

Computer Science Equity Grant Fiscal Year 2024 FAQ

Updated 22 March 2024

1. Where can I find the attachments?
 - a. You can find all the information for this funding opportunity under the blue Funding Opportunities bar on the [ISBE Standards and Courses webpage](#).
2. Should the attachments be completed as one PDF file or should the forms be separated?
 - a. The forms cannot be separated. Please combine them into one PDF when you submit the file.
3. Can the PDF password protection be taken off?
 - a. No, we do not remove password protection.
4. Can a nonprofit organization apply for funding?
 - a. A nonprofit organization is not an approved entity; however, a nonprofit can partner with an approved entity on an application. Please include this information in the program narrative.
5. Can you use funding to pay for salaries and staff and to purchase hardware?
 - a. Yes.
6. How will the awards be distributed and routed to grantees that are not naming school districts as collaborators in the NOFO/RFP?
 - a. The NOFO/RFP has been edited to say funding will be routed through awarded entities via eGMS.
7. The NOFO/RFP is confusing regarding a clear starting period or date for applications. Is there a date range that we should aim for with a starting date?
 - a. The grant period will begin no sooner than Jan. 1, 2024, and extend through June 30, 2024.
8. It seems unclear on whether we should budget for one year or three years. There's mention of applying for renewal after Year 1, but we want to make sure we create an accurate budget. How many years of performance are allowed?
 - a. Attachment 5 of the [RFP Forms](#) should be filled out with the budget for FY 2024. You will include the budget summary in Attachment 6 for all three years of the grant cycle -- FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026.

9. What/who are the approved entities that a nonprofit organization can partner with to be eligible for funding?
 - a. A nonprofit organization can partner with any eligible entity listed on the NOFO/RFP.
10. Are nonpublic schools eligible to apply for this funding?
 - a. Language in the statute precludes a nonpublic school from eligibility; however, a nonpublic school can partner with an approved entity on an application. Please include this information in the program narrative.
11. Will ISBE be making a unilateral extension for everyone to have until Aug. 31, 2024, to use funds?
 - a. If a grantee wishes to utilize funds through Aug. 31, 2024, they need to indicate extended grant year on the application.
12. What should the planning year look like?
 - a. We are unable to provide guidance regarding the planning year.
13. What is an allowable use of funds?
 - a. Please see Attachment 5 in the [RFP Forms](#) to view allowable expenses.
14. The NOFO/RFP states: Collaborative applications will be accepted. Entities are allowed one application. Does that mean if you are collaborating, you can only collaborate with one entity?
 - a. Each entity is allowed one application; however, entities may collaborate with more than one entity.
15. The NOFO/RFP states: “Year 1: Planning (FY 2024) – 100 percent of the planning process will take place during the planning year.” Can implementation start during year 1?
 - a. Yes, you can implement during Year 1.
16. The way the priority points are written, can non-school districts be awarded them?
 - a. Priority points will be awarded to proposals that intend to serve a school or district. Any eligible applicant may receive these points when funds are used for a school district.
17. In the Capacity section of the rubric (2.2), it states: “The proposal lists any intended partnerships and the roles of each partner, including the expected impact of each partner on the success and sustainability of the program and its aligned activities.” What if there is no collaborating partner? Will the entity applying get 0 points?

- a. The entity should address the question and explain the plan with or without partnerships, answering the question to indicate who would be involved.