Colorado's Computer Science Education (CSed) Grants for Teachers Program

Application Webinar

Pursuant to: 22-97-101 C.R.S.

Introduction

- Senate Bill 17-296 was passed in 2017 and called for the General Assembly to appropriate funds for Computer Science Education (CSed) Grants for Teachers.

- The main purpose of the grant is to promote intensive, high-quality professional learning activities that focus on increasing teachers' computer science content knowledge.

- This grant program exists to promote the postsecondary education of eligible teachers who teach or wish to teach computer science in public schools.

Eligible Applicants

- Public local education agencies (LEAs) must apply for funds on behalf of teachers. Individual teachers are *not* eligible to receive grant funding directly from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

- Applications will not be accepted from individual schools, but must be authorized and submitted through their LEA. A charter school's authorizer will be the fiscal agent, if funded.

- An eligible LEA is:
  - A School District;
  - A Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES); and
  - The Charter School Institute.

Priority

- Available grant funding will be distributed to LEAs with school(s) demonstrating high need based on Priority Criteria. Priority will be given to the following:
  - Rural LEAs;
  - LEAs that serve a high-poverty student population; and
  - LEAs that serve a high number of minority students.

Available Funds

- Approximately $440,000 of funding is available for the 2017-18 school year.

- Individual grants will be awarded up to $10,000.

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Funds may be used for one or more of the following activities:
    - Professional development tuition, fees, and/or training program costs
    - Professional development books and/or materials
- Any equipment purchases must be reasonable and necessary to support the allowable activities described above.

Application Timeline

January 30, 2018	Application training webinar
February 2, 2018	LEAs interested in applying submit a letter of intent
February 28, 2018	Applications due to CDE
March 20, 2018	Review of applications
April 13, 2018	Applicants will be notified of final award status
May 1, 2018	Grant funds distributed for a one-year term
June 30, 2018	Grant funds must be dispersed by June 30, 2018
June 30-September 2018	LEAs receiving grants will work with CDE to finalize grant activities, budget and an implementation timeline
September 30, 2018	LEAs receiving grants will submit to CDE report on grant activities and budget expenditures

Submission Process

- **One electronic copy of the application and electronic budget must be submitted to** CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us by February 28, 2018 at 11:59 p.m.

- The electronic version should include all required elements of the application as one document.

- Please attach the electronic budget workbook as a separate document to the email.

- If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt of your application within 24 hours of the deadline, please email CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us.

- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Review Process

- Applications will be reviewed by CDE staff and peer reviewers to ensure they contain all required components.

- This is a competitive process – <u>applicants must score at least 80 points out of the 100 possible points to be approved for funding (see the Selection Criteria and Evaluation Rubric below)</u>.
  - Applications that score below 80 points may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application up to a fundable level.

- There is no guarantee that submitting an application will result in funding or funding at the requested level.

- All award decisions are final.

- Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

- The State Board of Education will approve grant recommendations by April 12, 2018.

Application Format

- The total narrative (Sections A-D) of the application cannot exceed **10 pages**.

- Applications that exceed 10 pages will not be reviewed.

- All pages must be standard letter size, 8-1/2" x 11" using 12-point font and single-spaced with 1-inch margins and numbered pages.

- The signature page must include original signatures of the lead organization/fiscal agent.

Required Elements

The format outlined below must be followed in order to assure consistent application of the evaluation criteria. See evaluation rubric for specific selection criteria needed in Part II (pages 11-13).

Part I: Application Introduction (not scored):

- Part IA: Cover Page – Applicant Information

- Part IB: Program Assurances Form

- Project Abstract

- Table of Contents

Part II: Narrative:

- Section A: Executive Summary

- Section B: Needs Assessment

- Section C: Professional Development Plan

- Section D: Budget Narrative & Electronic Budget

Selection Criteria & Evaluation Rubric

Section A: Executive Summary

1) Provide a brief description of the proposed CSEd funding. The executive summary must be no more than 500 words and convey the following criteria in a clear and concise manner:

- **The need for CSEd funding;**
- **Types of professional development planned; and**
- **Major goals of the professional development.**

Section B: Needs Assessment

1) Provide a description of the need for a CSEd grant. The description should include applicable gaps in recruitment, development, and retention of qualified and effective teachers in the identified subject area(s).

2) Identify the number of teachers, students, and schools that will be served under this program and why they were chosen.

3) Describe the process for identifying and recruiting participating teachers including:

   - How teacher needs were identified;
   - Teachers' roles in school or district;
   - The target number of teachers;
   - How teachers will be prioritized;
   - Whether participation is voluntary or required; and
   - If participation is voluntary, describe the incentives for teachers to participate.

4) Describe the current structures for supporting teacher professional development including any supports specific to computer science teachers, and how these structures will be improved by the CSEd grant.

5) Identify specific gaps or weaknesses in computer science achievement to be addressed by the proposed CSEd program using relevant data. Be sure to:

   - Identify the data used to identify these gaps; and
   - Include data for all participating schools (attach if necessary).

Section C: Professional Development Plan

1) Provide an overview of the professional development plan for the CSEd grant (this can be embedded in an existing district professional development plan as long as the computer science expectations are clearly identifiable). Include specific post-secondary courses, degrees, training programs, industry-recognized certificates, or other means of professional development which teachers will attend.

2) Provide a detailed description of recruitment, support, and/or retention activities including:
   - What strategies will be used to recruit teachers who have demonstrated subject matter competency or an interest in computer science and wish to teach?
   - If recruiting the candidates described above, what activities will support their preparation to become computer science teachers?
   - What strategies will be used to retain computer science teachers?
   - If licensed teachers will receive support in obtaining an instructional technology endorsement, what activities will provide this support?
   - If mentor teachers are utilized, describe the training and support activities they will receive.
   - How will the planned activities address the identified needs within Section B, Needs Assessment?

Continued on next page…

Section C: Professional Development Plan

3) Provide a description of how the activities described in the above section should impact the content knowledge and teaching skills of participating teachers.

4) Provide a timeline describing the professional development activities in relation to the participants teaching computer science courses. Briefly describe how existing courses will be improved, and/or describe new computer science courses.

Please use the following chart to complete the item above:

Date	Activity	Participants	Person/ Partner Responsible	Interim Benchmarks	# of Contact Hours Planned

Section D: Budget Narrative & Electronic Budget

1) Describe all expenditures contained in the electronic budget in the budget narrative and connected to the professional development objectives and activities. The costs of the proposal (as presented in the electronic budget and budget narrative) should be reasonable and the budget sufficient in relation to the objectives, design, scope and sustainability of professional development activities.

2) Clearly address how the funds awarded under the program will be used to supplement the level of funds available for authorized programs and activities, and will not supplant any federal, state, local or non-federal funds.

3) Describe a clear and well-conceived plan for how the proposed professional development will be continued once the grant dollars have expired. For example, how will effective computer science teachers be recruited and retained once grant funds are no longer available?

Want to apply?

If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please submit the Intent to Apply via SurveyMonkey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSedgrant2018_loi

by **Friday, February 2, 2018 at 11:59 pm**.

Questions?

For program questions contact:

- Christine Liebe (liebe_c@cde.state.co.us | 303-957-6565)
- Joanna Bruno (bruno_j@cde.state.co.us | 303-919-3907)

For fiscal/budget questions contact:

- Marti Rodriguez (rodriguez_m@cde.state.co.us | 303.866.6769)

For application-specific questions contact:

- Anna Young (young_a@cde.state.co.us | 303-866-6250)