



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Introduction: On May 7, 2014 the Department of Workforce Service (DWS), working with the STEM Action Center (Center) and the Utah State Office of Education (USOE), rolled out two STEM grants designed to facilitate workforce alignment programs in K-12 education. This report provides a history of the grants, how they are funded, oversight of the grants, coordination with other agencies and outcome deliverables.

Grant History and Overview: Over the past three years DWS has worked with various school districts to help develop workforce alignment and STEM programs. These programs, most notably in the Box Elder School District and the Park City School District, have had strong enrollment and great success stories. DWS along with leaders from the Box Elder School District presented their STEM success story to the Social Services Appropriation Sub-Committee on July 9, 2013 and received positive feedback and compliments from the committee.

As a result of the success of these programs DWS started consideration for a \$1,000,000 K-12 STEM grant program to be part of the 2014-2015 Special Administration Expense Account fund (SAEA) budget. The purpose of this grant was to provide funding directly to school districts that need funding to help creating or enhancing in-school workforce alignment and STEM programs. Due to several factors the projected 2014-2015 UISAF budget changed multiple times during the legislative session. The K-12 STEM grant was included on the final budget that was reported to the committee.

During the legislative session DWS received direction to expend reserves of federal funding received through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) formula grant. DWS identified a significant funding opportunity through the Office of Child Care in after-school programs.

These after school programs have a significant track record of providing positive environments for low-income and other students in need of after-school care. The 2013 Request For Grants (RFG) for the High School Youth Support Grant and Safe Passages Grant were only able to fund 30 of the 55 applications received for funding. There were no RFGs planned for the 2014 or 2015 calendar years.

The need for after school programs is strong. Helping the students who participate in the after school programs develop STEM skills is optimal. As there was a strong need for funding in after school programs, there was TANF money available and STEM skills are an important feature for career skill development, it made sense to design a second STEM grant that addressed these three initiatives.

DWS designed a second \$5,000,000 STEM grant that provided funding only for after-school programs. This grant also required that applicants target those students receiving free and reduced lunch. The STEM grant will be the only teen focused after-school grant released in the 2014 calendar year.

It is important to note that the \$5,000,000 after-school grant program is designed in the same manner as other TANF funded after school programs administered by the Office of Child Care. The



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

only difference being that this grant requires applicants to have STEM curriculum built into their programs.

DWS wanted to ensure that these grants were coordinated with USOE and the Center to ensure consistency and no over-lapping of funding. DWS approached USOE and the Center to participate in the grant development process and judging of applications. Both USOE and the Center have been and important part of the grant process.

On May 7th, representatives from DWS, USOE and the Center rolled out both the \$1,000,000 in-school grant and the \$5,000,000 after-school grants. The scope of both of these grants are to ensure that we are helping all of our K-12 aged students receive sufficient workforce skill development.

Funding: Funding for the \$1,000,000 in-school grant will come from the 2014-2015 SAEA budget. Funding for the \$5,000,000 after-school grant will come from the TANF program.

Oversight: DWS has and will continue to be watchful to ensure proper external and internal oversight of the grant programs.

Legislative Oversight:

During the 2014 legislative session DWS worked closely with the Legislative Fiscal Analysts (LFA) office, and the legislative chairs of the Social Services Appropriation Subcommittee (Committee). The SAEA budget was changed several times during the session due to requests from the chairs of the Committee. Several versions of the budget were submitted to the Committee through the LFA. The finalized version of the budget that was submitted contained the STEM Grant.

On March 7th, the LFA contacted DWS to get more details concerning the STEM Grant to ensure there was no overlap with other planned STEM funding. As a result of the conversation, DWS provided the LFA with an overview of how the grant would operate. That email, which included an overview of the in-school grant, is included in this report as Attachment A. The LFA indicated that HB 150 did provide funding for various STEM activities including professional development for those teaching STEM courses, middle school applied science, and certifications for high school students.

HB 150 has very specific requirements and scope for funding. The \$1,000,000 STEM grant being offered by DWS is significantly different from the funding provided in HB 150. The DWS grant program allows school districts to bring forward workforce alignment projects that meet the specifications of the RFG for funding consideration. The DWS grant also requires school districts that receive funding to target those students who receive free or reduced lunch. As DWS learned from other grants, the approach of allowing school districts to design their own project facilitates the success of these programs. Also, the DWS grants allow for more flexibility in what type of schools (elementary, middle school, jr. high and high school) can receive funding.

At the end of March, 2014 DWS also provided a briefing to House Speaker Lockhart and Senator Urquhart regarding the \$1,000,000 in-school grant.

Also during the legislative session DWS received direction to expend TANF reserves. At the direction of the Committee DWS immediately started planning for expenditures of TANF reserves.



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

As explained in the Grant History and Overview section of this report, one of the strategies decided upon was the \$5,000,000 after-school grant.

According to the direction of the Committee and budget intent language regarding TANF funds, DWS was of the understanding that they needed to expend TANF funding expeditiously. To accomplish that purpose DWS moved quickly to put the STEM after-school grant program together. An overview of the after-school grant is included with this report as Attachment B.

Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee Oversight:

DWS provided the written grant briefings for both the in-school grant and the after-school grant to the Intergeneration Poverty committee to gain feedback and gain. The IGP committee is part of the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission, which was formed by the legislature (SB 53) during the 2013 legislative session.

As DWS did not receive any feedback from the committee, staff went out and met with several of the members to get direct feedback and guidance. The committee was very supportive of the concept and provided positive feedback.

State Workforce Investment Board:

On April 10, 2014 DWS provided a presentation before the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) regarding the both of the STEM grants. The SWIB is made up of representatives that are nominated by the Governor, and includes a legislator, Representative Rebecca P. Edwards.

This presentation included a presentation from the Executive Director of the Center, Tami Goetz, regarding the funding they received. Tami gave a thorough explanation of the funding that the Center had received in HB 150. Immediately following Tami's presentation DWS staff provided a briefing regarding the two STEM grants. The feedback from the SWIB was positive.

Coordination: DWS met with leadership from both USOE and the Center during the creation of these grants. This coordination insured that there was no overlap between HB 150 and the in-school and after-school grants. An overview of the partnership is included with this report as Attachment C.

DWS held initial meetings with leadership from the Center, including Executive Director Tami Goetz, Executive Board Chair Jeff Nelson and Board member Stan Lockhart. DWS also met with leadership from USOE including State Superintendent Martell Menlove and USOE Career and Technical Education Director Mary Shumway.

DWS sent multiple drafts of the grant RFGs to USOE and the Center to get feedback and ensure there was no overlap in the grants. DWS made several significant changes to both grants based on feedback from USOE and the Center.

Outcomes: The respective grants have different outcomes that are being tracked. Outcomes for the programs will be built into contracts to ensure proper reporting and measurement methodology. The outcomes will be arranged appropriately for each respective contract. The outcomes that are likely to be similar between the grants include items such as the number of students receiving free



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

and reduced lunch served, new or increased capacity created in educational programs, local businesses engaged, etc.

The after-school grant outcomes will be appropriate for each respective application, but they are being designed to track the success of the participants for standardized testing, attendance, etc.

Conclusion: There is a significant need for workforce alignment and STEM programs at the K-12 level, particularly among those students who are at risk. By helping all students receive necessary workforce skills we can reduce future public welfare costs, help businesses find the necessary labor, and contribute to the quality of life of our State.

As demonstrated in this report DWS took multiple measures to ensure proper oversight of these grants. DWS will continue to work with our partners to ensure that there are no overlapping funds and that all school districts are able to benefit from these grant programs.



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

ATTACHMENT A – Email to LFA and In-School Grant Overview



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

ATTACHMENT B – Overview of the After-School Grant Program



Utah Department of Workforce Services

STEM GRANTS – EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

ATTACHMENT C – Overview of the DWS, USOE and STEM Action Center Partnership



Benjamin Hart <benhart@utah.gov>

Re: How the DWS k-12 SAEA Stem Initiative is Different from other STEM Initiatives

1 message

Benjamin Hart <benhart@utah.gov>

Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 2:38 PM

To: Stephen Jardine <sjardine@le.utah.gov>

Cc: Jon Pierpont <jpierpo@utah.gov>, Geoffrey Landward <glandward@utah.gov>, Casey Erickson <cerickson@utah.gov>, Dan Schuring <dschuring@utah.gov>, Nathan Harrison <nharrison@utah.gov>, Russell Frandsen <rfrandsen@le.utah.gov>

Stephen,

I hope all is well. Per our conversation attached are the SAEA budget and the program description for the SAEA funding for the STEM grant program.

Thanks,
Ben

On Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 1:32 PM, Stephen Jardine <sjardine@le.utah.gov> wrote:

Ben,

Thanks for clarifying some of the differences over the phone. As we discussed over the phone, could you please send me your latest SAEA DWS list and then any detail regarding how you anticipate using the \$1 million of SAEA funding for STEM related expenditures. Thanks.

Stephen Jardine

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

(801) 538-1034

Ben Hart

Director - Employer Initiatives

Utah Department of Workforce Services

801-526-9247 office

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2 attachments



STEM Grant Overview.doc

1423K



UISAF Projection for 2015 Fiscal Year.xlsx

14K



Utah Department of Workforce Services

Proposed K-12 STEM IGP Grant - Overview

Overview: Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is becoming increasingly important to develop a well-qualified workforce. By assisting school districts to help every child obtain in-demand skills, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), in partnership with the STEM Action Center and the Utah State Office of Education (USOE), will help to break poverty cycles and prepare a talent pipeline for the workforce. This outline describes a K-12 STEM grant program designed to help local school districts in developing or expanding programs to develop STEM related skills in their students.

Proposed Grant Leadership: DWS will be the fiscal and administrative agency for the grant. A partnership will be developed between DWS, the STEM Action Center and USOE. Representatives from these three organizations will serve on the initial review committee and the oversight committee. The oversight committee will be comprised of the Executive Director of DWS, the Superintendent of USOE and the Chair of the Stem Action Center. The oversight committee would provide oversight for the program and be the approving authority for grant proposals.

Proposed Grant Pathway: The grant pathway will be set up as follows:

1. Local school districts would be eligible to apply,
 - a. program criteria, scoring and outcome measurements will be developed under the direction of the oversight committee,
 - b. applications will describe how the money will help develop programs that would create or expand STEM and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs,
 - c. points will be awarded around the following:
 - i. leveraged funds put forth by the school district to support the application
 - ii. using this grant as seed money to develop programs that would be fully sustained by the school district after the period of the grant is concluded
 - iii. the programs ability to help students gain STEM, and other market demanded skills
 - iv. involvement of employers in the program
 - v. percentage of underserved students in the school district.
2. Applications will be submitted through DWS.
3. DWS will be responsible to ensure applications meet basic guideline criteria before being forwarded to the initial review committee.
4. The initial review committee will review applications and recommend approvals to the oversight committee.
5. The oversight committee will approve, deny or table applications.
6. DWS will be responsible for finalizing contracts and monitoring grants.
7. Each grantee will be responsible for reporting outcomes.
 - a. Outcomes for the programs would likely be some type of a certificate awarded by the high school beyond a diploma.

Proposed Funding: DWS will provide \$1,000,000 to fund the program. Grants awards will ideally be between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Additional Responsibilities: DWS, USOE and the STEM Action Center will all be responsible for marketing the program to school districts. USOE and the STEM Action Center will also provide financial support for the program when funding is available to do so.



Utah Department of Workforce Services

Proposed K-12 STEM IGP Grant - Overview

Conclusion and Next Steps: This grant program will target those students who need the most help in gaining employable skills that will help them achieve financial independence. In turn these students will catalyze economic growth within their communities. By serving the student, this grant will ultimately benefit communities and businesses. The dates suggested in this timeline are approximate and are more targets as opposed to hard deadlines. The following is the proposed schedule and next steps for the grant:

1. February – March, Establish a partnership with participating agencies.
 - a. Meetings will be setup up to formally invite the STEM Action Center and USOE to participate in this program.
 - i. For STEM this would include a meeting with Tami Goetz and Jeff Nielson.
 - ii. For USOE this would include a meeting with Martell Menlove and Mary Shumway.
 - b. Following these meetings an MOU will be drafted to establish an understanding of how this partnership would function, and delineate responsibilities.
2. February – March, Gather feedback from local school districts. To ensure this grant is designed in a way that will be user friendly for applicants, and effective in delivering outcomes.
 - a. Programs administrators will meet with local school districts from across the State to gather feedback.
3. April, Formalize grant processes and pathway. Develop formal Request for Grants (RFG) with partnering agencies. Initial drafts will be submitted to EDO and other internal DWS directors for feedback and final approval.
4. April 15, Publicize the RFG and begin accepting applications. The RFG will be published on the DWS website and be distributed to all local school districts through DWS, USOE, the STEM Action Center, and all other available distribution methods.
5. July 15, Application deadline. All applications received by this date would be accepted for review. The initial review committee will score the applications and make recommendations to the oversight committee.
6. August 15, Award grants, develop contracts. The oversight committee will meet around the 15th of August to provide final approval for applications. After applications have been approved the contract process to award the grants would begin immediately thereafter.
 - a. DWS will provide oversight of the contracts, including invoicing, monitoring, accepting reports, etc.
7. June, 2015 Project presentations provided by grant awardees. At the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, 2015, the awardees would be responsible for providing a presentation to the oversight committee concerning the success of the projects and outcomes achieved.

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

Unemployment Insurance Special Administration Fund (UISAF) 2015 Fiscal Year Projection

Project Categories by Funded Projects	Projected Budget*	Outcome Target	Target Cost Per Outcome	Target Date for Achievement	Outcome Measurement	Brief Description of Program
Job Creation Programs:						
Small Business Bridge Program	\$2,825,000	942	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Job Creation	Small business job creation support program
Refugee Training	\$500,000	167	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Job Creation	Refugee training that will coincide with the Refugee Center
GOED Rural Outreach	\$75,000	25	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Job Creation	This money funds a Rural Outreach position within GOED
STEM Grant Program	\$ 1,000,000	333	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Cert./Degree Graduate	Training dollars that DWS provides to GOED to leverage with other business incentives for recruitment initiatives
DWS/DEQ/UCAIR Partnership	\$1,000,000	333	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Job Creation	Partnership to provide grants to small businesses that need assistance to purchase emissions efficient equipment
LSI	\$500,000	167	\$3,000	6/30/2015	Job Creation	LSI helps businesses win government contracts, they are helping to place DWS customers into newly created jobs
Category Totals	\$5,900,000	1967				
Educational Partnerships/Training:						
ACE Veteran Credentialing Program	\$ 500,000	333	\$1,500	6/30/2015	Cert./Degree Graduate	This program helps veterans receive credentialing for skills they obtained while serving in the military
UCAP	\$2,000,000	267	\$7,500	6/30/2015	Cert./Degree Graduate	A grant program designed to help fund educational programs that have high industry demand
Utah NFB - Project STRIVE	\$100,000	67	\$1,500	6/30/2015	Cert./Degree Graduate	This program helps blind students get career ready skills
Category Totals	\$2,600,000	667				
Grand Totals	\$ 8,500,000	2633				
Footnotes:						
UISAF - 201 Total Available Budget						
FY 2013 Legislative Appropriation	\$ 8,500,000					
Prior Year Carry Forward Funds						
Total Available	\$ 8,500,000					
12/10/2013						



Utah Department of Workforce Services

K-12 STEM After School TANF Funded Pilot Grant

Overview: Working with agency partners and local school districts, there has been a significant need identified for after school programs focused on STEM education. DWS, in partnership with the STEM Action Center and the Utah State Office of Education will offer a TANF funded pilot grant program specifically for after school STEM programs. STEM careers are in high demand, and educating our at-risk youth to fill these positions will help them to achieve success and break cycles of poverty.

Grant Guidelines: Here are the basic program guidelines that would be built into the RFG:

- Funding would be used for programs after school, weekends or during the summer,
- Applicants would have to show the percentages of students they serve that are on free or reduced lunch school programs,
- Applicants would have to demonstrate how they intend to reach out and ensure involvement from students on free and reduced lunch programs,
- Anything purchased with these grant funds, or staff time paid for with these grant funds would be for the exclusive use of the afterschool program during the grant period,

Proposed Grant Pathway: The grant pathway will be set up as follows:

1. Local school districts, individual schools, non-profit organizations and other institutions would be eligible to apply,
 - a. program criteria, scoring and outcome measurements will be developed under the direction of the oversight committee,
 - b. applications will describe how the money will help develop programs that would create or expand STEM after school programs,
 - c. points will be awarded around the following:
 - i. scope and timeline of the program
 - ii. the programs ability to help students gain STEM, and other market demanded skills,
 1. applicants would have to identify the percentage of free and reduced lunch participants within their jurisdiction
 2. applications would have to identify how they will reach out to these students to participate in the program
2. Applications will be submitted through DWS Office of Child Care.
3. The initial review committee will review applications and recommend approvals to the oversight committee.
4. The oversight committee will approve, deny or table applications.

Proposed Grant Leadership: The grant would be directed by the partnership developed between DWS, USOE and the Stem Action Center. DWS will be the fiscal and administrative agency for the grant. The grant would be overseen internally at DWS through the TANF Program Manager, and would be administered by the Office of Child Care; Employer Initiatives would be responsible for coordinating the grant under the partnership with USOE and the Stem Action Center.

Requested Funding: DWS would provide \$5,000,000 from the TANF program to fund the grant. Funding could be used for equipment, training, staff costs, and other approved after school program costs that directly relate to STEM curriculum. Money would need to be spent by the grantees by June 30, 2017.



Utah Department of Workforce Services

K-12 STEM After School TANF Funded Pilot Grant

Conclusion and Next Steps: This grant program will target those students who need the most help in gaining employable skills that will help them achieve financial independence. In turn these students will catalyze economic growth within their communities. By serving the student, this grant will ultimately benefit communities and businesses. The following is the proposed schedule and next steps for the grant:

1. April, Formalize grant pathway, publicize Request for Grants (RFG), start taking applications.
2. July 1, Application deadline. Review committee meets shortly thereafter to review applications. Applicants are notified of when the review committee will be meeting, and they will have to be ready to answer a call if there are any questions concerning their applications.
3. July 15-ish, the Oversight Committee will meet around the 15th of August to provide final approval for applications. Awards made immediately after the Oversight Committee meeting.
 - a. DWS will provide oversight of the contracts, including invoicing, monitoring, etc.



Utah Department of Workforce Services

Proposed K-12 STEM Partnership Overview

Overview: Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is becoming increasingly important in developing a well-qualified workforce. By assisting schools to help every child obtain in-demand skills, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), in partnership with the STEM Action Center and the Utah State Office of Education (USOE), will help to break poverty cycles and prepare a talent pipeline for the workforce. This outline describes a partnership between these agencies that is designed to help in developing or expanding programs to develop STEM related skills in their students.

Proposed Partnership Structure: This partnership will operate under the leadership of an Oversight Committee. The Executive Director of DWS, the Executive Board Chair of the STEM Action Center and the Superintendent of the Utah State Office of Education will each fill one seat of the three-seat Oversight Committee. DWS will be the fiscal and administrative agency for the partnership. The primary function of the partnership will be to administer grants awarded for STEM education programs. A Memorandum of Understanding will be executed between DWS, the STEM Action Center and USOE to solidify the partnership.

Proposed Grants Common Components: Grants that are administered under this partnership will have the following common components:

1. Grants will be open to public school districts, individual schools or other public or non-profit institutions that partner with education to provide services:
 - a. Applicants will be given maximum flexibility to design STEM programs that fit the needs in their geographic region.
 - b. Applications will also be required to show how the applicant will reach out to underserved children living in poverty to ensure their involvement in STEM activities.
2. Applications will be submitted through DWS.
3. An initial review committee will review grant applications and recommend approvals to the Oversight Committee.
4. The Oversight Committee will approve, deny or table applications.
5. DWS will be responsible for finalizing contracts and monitoring grants.

Additional Responsibilities: DWS, USOE and the STEM Action Center will all be responsible for marketing grant programs. Grant programs will be primarily funded by DWS funding. The Stem Action Center and USOE will contribute to program operation costs with actual funding or in-kind staff contributions as budgets allow.

Conclusion and Next Steps: This grant program will target those students who need the most help in gaining employable skills that will help them achieve financial independence. In turn these students will catalyze economic growth within their communities. By serving the student, this grant will ultimately benefit communities and businesses. The dates suggested in this timeline are approximate and are more targets as opposed to hard deadlines. The following is the proposed schedule and next steps for the grant:

1. April, Establish an MOU solidifying the partnership.
2. April, Formalize grant processes and pathway. Develop formal Request for Grants (RFG) with partnering agencies. Initial drafts will be submitted to EDO and other internal DWS directors for feedback and final approval.