

# Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities

## Grant Program Overview



**Request for Applications Open March 15, 2023:** <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 and developmental disabilities (IDD) at state institutions of higher education across Colorado. While students with IDD 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, expand and solidify Inclusive Higher Education pathways that enable students with IDD 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.

Attention will be given to increasing diversity and accessibility within expansion efforts. Expansion of inclusive higher education pathways is defined as the creation of more spots for students with IDD to attend an institution of higher education and/or increasing equity for students with IDD potentially facing barriers to accessing inclusive higher education in rural, low-income, and BIPOC communities.

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### General Information

- This is a 5-year grant program, awarding on average a total of \$400,000 per institution.  
*\*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 IDD fit into the broader university plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Following the four pillars of the [inclusive higher education model](#) developed by IN! and the piloting institutions
  - Completion of budget and financial sustainability template as provided by IN!
  - Program outreach ensuring adequate reach to diverse, rural, and low-income communities
  - Program approval from president and top leadership
- NOTE: Grant funding will allow for one year of program development and preparation with intensive technical assistance and program guidance from IN!

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### Timeline

- Grant Applicant Info Sessions:
  - March 27, 2023 @ 12:00pm, [register](#)
  - April 6, 2023 @ 12:00pm, [register](#)
  - April 20, 2023 @ 12:00pm, [register](#)
- Grant Applications Open: [March 15, 2023](#)
- Grant Applications Due: [May 1, 2023](#)
- Grant Recipients Announced: [May 15, 2023](#)
- Grant Funding Allocated: [June 30, 2023](#)

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### Resources

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