

Choice Ready Grant Opportunity FAQ Guidance

What is the purpose of the Choice Ready Grant opportunity?

A: The Choice Ready Grants are designed to enable more students to graduate Choice Ready. This grant's purpose is to provide students with experiences.

Are the Choice Ready Grants competitive:

A: Yes. Applications will be reviewed and scored. We will fund applications scoring the highest until we run out of funding.

Is there a cap on the amount we can apply for?

A: Yes. Each eligible applicant can apply for up to \$20,000.

When are the Choice Ready Grants due?

A: All applications for a Choice Ready grant must be submitted by October 23, 2023.

Who is eligible to apply for a Choice Ready Grant?

A: Each eligible entity can submit one application.

- Public high schools completing a Choice Ready Report – each is eligible to submit one application.
- 31 Special Education Units – each is eligible to submit one application.
- 10 CTE Centers – each is eligible to submit one application.

What are the authorized activities for a Choice Ready grant?

A: Proposed activities designed to allow more students to graduate Choice Ready are allowable. These would include activities aligned to the following components outlined in our Choice Ready Framework:

- Essential Skills
- Post-Secondary Ready
- Work Force Ready
- Military Ready
- Life Skills Ready (Alternate Choice Ready Chart)

What is the timeline for spending the Choice Ready Grant funds?

A: The timeline to incur expenses under the Choice Ready Assessment Grant is from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

Are the grant funds intended to supplement, or can they be supplanted? For example, can they be used for industry certification purchases?

A: These grant funds are to supplement or add to the funds currently being used. The purpose of the grant is to provide more opportunities so more students can graduate Choice Ready.

If we have five different CTE Directors with different needs, can they all apply?

A: No, each of the ten CTE centers can submit one application. Therefore, if multiple directors are under the overarching umbrella, they must work together to complete one application.

Can Elementary or Middle School Principals apply for a Choice Ready Grant?

A: No, an elementary or middle school cannot apply for a Choice Ready Grant. There is definitely value in providing elementary/middle school students with career awareness opportunities; however, the Choice Ready Framework is part of the high school accountability system, and therefore, only high schools can apply.

Is this going to be a yearly grant opportunity?

A: At this time, we anticipate that Choice Ready Grants will not be available every year as we are using ESSER funding. We continue to search for possible grant opportunities.

Are there unallowable costs with this grant?

A: Yes. Two activities, in particular, are unallowable. Federal funds cannot be used to pay students, such as for an internship. Also, you cannot pay for food with federal funds.

Can the Choice Ready Grant be used to pay for online classes offered by virtual CTE Centers?

A: Yes, the grant can pay for approved online courses, as they would address an element within the Essential Skills section.

How can I increase the likelihood that my application will be funded?

A: Applicants can increase the likelihood of being approved by ensuring the application is thoroughly completed and addresses the score and purpose. In addition, bonus points will be given to applicants that address the priority areas, which include Military Ready, 21st Century Skills, Career Ready Practices, and anything in the Post-Secondary Pathway. In addition, bonus points will be given to applications that propose to provide student-centered activities.

If an applicant has multiple projects under \$20,000, should they still submit multiple applications or roll them into one?

A: Applicants should roll all projects into one application since each entity can only submit one.

Who can I contact with questions on the Choice Ready application?

A: For additional information, please email [Laurie Matzke](mailto:Laurie.Matzke) or call her at (701) 328-2284.

Where do we submit completed Choice Ready applications?

A: Email completed applications to dpiasstosupt@nd.gov.