

**Transition Readiness Grant 2021-2022
Question and Answer Session
March 4, 2021**

- Q: Does GPS qualify as competitive integrated employment (CIE)?**
- A:** This may qualify, but applicants must ensure the specific components of the training program fits the criteria outlined in the Grant Guidelines document. Please contact Alicia Reinhard to discuss specific details related to CIE training programs.
- Q: What if our district community-based CIE is set up as unpaid internships, similar to Project Search?**
- A:** Unpaid internships that are part of district community-based CIE are not an allowable expense. The opportunity for unpaid internships is specific to Project SEARCH due to job development opportunities following participation in the program.
- Q: What is an example of the types of additional "supports" that qualify as allowable costs for Project SEARCH?**
- A:** Supports include anything that would support the student in attending and participating, such as uniforms, specialized shoes, assistive equipment, etc.
- Q: Would the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) Hospitality program fall within the CIE line item? If so, the tuition for the program is only @ \$900 per student. How would this work?**
- A:** Yes, the WITC can qualify, but the program must meet the CIE eligibility criteria outlined in the Grant Guidelines document. The application can include some transportation for an allowable cost, as well as specialized meals, etc. If the LEA does not use all \$10,000, then the LEA will claim for the expenses incurred.
- Q: If the school district has a school-based business program that works with local businesses, but the students complete the work at the school, can CIE funds be used for that program?**
- A:** Possibly. If the business only employs students with disabilities, then the program does not qualify. Also, students in the program need to make at least minimum wage, or comparable to what others would make in the community-based setting. The district should conduct research on wages within the community and provide documentation that wages are comparable.

Q: Can the school district contract with outside agencies such as ODC to allow for job development and job coaching? If so, where does this fall?

A: The Wisconsin DPI does not provide an allowable cost for contracting with outside agencies.

Q: If a student is in a Youth Apprenticeship Program, can the grant pay for wages?

A: Yes, the grant pays for wages for students in a Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Q: Is there ever a scenario where you could split the \$1,000 per student for postsecondary education between two different students (each getting \$500 or does it need to be exclusively to one)?

A: Yes, if you are approved for \$1,000, the school district can split the cost between two or more students.

Q: How much can be used for the transportation piece under the CIE line item?

A: This is up to the school district. Be aware of the total maximum amount that can be reimbursed for each category outlined in the Grant Guidelines document.

Q: The example provided for the student in childcare said that the district paid the wages. Please provide further explanation.

A: Yes, the district is paying the wages. The daycare provides a paycheck to the student and invoices the district for this cost. The district has then incurred this cost and it is reimbursable.

Q: If there is a consortium, can more than one district in the consortium apply in different categories, i.e. can one district apply for a \$10,000 transportation fund and another apply for a \$5,000 transportation fund?

A: No. If there is a consortium, school districts apply as one entity. The funds are then split between the individual districts.

Q: On the application, when text is typed into 1A, it also fills into 1B. How can this be fixed?

A: Send Alicia Reinhard an email, alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov, and she will work to remedy this error.

Q: Can a Project SEARCH program, run by a CESA, apply to support all students within the program (e.g., even if partially funded, the funds could reduce costs across all districts that have students attending)?

- A:** Per statute, grant awards can only be provided to a school district. A consortium of districts would be allowed, but the CESA cannot be the fiscal agent. When creating the consortium, districts who did not previously receive an award will be prioritized (i.e., consortiums should consider this when determining consortium members). Another consideration is to ensure the root cause of transition needs within the districts, and across the consortium, are addressed by the grant proposal. The total grant award must be under \$100,000, and can be split between districts and students.
- Q:** **Marathon County Special Education (MCSE) has 6 school districts. Can MCSE be the fiscal agent or does it have to be a specific school district?**
- A:** Per statute, one school district would need to be the fiscal agent, but the six districts can combine to create a consortium.
- Q:** **Can you expand on the sustainability stipulation? Is that only considered with districts who are applying but have received a grant in the past?**
- A:** Sustainability is a consideration for all applicants, as each application must be given a score on sustainability. The sustainability question will be a priority for districts who have previously received a TRG award.
- Q:** **Can a district be part of a consortium application for Project SEARCH as well as apply separately based on individual district needs?**
- A:** Yes, districts in a consortium for Project SEARCH can also submit a separate application based on individual district needs.
- Q:** **If a consortium of three districts applies for transportation funding, can those districts split the transportation cost?**
- A:** Yes, how districts split costs in an application is up to the districts to determine.
- Q:** **For consortiums, can funds be split?**
- A:** Yes
- Q:** **Is the fiscal agent the district that is responsible for paying wages, and other expenses?**
- A:** Yes, as the district that acts as the fiscal agent will be the one submitting for reimbursement.
- Q:** **In a school-based business, can the school district use regular education students as mentors?**

A: No, mentors need to be working alongside each other and have the same job duties.

Q: Can applicants apply for both a \$5,000 and a \$10,000 transportation award?

A: No, applicants can only apply for either \$5,000 or \$10,000 transportation awards.