation Timeline	Applicants must create an outline that demonstrates a timeline for achieving proposal implementation and stated outcomes within the grant year (November 1, 2023- October 31, 2024) .	10
Sustainability Model	Applicants must describe their intent to ensure sustainable programming after grant funding.	5
Supportive Elements	Applicants will address the following: *Needed institutional or programmatic supports for proposal success *Potential internal or external partnerships to ensure proposal success *Potential barriers to proposal implementation *Plan for program outreach	10
Budget	Applicants must include a budget to support proposal implementation.	5
Institutional Support	Applicants must include a signed letter of support from the institution of higher education.	5
Institution Name: _____		____ / 100