

# Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities

## Grant Program Overview

**Application dates and details:** <https://inclusivehighered.org/expansion.html>

### Background

The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program is funded by [HB22-1107](#), which was signed into law in order to establish and expand college pathways for students with intellectual disabilities (ID) at state institutions of higher education across Colorado. While students with ID have historically been denied college options, when given the opportunity, students are reaping the benefits from post-secondary education, including, increased access to competitive employment, increased socialization, community belonging and greater independence.

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### Purpose

The purpose of the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program is to allow for colleges across the state to apply for needed funding to develop Inclusive Higher Education pathways that enable students with ID to have all the rights, responsibilities, privileges, benefits and outcomes that result from higher education to the greatest extent possible, including academic growth, social development, career advancement, and increased independence.

Expansion of inclusive higher education pathways is defined as the creation of more spots for students with ID to attend an institution of higher education and/or increasing equity for students with ID potentially facing barriers to accessing inclusive higher education in rural, low-income, and BIPOC communities.

The upcoming grant cycle will focus on funding the development of inclusive higher education programs for students with ID in rural, Western Slope, and community college settings to address accessibility needs throughout Colorado.

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### General Information

- This grant program will award up to \$500,000 per institution to be used over the course of 5 years to develop an inclusive higher education program for students with ID.
- \*start-up costs vary by institution and will be determined by the grant administering entity in accordance with a provided budget*
- The [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) is the overseeing state department; [IN!](#) is the administering entity
  - Eligible applicants must be state institutions of higher education as defined in [section 23-18-102\(10\)](#)
  - Applicants will need to demonstrate a plan to develop an inclusive program that includes commitment to:
    - Demonstrating how students with ID fit into the broader university plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
    - Determining supports for students with ID within the four pillars of the [inclusive higher education model](#): academic access, social inclusion, career development, and independence
    - Establishing alternative admission standards and an institutionally approved credential for enrolled students
    - Receiving program approval from president and top leadership
  - NOTE: The five years of grant funding will allow for one year of program planning prior to student enrollment. Additionally, award recipients will have access to ongoing technical assistance and program guidance from IN!

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### Info Sessions

- Grant Overview: November 29, 2023 ([register here](#))
- Applicant Q&A: February 1, 2024 ([register here](#))
- Budget Overview: February 15, 2024 ([register here](#))
- Applicant Q&A: March 12, 2024 ([register here](#))
- Applicant Q&A: March 28, 2024 ([register here](#))

### Key Dates

- **Application open:** January 17, 2024
- **Applications due:** April 15, 2024
- Grantee review and selection: May 15, 2024
- Grant funding disbursed: July 1, 2024

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### Resources

- [IN!'s Expansion & Grant Webpage](#)
- [HB 22-1107](#)
- [Think College: National Technical Assistance & Resource Center for Inclusive Higher Education](#)