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Chairman

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President & Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

Collaborative and Innovative Summer Programs to Address Student Learning Loss Resulting from the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) received from the South Carolina Department of Education a \$4,115,910 grant, part of the Education Stabilization Fund for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in May 2022. CHE has awarded three subgrantees and continues to request proposals for collaborative summer projects or summer programs between South Carolina public universities and partner school districts that will address student learning loss resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created momentous learning and instructional challenges over the past two years, resulting in significant “learning loss” for South Carolina high school students. Consequently, many students are less-than-fully prepared to take on the rigors of postsecondary education. The issue is not the students’ capabilities, but that the pandemic disrupted the modes of learning to which most were accustomed. This grant affords an opportunity to address the learning loss of both currently enrolled college students and rising college freshmen through collaborative and innovative summer programs.

We welcome proposals from public institutions with existing summer programs that meet the grant parameters and objectives, but we are keenly interested in funding new summer programs that can help provide students with the tools they need for postsecondary success. The CHE is especially interested in projects that incorporate initiatives and strategies proven effective in improving student success in other states or institutions, such as the University of Georgia System’s use of corequisite support in mathematics and English instruction. Such programs will be given priority, as will projects that have the capacity to be a long-term, transformative solution to student learning loss and the improvement of postsecondary student success rates.

Public universities are eligible and encouraged to apply for the grant. The grant covers a two-year period, running through September 2024. With the remaining available funds, the CHE expects to



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fund up to two proposals, with an expected range of \$450,000 to \$900,000 per proposal for two years in total.

Grant funds may be used to pay salaries and benefits (e.g., faculty or staff stipends for summer program development and instruction); cover the cost of tuition and fees for students over the summer months; purchase equipment, instructional supplies, and materials; pay for convenings and meetings; and hire consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated on student performance in core academic areas and/or dual credit courses (if applicable), the quality of the engagement with partnering districts, the program's impact on underserved areas of the state, the postsecondary academic success of students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and the likelihood of sustainability beyond the grant period. Each project will be evaluated annually by an external evaluator designated by the CHE. Participating institutions will be expected to submit appropriate data to the CHE for purposes of program evaluation.

To be considered for the grant, interested public universities must submit the complete application package, which includes the proposal (see the [Attachment A](#) for the proposal template), Projected Budget (see [Attachment B](#) for the budget template), a narrative budget justification, and curriculum vitae(s) of the primary investigator (s). The proposal shall include project description, partnering school district(s), the project's goals and measurable objectives, strategies, and activities to be implemented to be aligned with the objectives over a two -year period, timeline, data collection and data analysis, expected outcomes and impact of the projects.

Proposals accepted for funding will also be submitted electronically to the South Carolina Department of Education for final approval. Questions regarding the grant may be directed to Dr. Lishu Yin, the ESSER Program Director, lyin@che.sc.gov or 803-856-0512.

Please submit electronically the complete application package to:

commission@che.sc.gov and cc_lyin@che.sc.gov

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

ATTN: ESSER Grant Proposal

Complete applications are due no later than 11:59pm, Friday, March 10, 2023.

