



Questions and Answers- Request for Application

California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program

Who Can Apply for a Classified Grant Program?

- 1. Q:** Do Non-Public Schools (NPS) Qualify?
A: No. Classified Grant Program is open only to local education agencies (LEAs). See the definition of LEA applicant in the Authorizing Legislation Section 44392 (a).
- 2. Q:** Our LEA already receives the grant. Will we need to submit another application to continue in the program?
A: The 2022 Classified Grant Program RFA is a new competition. All interested LEAs (former grantee LEAs and new LEAs) must apply to be considered.
- 3. Q:** I work for a charter school, which is a large Charter Management Organization with schools across CA. We are wondering if we would be required to apply at the school level, rather than the organization wide level for this grant?
A: Classified Grant application must be submitted by a charter school with a CDS Code. The applicant charter school may apply as a single school or as the lead applicant for a consortium of charter schools, and the named charter school must be the manager of the Classified Grant program. The fiscal agent must be from the charter school that is submitting the proposal. Classified Grant funds are Prop 98 funds and can only be distributed to an entity with a CDS code. If the CMO is listed as the fiscal agent on the cover page, the application will be deemed ineligible. It is a local decision whether each school apply independently or as a consortium with a charter school as the lead applicant.

Clarifying the Classified Grant Program RFA

- 4. Q:** The introduction statement refers to LEAs providing access for employees to participate in designated programs that support the completion of a bachelor's degree and teacher preparation program, and to provide instructional services as fully credentialed teachers. Does this include paying for Teacher Induction?
A: No. LEAs will support candidates' completion of a bachelor's degree and a preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist teaching credential.
- 5. Q:** During the last round of the classified grant, we collaborated with LEAs. I noticed in the grant language item nine mentions grant stewardship and accreditation status. Is there a way to know an LEA submitted data and all required documentation in a timely manner?
A: You may inquire for that information from the LEA partner. Commission staff will also have this information and will consider the information during the grant application scoring.

6. **Q:** While we meet two of the criteria on the priority consideration items listed on the bottom of page 4 of the RFA, we are not sure if we meet the third – i.e., “expand an existing program that recruits and supports expanding learning and preschool program staff and addresses kinder and early childhood education.” We are a high school district, 9-12, so our classified staff who earn their degree lean towards high school teaching.
A: LEAs that do not have need for kindergarten and early childhood education program will still be considered.
7. **Q:** On page 7, number 2 of the RFA: "Applicants should include...and how it recruits and supports expanding learning and preschool program staff to address kindergarten and early childhood education teacher shortages." Does the section mean to say that applicants are expected to recruit potential classified employee credential candidates from expanding learning and preschool staff as a means of addressing kinder and ECE teacher shortages?
A: That is a local decision.
8. **Q:** On page 8(d), is it correct that districts with teacher residency programs do not need to provide Participant Support related to "providing flexibility to maintain one's classified position while pursuing the credential" if the classified employee becomes a resident?
A: “Providing flexibility to maintain one’s classified position while pursuing the credential...” is an example of how LEAs might provide participants support. Grant applicants are asked in question 5d on page 8 to explain what supports for participants will be provided.
9. **Q:** The RFA “Who is Eligible to Apply” section states that grant funds are to be used to “recruit and support expanding learning and preschool program staff and addresses kindergarten and early childhood education teacher shortages.” I just want to be clear that expanding learning in the above statement is referring to after-school, extended-day-week programs, structured learning programs outside of the regular school day. Correct?
A: The purpose of the Classified Grant is to support classified employees to earn a preliminary California Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist teaching credential. The statement “recruit and support expanding learning and preschool program staff” is related to recruiting said individuals to earn a preliminary teaching credential.
10. **Q:** “Grades 1 to 12 inclusive” is referenced a few times in the RFA. Is there an expanded definition available to share?
A: All grade levels beginning at grade 1-12 for which a teaching credential is required.
11. **Q:** Are PPS credentials supported by this grant or is this primarily for multiple and single credentials?
A: No. This grant only supports preliminary California Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist teaching credentials.

Local Education Agency and Institutions of Higher Education Partnership

12. **Q:** Can we partner with a private university (as well as a public one)?

A: Yes. Applicants should identify any regionally accredited IHE partner(s): California Community College and/or California four-year public or not-for-profit institution of higher education (IHE), and a Commission-approved preparation program.

13. Q: Please explain more about the kind of active participation we need to secure from institution of higher education?

A: This is a local decision. Provide response in your application. Per the authorizing legislation, when responding to the application components, applicants should note the extent of how its plan for recruitment and implementation involves the active participation of one or more local campuses of the participating institutions of higher education in the development of coursework and teaching programs for participating classified school employees.

14. Q: What do you mean by development of coursework and teaching programs? (We assume that the universities we partner with have already developed liberal arts program for the BA and teacher credentialing courses for the credential...what additional development is needed?)

A: Explain in your narrative how LEA applicant and IHE will partner to provide support to program participants till completion of a bachelor's degree and teacher preparation program, and to provide instructional service as fully credentialed teachers.

15. Q: If our district is selected for the new funding of the Classified Grant Program, will our current program participants be required to attend the IHE the LEA is partnering with?

A: Yes. Applicant LEAs may partner with more than one IHE.

16. Q: More specifically, will our district need to have signed articulation agreements with 8 different IHEs to allow the current participants to complete their coursework where they are already enrolled?

A: Yes.

17. Q: How many IHEs may an LEA partner with?

A: That is a local decision. All IHE partners must sign the partner agreements.

18. Q: Can you confirm that an LEA can work with more than one IHE in partnership?

A: Yes.

19. Q: Is having the LEA partner with an IHE a new requirement from the last round of funding?

A: No. All current requirements are per statute. Please see [Appendix A- Authorizing Legislation Section 44393](#).

20. Q: If an LEA has a partnership with an IHE for the bachelor's degree program, and the LEA operates its own credentialing program - is that sufficient in meeting the partnership terms required by the grant? For example, is a county office of education that operates an intern program eligible so long as it has a partnership with an IHE who grants bachelor's degrees?

A: Yes.

21. Q: Section 4, Classified Grant Collaboration with Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education, states "Applicants should identify.... a Commission-approved preparation program offered by a regionally accredited IHE partners...". If the grant applicant LEA has a partnership with a California Community College(s), IHE(s) and LEA(s) which

has/have their own commission approved credential program does this mean the grant funds cannot be used for tuition toward the commission approved LEA credential program?

A: Grant funds MAY be used in combination with IHEs that confers the bachelor's degree and with an LEA Commission-approved teacher education program.

22. Q: Brandman University has been a partner of ours in the past and continues to be a strong partner through the transition to UMass global. They are still accredited with CCTC for their credential programs. Does this transition not allow us to partner with this IHE for the degree portion of this grant as well since Criteria #4 on Page 7 specifies "California four-year public or not-for-profit IHE".

23. A: No. You may continue to partner with UMass Global. From the Committee on Accreditation agenda item regarding this change: "... while the control of Brandman University is being transferred from Chapman University to the University of Massachusetts, Brandman is and will continue to operate administratively and academically as an independent non-profit university with its own operating policies, academic faculty, and staff. In other words, Brandman is not transferring its authority, or its educator licensure programs, to the University of Massachusetts. The entity of Brandman University will continue to sponsor the educator licensure programs both before and after the transaction, though we do anticipate that Brandman University changing its name to UMass Global. However, UMass Global will not be part of the University of Massachusetts system nor a campus of the University of Massachusetts.

24. Q: Do the participants need to attend the IHE we partner with, or can they continue with an online university they may have begun?

A: Participants may continue with their current university provided the IHE is identified as an IHE partner.

Consortium Application

25. Q: Can we edit/revise our LOI to include additional Consortium members after the 4/29 submission?

A: Yes. As a reminder, the notice of intent to apply is optional. The purpose of the notice is to inform the Commission of interested applicants so that any additional information about the RFA may be provided, including responses to written questions. Submission of a Notice of Intent to Apply is not a promise or obligation to submit a proposal, and a lack of submitting a Notice of Intent to Apply does not disqualify or preclude an applicant from submitting a proposal in response to the RFA.

26. Q: If we submit a LOI as a consortium, does our application in June have to include all those LEAs listed on the LOI?

A: Yes. It is expected that if the application represents a consortium, all LEA partners will sign the partnership agreements at the time of submitting your application, including partner LEAs within a county office of education. If an LEA partner listed on the notice of intent to apply is no longer a partner at the time of the submission of the application, then no signature is needed.

Classified Grant Program Funding

27. Q: Since the Grant won't be awarded until June 27, 2022, will participants be allowed access the \$4800 for reimbursement for receipts between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022?

A: No.

28. Q: The grant period reads 2021-22 through June 30, 2026. Are we able to retroactively reimburse a participant from 2021-22 school year?

A: No.

29. Q: On page 5 of the RFA "stipends" are listed as allowable expenses and the budget sheet on page 20 says "Living stipends for participants." Can you elaborate on what is allowable for these stipends and what sort of documentation you will be looking?

A: A stipend is a fixed amount of money to help defray cost associated with earning one's teaching credential. The amount of the stipend is a local decision. The Commission will collect data annually which indicates the amount of stipend expended.

30. Q: Can a County Office of Education use funds in this grant to support charter schools outside of its own county?

A: This is a local decision.

31. Q: Can we use the Classified Grant funds to support the same classified school employees who are participating in our Teacher Residency Grant Program, which focuses on credentialing teachers in special education? In other words, can we augment our financial support for our residents with classified grant funds?

A: Yes.

32. Q: Year 1 is identified as 21-22. Announcements of grant awards are expected for June 27, 2022. When will funds be available to grantees? This timeline might not allow for expending funding within 21-22. Does that change what should be provided in the "Year One Total Grant Funds Requested" column in Appendix E? Should that column reflect requested funds for 22-23 instead?

A: Grant funds can only be used after the awarding of the grant. Applicant LEAs should plan their program to begin July 1, 2022.

33. Q: Please clarify where personnel salaries could be added to the budget. There is no line item specifically for personnel salaries.

A: Personnel salaries can be part of "Program administration." Note: An LEA receiving a grant shall not use more than ten percent (10%) of a grant award for program administration costs.

34. Q: Can we put almost ALL \$4,800 into tuition, fees, and books as 4800 per participant does not even cover both semesters of tuition?

A: This is a local decision.

Classified Grant Program Participants

35. Q: In terms of TK teachers, many employees do not hold a credential and yet their district considers them certificated. Would those individuals qualify for the grant since they don't hold a credential and are working in a school setting?

A: Yes. Participants are individuals interested in earning a Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or and Education Specialist credential.

36. Q: Can classified staff interested in becoming a teacher participate if they have already completed their BA?

A: Yes.

37. Q: We would like to work with applicants who already have a 4-year degree have who are pursuing a teaching credential. Is this allowable within this grant?

A: Per the authorizing legislation, Classified Grant is open to potential classified employees who meet the minimum requirements of an Associate in Arts (AA) degree or successful completion of two year of college, or higher.

38. Q: Does this grant only support undergraduates in the process of completing a 4-year degree and teaching credential program?

A: The grant supports any participant who meets the minimum requirements.

39. Q: Are classified employees who only need to pursue a credential program eligible to receive these funds or are the funds only eligible to those who need both the bachelor's degree and a credential?

A: Yes. The grant supports any participant who meets the minimum requirements.

40. Q: Can employees in this program also be eligible to eventually participate in a Teacher Residency Program and receive funding from Residency Grant awards?

A: Yes.

41. Q: Can a previous Classified Grant participant receive funding from this grant, if they have received funding from the 2016-21 Classified grant.

A: Yes.

42. Q: Can a participant access other state funding if receiving the Classified grant, or can they only qualify for one of these funding sources? (Golden State Teacher, Early Educator Teacher Development, Local Solutions)

A: Yes.

43. Q: Does this apply to teachers who have a degree but not a credential?

A: This applies to Classified employees who have an Associate in Arts (AA) degree or successful completion of two year of college, or higher, but not a credential.