

Iron Range School Collaboration: Innovative Academic Programming

Iron Range School Collaboration Innovative Academic Programming grants support regional multi-district collaborative initiatives that result in increased availability and access to high quality education and training for students, teachers and communities.

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Eligible Applicants: A collaboration between two or more school districts within the agency's service area. Individual districts partnering with a Northeast Higher Education District college are also eligible.

Eligible Projects: Collaborative programming, technology, career pathways and staff development that lead to enhanced educational opportunities for students.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that supplement existing costs and programs.

Funding: Funding is available for Innovative Academic Programming for FY2021. The agency requires a minimum of a 2:1 match per project.

Evaluation Criteria – *Must be addressed in narrative.*

- 1. Investing in growing businesses that create jobs across the agency's service area.**
 - Describe the job creation or retention, if any that will result from this project (Minnesota Statute 298.22 subd. 13).
 - Explain wages and benefits, and whether the jobs created are full time, part time, temporary or permanent.
- 2. Enhances livable communities.**
- 3. Maximizes collaborations and partnerships.**
- 4. Strengthens businesses and worker education.**
- 5. Project serves an underserved community/population. (5 points)**
 - Population experiencing inequities and/or disparities.
 - Diverse populations that include:
 - Racial and ethnic communities, including American Indians.
 - LGBTQI communities.
 - Disability status.
 - Veterans.
 - Geographic.

Application Process and Review

A pre-application meeting with the grant administrator is required. Applications are accepted July 1 through July 31, 2020. Applications submitted after July 31, 2020 through the end of the agency's fiscal

year (June 30, 2021) may be awarded funding on a rolling basis subject to the availability of remaining program funds.

Applications are reviewed by the grant administrator and recommended for approval on an individual basis.

Project recommendations are presented to the agency's board.

Project funding is subject to the Commissioner's final approval. Project must meet objectives, priorities and policies established by the Commissioner.

Notify grant program administrator of any changes to application after final submittal.

Application Checklist

Project Narrative:

• **Narrative must address evaluation criteria and items listed below:**

- Job creation: wages and benefits, whether the jobs created are full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent.
- Evidence that participating school districts are working toward a common calendar and bell schedule to meet the needs of new collaboration.
- Evidence of new and increased curriculum opportunities for students.
- Evidence of new and increase cost savings going back to the classroom/students.
- Evidence of program sustainability.
- Evidence of staff input and leadership.

Timeline of project including evidence project is ready to begin within 3 months.

Letter of support from industry partners (if applicable).

Plans and budget including detailed sources and uses.

Contract or Cost of Material or Service	Quotes/Cost estimates <i>*Per Minnesota Statute 471.345</i>
Under \$25,000	Two – may be upon quotation or open market
\$25,000 - \$175,000	Two – may use competitive bidding process or direct negotiation
Over \$175,000	Sealed bids shall be solicited by public notice in the manner and subject to the requirements of the law governing contracts by the particular municipality or class thereof.

School board resolutions of support from participating school districts and project partners.

Other documentation to support the application.

Additional Information

- The agency reserves the right to require signage/logo acknowledging financial assistance from the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Details are outlined in the grant agreement.
- Awarded projects must meet Minnesota Prevailing Wage Statutes as stated in the grant agreement.

- Project information is subject to the Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 13.
- A progress report is required if the grant period exceeds 12 months.
- A site visit may be conducted by an authorized representative of the agency.
- A final report is required before final payment including job creation/retention.
- Spending within the agency's service area is encouraged.