

Introduction:

This document is meant to provide answers to questions concerning the new RFP format for the K-12 Early College Support Grants (FY23 Fund Code 460). To help guide programs through this new process, the Early College team conducted an introductory information webinar on September 27, 2022. The PowerPoint from this presentation FY23 EC Funding, can be found on our resource site or requested via email. This FAQ document covers some of the questions addressed in that presentation, as well as additional questions that have arisen since then. We will periodically update and resend this document as needed. In addition, it will be posted on our resource site hosted by NS4ED, maearlycollege.com. It is important to note that this year's RFP is significantly different than in previous years. The purpose of these changes are A) To allow programs to better calculate their anticipated yearly state allocations for Early College so they can plan accordingly- and B) To get money flowing earlier in the school year and keep funds flowing into the summer.

Questions Regarding How Application “Works”: Application Deadlines and Submissions

Q: Why are there different “parts” to this RFP?

A: The purpose of Early College K-12 support funding is to provide baseline funding (1 year of Planning and 4 years of base implementation at \$50,000), as well as additional funding opportunities based on program priorities. This RFP combines the application processes for these different opportunities into one RFP in a manner by which initial funding can be distributed and additional funding that needs to be approved can be added at a later date.

Q: What is due from grant applicants now (by October)?

A: All Designated K-12 partners should submit an FY 23 initial budget and FY23 signature page that covers the baseline amount programs will receive, \$50,0000. Programs in First Year of Designation should also add an additional \$25,000 to their initial budget (priority 1) to assist with implementation of program.

Q: How do we access funds for priorities 3 and 4?

A: By Oct. 31: Those programs interested in funding opportunities outlined in priorities 3 and 4 should plan to submit part iii. Answers via email to Rebekah.Barr@mass.gov for consideration. While programs may submit budgets via email as part of their responses, they should not yet submit an amended budget in Edgrants until advised to do so (and after confirmation of both Priority 3 and 4 awards, as well as Priority 2- anticipated timing will be end of November).

Q: How do we access funds for Priority 2?

A: No application for this priority is required. In November, the Early College team will review certified SIMS (student enrollment) data to confirm which programs will receive an additional \$25,000 based on having at least 50 students in program and 50% of those students coming from economically disadvantaged/low-income backgrounds. Those high school partners with 2 Designations that enroll 100 or more students with 50% from economically disadvantaged/low-income backgrounds will be notified that they will receive an additional \$50,000 in support funds.

Q: How is our start date determined for these funds?

A: Once you have submitted an EdGrants application for the FY23 portion of this project (FC460) in early Fall, Cashay Grant-Woods will approve your submission and email you back your official start date. All other funding related to this FY23 portion of funding can be backdated to this official start date. For programs who choose to split some of their budget to cover summer expenses (7.1.23-8.31.23). Will have a separate start date for those funds (Note: Questions regarding FY24 funds under this grant are listed in another section of this document). Once you receive confirmation of your official start date, you may begin encumbering expenses as of the approval date provided.

Questions Regarding Allowable Expenses

Q: Is technology (laptops & computers specifically) allowable on the grant?

A: Anything that is considered a capital expense, including technology (shelf life longer than 5 years) is not allowable under these funds. Technology under \$500 per item that is used as a learning resource is allowable but should not make up more than 10% of overall budget as other state grants can be applied for technology resources.

Q: Should programs include indirect costs associated with grant?

A: It is not required or allowable for programs to include indirect costs in their budget

Q: Is MTRS expense required/allowable under fringe benefits for funded Early College staff?

A: No funding for MTRS is not allowable under this grant.

Q. Could the funding be used to pay FOR developmental and noncredit courses at MWCC?

A: Yes, this funding can be used for developmental noncredited courses.

Q: Can programs use the funds to pay for tuition for either credited or non-credited courses?

A: Designated programs whose IHE partner will receive \$150/credit for every Early College student taking college coursework, may not duplicate funding and use these funds to cover the same college credits. If there are additional expenses for which the IHE partner needs covered, these funds can be used to support those additional costs not covered by the tuition reimbursements. For programs that may embed developmental coursework into their programming, these credits are not covered by the tuition reimbursement payments to the IHE partner and therefore can be covered through this grant.

Questions regarding the extension of the fiscal deadline to 8/31/22

Q: Since the fiscal deadline of this grant has been extended, how do we designate a portion of the funds that we think we will need during the summer (which falls into the beginning of the FY24 budget year)?

A: If you anticipate now that you have a need for some of your initial budget to be “reserved” for this summer, please designate these funds by submitting an FY24 budget in EdGrants. In the late spring, we will provide guidance on how to formally re-register this project for these summer funds.

Q: Will there be additional summer funding grant opportunities (outside of FC460) for Early College programming like there was last year?

A: We do not yet know if there will be additional funding provided through EOE and/or DHE at this time. We will keep programs abreast of any developments so they can adjust their needs for “reserved” summer funds accordingly. However, if you know that you will have summer staffing needs, it is advisable to consider reserving funds from this grant opportunity to cover.

Q: Can we apply for just FY23 funds in EdGrants? Are we required to submit for FY24 summer funds?

A: No, FY24 covers spending during the summer months 7.1.23 -8.31.22. If you do not have plans to spend in the summer, then you are not required to submit. Note: For programs **not** submitting for FY24 summer funds, their fiscal deadline to spend all of their awarded FC460 funds down will be 6.30.23. For programs who anticipated spending their funds down by 6.30.23 who have a change in circumstance and wish to shift remaining funds to the summer months, they will receive information on spring deadlines to do so.