

Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Fiscal Year 2008

Request for Proposals (RFP)

- **RFP Release Date – September 26, 2007**
- **Statewide Consultation – October 2, 2007**
- **Letters of Interest Due – November 7, 2007**
- **Chancellor’s Response to LOI – November 28, 2007**
- **First-Round Proposals Due – January 22, 2008¹**
- **Public Meeting – January 31, 2008**
- **First-Round Awards Announced – February 29, 2008**
- **Second Statewide Consultation – April 3, 2008**
- **Second-Round Proposals Due – May 7, 2008 (tentative)**
- **Public Meeting – May 14, 2008**
- **Second-Round Awards Announced – June 26, 2008 (tentative)**

**Funding Decisions to be Made by the Chancellor of
Ohio Board of Regents**



**Administered by:
Chancellor of Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

¹ 10/1/07: Originally given as January 21, 2008.

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Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Request for Proposals

1. Overview

1.1. Introduction

America and Ohio are at a crossroads. Will we be a world leader in the development of new high-technology in the twenty-first century? Will we have the ideas and the talent we need to ensure our future prosperity? Ohio's response to these questions includes a major new initiative called the Ohio Innovation Partnership (OIP). The OIP has two components: the Choose Ohio First Scholarship and the Ohio Research Scholars Programs.

The passage of the Ohio Innovation Partnership marks a milestone in investing for Ohio's future. Ohio's operating budget, House Bill 119, aims to strengthen significantly the ability of the state and its citizens to compete in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as in medical fields and STEM education. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program will support undergraduate and/or graduate education for Ohio residents in STEM fields, medicine, and STEM education. The Ohio Research Scholars Program, the other component of the Ohio Innovation Partnership, will support an increase in the number of highly-qualified faculty in critical STEM and medical areas with a special focus on long-term regional economic development.

For universities, colleges and supporting entities in Ohio, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program presents a unique opportunity to transform the nature of the education being provided. The institutions' success will lie not only in identifying and recruiting Ohio residents as students to science, technology, engineering, mathematics as well as medical fields and STEM education, but also in providing them with the quality and range of educational experiences in these fields that support students' academic achievement in STEM, STEM education/teaching, and medical fields, success to timely completion of the degree, participation in graduate study, and support for their successful integration into the workforce of the state.

Ohio has a portfolio economy with no single industry, or cluster of industries, dominating the state's varied economic environment. Although a diverse economy augurs well for economic stability, it poses a significant challenge to the development of effective public policy and strategies for economic growth. To meet this challenge, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Chancellor, through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, intend to establish a premiere model for recruiting and retaining more Ohio residents as students in STEM, medical, and STEM education fields. This model will include the formation of strategic partnerships among Ohio universities, industry and state government with the goal of

producing a quantum leap forward in production of STEM graduates. Through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, the state is making an initial investment in this partnership of \$100 million over the two-year period covering Fiscal Years 2008-09.

The colleges and universities selected for funding under either or both programs of the OIP shall undertake sufficient levels of outreach to attract a diverse pool of applicants reflective of the diversity of the state.

2. Statement of Solicitation

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued for grants under the Ohio Innovation Partnership (OIP) that will be awarded to accredited Ohio institutions of higher education to be used exclusively for tuition scholarships for matriculating students who are Ohio residents. Throughout this RFP all references to Ohio students means students who are residents of the State of Ohio.

The Chancellor reserves the right to fund any proposal in full or in part, to request additional information to assist in the review process, to require new proposals from interested parties, to reject any or all proposals responding to this RFP, or to re-issue the RFP if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the State of Ohio. Issuing this RFP does not bind the State to making an award. The Chancellor's staff administers the RFP. The Chancellor reserves the right to adjust the dates for this RFP for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate.

All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal shall be borne by the applicant institutions including lead applicants and collaborating partners. Proposal preparation costs are not recoverable under an award. The State of Ohio shall not contribute in any way to recovering the costs of proposal preparation.

The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final. All lead applicants will be notified in writing whether their proposal(s) meet the requirements specified in the RFP and, therefore, whether their proposals will be submitted to the Chancellor for funding consideration. Lead applicants also will be notified of the outcome of their application(s) at the conclusion of the review process. If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when proposals are discussed and subsequently considered for funding.

If requested, lead applicants selected for funding must attend the Controlling Board meeting when their application for funding is heard.

The Chancellor's staff under the direction of Dr. Harry Andrist, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Advancement, will administer all grant awards made under this RFP.

Questions about this RFP, the Ohio Innovation Partnership, and the resulting Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grants should be in writing and addressed to Dr. Harry Andrist at handrist@regents.state.oh.us.

2.1. Timeline:

- Anticipated RFP release date: September 26, 2007
- Statewide consultation: October 2, 2007
- Letters of Interest due: November 7, 2007
- Chancellor's response to LOI: November 28, 2007
- First-round proposals due: January 21, 2008
- Public Meeting: January 31, 2008
- First-round awards: February 29, 2008
- Second Statewide Consultation: April 3, 2008
- Second-round proposals due: May 7, 2008 (tentative)
- Public Meeting: May 14, 2008
- Second-round awards: June 26, 2008 (tentative)

2.2. The RFP Process

The RFP process will consist of the following steps:

- Release of RFP;
- Statewide consultation;
- Submittal of letters of interest;
- Responses to letters of interest;
- Submittal of proposals;
- Public meeting
- Initial review and evaluation of proposals, including review of additional information submitted upon request;
- Recommendation, decision, and approval of award winners;
- Grant agreement preparation;
- Grant award.

Each of these steps is discussed below.

2.2.1. Release of the RFP

All RFPs covering funding programs administered under the auspices of the Chancellor will be published on the web sites of the University System of Ohio (<http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/>) and the Ohio Board of Regents (<http://regents.ohio.gov/>). Lead applicants must comply with all requirements stated in the RFP.

2.2.2. Statewide Consultation

The Chancellor will participate in two statewide videoconference consultations with university and college representatives, following the release of the RFP and before the date that letters of interest are due, to discuss the objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program and to respond to questions and concerns. The first consultation is scheduled to inform interested parties of the program and the requirements for

submission of proposals, while the second consultation will be the Chancellor's report on lessons learned from the first round of funding and insights into the second-round of proposal reviews with respect to any improvements that might be needed either in the process or in the content of the second-round funding requests.

2.2.3. Letter of Interest

Prospective applicants must submit a letter stating their interest and intent to submit a full proposal for funding through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. After carefully considering the stated goals of this funding program, the mission of the proposing institution(s), and the appropriateness of the proposed academic plan to meet the criteria outlined in this RFP, the president of the lead applicant higher education institution must submit a letter of interest to the Chancellor by no later than November 7, 2007. Proposals that are submitted without the initial presidential letters of interest will not be accepted for review in either round of competition. Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals, however, submitted subsequent to the timely submission of a presidential letter of interest are eligible for funding consideration during the first-round review of proposals, the second-round review of proposals, or during both review cycles.

The letter of interest, which must be no more than four pages in length, should identify all of the collaborating partner institutions and participating Ohio for-profit and non-profit entities as well as indicate the area of focus of the anticipated proposal in sufficient detail to permit the Chancellor to gauge the potential impact of the proposed plan of action. The letter of interest should also include estimates of the number of student scholarships to be awarded, the student recruitment and selection processes to be employed, how scholarship awards may be matched by the institution, and the anticipated educational impact of the overall project.

Letters of interest must be received on or before the due date of November 7, 2007, via email attachment sent to Dr. Harry Andrist at handrist@regents.state.oh.us. The signed original copy of the letter of interest must be postmarked no later than the published due date of November 7, 2007 and should be sent by regular U.S. mail to:

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street
36th floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Attention: "Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program"

Prospective applicants submitting letters of interest shall be issued a proposal identification number for the proposed project named in this RFP.

The identification number must appear on the application information page of the resulting proposal.

2.2.4. Chancellor's Response to Letter of Interest

By November 28, 2007, the Chancellor shall respond to each president's letter of interest received on or before November 7, 2007. The Chancellor's response letter shall be designed to provide a summary reaction to the perceived impact of the proposed plan within the context of the legislation establishing the Ohio Innovation Partnership. Institutions submitting letters of interest may subsequently submit full proposal(s) for the first-round review, the second-round review, or both.

2.2.5. Proposal

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that the Chancellor's staff receive proposals at the prescribed place and by the published due date. Late proposals will not be reviewed nor considered further. Lead applicants must ensure that proposals submitted in response to this RFP comply with all the requirements set forth in the RFP, especially the general proposal requirements specified in Section 6 of this RFP. Lead applicants are advised to read this RFP carefully to ensure a complete understanding of the proposal requirements. If, after administrative review by the Chancellor's staff, it is determined that certain proposals do not include the required components specified in the RFP, such proposals may not be reviewed further. Decisions at this initial phase of the review process may be made based exclusively on the content and completeness of the proposal. The Chancellor reserves the right to ask clarifying questions, request additional information, and require meetings to discuss the details of the proposal. All lead applicants will be notified in writing whether their proposal(s) meet the requirements specified in the RFP and, therefore, whether their proposals will be submitted to the Chancellor for funding consideration.

2.2.6. Proposal Review

All proposals will be subjected to an administrative review by the Chancellor's staff using the general proposal requirements specified in Section 6 of this RFP. The administrative review will cover compliance with RFP requirements for meeting the intent of the program and satisfying the evaluation criteria. Proposals found to comply administratively with the RFP requirements and program intent will be recommended for consideration for funding by the Chancellor's Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, which will make recommendations directly to the Chancellor. Lead applicants will receive written notification as to whether their proposal(s) will be referred to the External Review Panel for funding consideration.

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program incorporates total funding to universities and colleges of \$50,000,000 per year over the two-year period

of the current fiscal biennium, FY 2008-09, as established by Amended Substitute House Bill 119 of the 127th General Assembly. Two proposal review cycles are planned, one culminating on or before February 29, 2008, and the other to be completed by June 26, 2008; however, if the quality and number of proposals warrants awarding the entire FY 2008 allotment of \$50,000,000 during the first review cycle, the second round of proposal reviews will be cancelled as of February 29, 2008, with the release of an appropriately revised RFP.

2.2.7. Public Meetings

The Chancellor shall conduct at least one public meeting prior to deciding awards during each review cycle of the program. At the meeting, a member of the Chancellor's staff shall summarize the proposals submitted for consideration, and each university or college that has a proposal pending shall have the opportunity to review the summary of their proposal prepared by the Chancellor's staff and answer questions or respond to concerns about the proposal raised by the Chancellor's staff.

2.2.8. Recommendations and Funding Decisions

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, consisting of experts in the STEM, medical, and STEM education disciplinary areas, will be engaged by the Chancellor's staff to review Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals and make recommendations directly to the Chancellor. Nominations for service on this panel shall be solicited from representatives of the colleges and universities intending to submit proposals in response to this RFP. The Chancellor's appointments to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel shall be final. Based on the outcome of the review by the External Review Panel, a recommendation shall be prepared and forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration of funding decisions. The Chancellor shall take into account the evaluations and recommendations made by the External Review Panel and shall exercise independent judgment in making final funding decisions. The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final. If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when their proposals are being reviewed and considered for funding. All lead applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications after final funding decisions have been made by the Chancellor.

2.2.9. Grant Agreement Preparation

After a given proposal has been selected for funding by the Chancellor, the Chancellor's staff will seek approval from the State Controlling Board to prepare the final grant agreement that may include changes to the proposal and budget resulting from review findings, actions taken by the Chancellor, state funding changes, or other reasons. As provided in House Bill 119, any university or college that violates the terms of its grant agreement may be

required to repay the award plus interest at the rate specified in section 5703.47 of the Revised Code.

2.2.10. Award

A grant will be awarded based on the proposal as amended with the inclusion of a revised budget or other amended conditions set forth by the External Review Panel or the Chancellor. The grant will remain open for the duration of the project plus a three-year reporting period when annual reports are required. Funding at the requested levels will be contingent upon performance against the stated goals.

2.2.11. Progress Reports and Metrics

Each newly funded Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program institution will be required to implement a continuous assessment plan that evaluates the program at its campus. Grantees are expected to complete the project as described in the proposal as funded and as amended. The Chancellor's staff will assign a project administrator who will work with the grantee throughout the duration of the project. The Chancellor's staff and grantees will develop a series of performance metrics that will be used to measure progress on the grant. Grantees will be required to collect appropriately disaggregated baseline data, to measure progress through the collection and analysis of standardized data elements, and to submit required progress reports that record the achievements of the plan within the context of the original goals.

In addition to other items deemed appropriate by the reporting institution, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program progress reports should include the following elements:

- Documentation that the proposed objectives are being met along with a description of the continuous assessment processes used to verify the stated outcomes.
- Demonstration of the significant achievements of the program in terms of the student success outcomes.
- Documentation of how and the manner in which the expertise developed within the program is being, or will be, shared with other institutions in Ohio through professional interactions or consortial agreements.

2.2.12. Mandatory Compliance Issues

The following regulatory requirements apply to all Ohio Innovation Partnership projects:

2.2.12.1. Human Subjects Research Federal Compliance

As appropriate for student assessment purposes, the grantee organization's human subject policies and procedures must be compliant with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 45, Part 46.

2.2.12.2. State of Ohio Compliance

The grant agreement will require the grantee to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in the performance of the project.

3. Background

3.1. Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Background

Ohio has chosen to move forward vigorously as an active participant in the national effort to encourage more students to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. On June 30, 2007 the Ohio General Assembly and Governor agreed to dedicate more than \$200 million over the next two years to seven STEM-related education investments. Half the funds will be devoted to attracting students in higher education into STEM fields, including STEM education/teaching. The significant sum of monies devoted to student scholarships demonstrates that Ohio universities are intended to make a quantum leap forward in the number of STEM majors as well as STEM graduates.

Other parts of the overall Ohio program focus on bringing to Ohio more STEM scientists and researchers in higher education as well as making substantive improvements to the pipeline of STEM educators and students throughout the education process from the early grades onward.

All Ohio universities and colleges, both public and private, are invited to respond to this RFP for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. The best proposals will include substantive change in participating institutions' STEM educational programs to support success of more students who are recruited to these fields. A coalition of universities may make a joint proposal with each proposing advances in STEM education according to its strengths. For example, a team of universities might propose to modernize their "gateway" science courses with the various universities taking the lead in different subjects, such as chemistry and mathematics. Another example could be a two-year institution collaborating with a four-year institution on a modern articulation agreement utilizing particular strengths in teaching, research, internship opportunities and/or service learning of each partner in specific STEM subjects. A group of universities and community colleges might work with industry, government agencies and hospitals to include internships within the curricular offerings. It is a specific objective of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program that at least fifty per cent of the students receiving the scholarships be involved in a co-operative or internship program in a private industry or a university laboratory.

The Ohio universities are encouraged to be creative in establishing forward-looking STEM initiatives that will advance STEM education in Ohio as a national model.

The universities are encouraged to enlist the help of Ohio business and industry as well as Ohio academic research hospitals and local federal research facilities in crafting their proposals since many STEM graduates ultimately should find employment at these locations.

The universities are also encouraged to consider making proposals that combine the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program and the Ohio Research Scholars Program. The RFP release date for the former program is September 26, 2007 while the RFP release date for the Ohio Research Scholars Program is tentatively set for October 2, 2007. Joint proposals submitted for funding consideration by both programs of the Ohio Innovation Partnership may be submitted at any time up to May 7, 2008. Joint proposals received by January 21, 2008, will have the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program portion reviewed during the first review cycle, while joint proposals received after January 21, 2008 but prior to or on May 7, 2008, will have the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program portion reviewed during the second review cycle, if sufficient funding remains from the first-round review of proposals.

The colleges and universities selected for funding under either or both programs of the OIP shall undertake sufficient levels of outreach to attract a diverse pool of applicants reflective of the diversity of the state.

3.2. Current State of the Ohio Economy

According to a study conducted by Deloitte Development LLC in 2005 on behalf of the Ohio Department of Development, the state's political and business leaders have recognized a need to chart a new economic course for Ohio's future (http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/ODOD_051005.pdf). In today's high-technology global economy, this implies that Ohio must be made more attractive and hence more competitive as a place to do business.

Enhanced productivity will increase Ohio's competitiveness. Workers in the United States lead the world in productivity per worker (*New York Times*, September 4, 2007, page C3).

As the Deloitte study points out, "the task ahead is to draw on the state's history of innovation to develop creative, cohesive, and useful business strategies for promoting and retaining the state's mature core industries while attracting and nurturing new industries and investments."

One such strategy is to insure a deep pool of leading-edge high-tech scientists and engineers. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program seeks to identify and encourage these potential future STEM professionals at ages early enough to keep them in STEM fields of study through higher education.

In addition to encouraging more students to enter STEM fields, including STEM education/teaching, Ohio seeks to encourage the concept and practice of innovation. Collaborative efforts between Ohio universities and

Ohio industry can more fully enable this goal to be realized. For example, engineering curricula typically include a senior project-oriented capstone course as well as cooperative education experiences. The best innovation elements of such courses can be translated into other STEM disciplines.

Ohio's industrial leaders have expressed concern about issues related to workforce commitment and skill level. An appropriate university-industry response might include the development of increased student internships and cooperative education experiences as well as enhanced mentoring experiences involving faculty, students, and industrial partners. Universities and colleges are urged to work with industrial groups as partners to identify specific knowledge and skills across STEM fields that their proposals will be designed to address.

Ohio has a highly diverse "portfolio economy." This diversity of industries can work to Ohio's advantage. A university approach might seek to inculcate innovation across a portfolio of fields in their proposals. Industry can help universities by offering more well-coordinated internships. Industry and universities can couple this with well-designed mentoring.

Ohio's industrial strengths indicate that particular emphasis on certain STEM areas would be helpful. "Chemistry is a cornerstone of Ohio's technological innovation." (Deloitte study: http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/ODOD_051005.pdf) Thus, Ohio universities could encourage robust collaborations with the relevant companies as well as with such organizations as the American Chemical Society to craft nationally pre-eminent degree programs.

The Deloitte study concludes that there is not a "quick-fix strategy" for Ohio's economic resurgence. Rather, what is needed is a systemic, overall approach. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is a signal step in utilizing the long-term strengths of Ohio's universities in collaboration with Ohio's business and political communities.

Other Ohio as well as national studies have come to similar conclusions; web links to some of these reports are included below.

3.3. National Context as Revealed in Recent Studies

The Nation is becoming aware of its declining high-tech position and has reacted with programs such as the President's American Competitiveness Initiative. A report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities crystallizes several elements of this current problem:

- Employers need to be in direct dialogue with students.
- The public has remained silent for too long on what contemporary college graduates need to know and be able to do.
- The rest of the world is surpassing America in the production of STEM graduates.

“Intel Corporation Chairman Craig Barrett has said that 90 percent of the products his company delivers on the final day of each year did not exist on the first day of the same year. To succeed in that kind of marketplace, U.S. firms need employees who are flexible, knowledgeable, and scientifically and mathematically literate.” (Norman R. Augustine, retired chairman and chief executive of Lockheed Martin Corporation)

How can we prepare all graduates for a world shaped by scientific and technological advances and challenges?

"[S]erious national attention must be focused on attracting, preparing, and retaining qualified and committed teaching candidates. STEM educators should be viewed as a valuable national resource, and the best and the brightest should be encouraged to consider pre-college STEM teaching as a profession." (A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL NEEDS OF THE U.S. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION SYSTEM, 2007, National Science Board of the National Science Foundation)

“Together, we must ensure that U.S. students and workers have the grounding in math and science that they need to succeed and that mathematicians, scientists and engineers do not become an endangered species in the United States.” (*The Business Roundtable*)

The Business Roundtable enunciates one clear goal: “Double the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates by 2015.”

Thus, the nation as a whole is coming to understand the imperative of increasing its production of STEM graduates. The inclusion of innovation in STEM higher education is a necessary, modern addition.

Web links to additional Ohio and national studies are listed below:

State of Ohio Report from the Science and Mathematics Education Policy Advisory Council:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=333&ContentID=25539&Content=25542>

Industry-Based Competitive Strategies for Ohio (Deloitte study):

http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/ODOD_051005.pdf

College Learning for the New Global Century:

http://www.aacu.org/advocacy/leap/documents/GlobalCentury_final.pdf

The Education for Innovation Initiative:

<http://www.businessroundtable.org/pdf/20050803001TAPfinalnb.pdf>

National Innovation Initiative:

<http://www.compete.org/gi/pdf/CEBrazilPresentationTemplateJuly20052.pdf>

Underrepresented minorities:

<http://www.bestworkforce.org/PDFdocs/BESTTalentImperativeFINAL.pdf>

NSF reports:

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind06/>

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsb0602/>

National action plan for addressing the critical needs of the U.S. STEM education system:

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/edu_com/report.jsp

4. Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Description

The characteristics of the program are:

4.1. Objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

The primary objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program are to support increased higher education participation and success of Ohio students majoring in STEM, STEM education, and medicine fields and, in so doing, to advance the economic growth of each region of the state. By increasing the numbers of STEM and medical graduates, as well as the professional sophistication of Ohio's technical workforce, it is anticipated that new technology-based business opportunities will be created and new technology-based companies will be attracted to Ohio, each of which will have beneficial economic impacts for the regions of the state. This program advances these purposes by providing direct scholarship support to current and future higher education students who are pursuing STEM, medical, and STEM education degrees. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is complementary to the other program included in the Ohio Innovation Partnership, the Ohio Research Scholars Program. Both programs develop human talent and statewide capacity for sustained innovation, technology advancement, and the commercialization of new technologies.

4.1.1. Additional STEM Program Development and Fellowship Funding

The National Science Foundation, through its **STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)** also supports institutional efforts to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging STEM fields:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07570/nsf07570.txt>

Similarly, the National Institutes of Health, through its **Bridges to the Baccalaureate** initiative, provides support to institutions to facilitate the

transfer and graduation of students from associate to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions who are members of groups underrepresented in the biomedical science areas:

<http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/Mechanisms/BridgesBaccalaureate.htm>

4.1.2. STEM Teacher Preparation

Proposals that address the need to expand the pool of well-prepared teachers in STEM teaching fields and promote exemplary programs of STEM teacher preparation are encouraged. It is recognized that STEM teacher preparation is an evolving field and, therefore, institutions may range across a spectrum of readiness and capacity in their ability to meet as many as possible of the following essential specifications:

- Master's level preparation leading to licensure.
- Mechanisms for recruiting high-caliber students—current college seniors, recent graduates and career changers—with strong academic records, and undergraduate subject matter majors in STEM disciplines.
- Strong collaboration between arts and sciences, education, engineering, and technology faculty in program development and delivery.
- Program faculty composed of academic and clinical faculty, who engage jointly in program planning, design, implementation, teaching, and assessment.
- The STEM program is outcome-based, focusing on educating teachers with the ability to promote student learning in the classroom. The STEM program is field-based, integrating academic and clinical instruction from the earliest days of the program.
- The curriculum is rooted in STEM subject matter (either in discrete STEM fields or via new interdisciplinary combinations of STEM disciplines) and is geared to the population the teacher will teach.
- The STEM program is standards-based. Evidence is used to promote pupil learning and improve instruction.
- Course work also includes adolescent development and learning, outcome-based curriculum design, classroom management, assessment, and working with parents and communities, among other subjects.

- Preparation extends into the first three years of teaching in urban or rural schools, incorporating induction and mentoring programs that feature on-going school-university cooperation.
- Clear methods of evaluation are provided to monitor program quality, graduates' retention in teaching, and their impact on their students' learning.

Because the emphasis on STEM teaching and learning is an evolving field, Ohio's existing state teacher licensing system may not recognize the kind of innovation that both the legislation and this RFP encourage. This is particularly likely to be the case with respect to teacher preparation for engineering, technology, and/or new interdisciplinary STEM teacher preparation. The Ohio Department of Education is committed to encouraging such innovation and will work with exemplary programs identified through this RFP, and other stakeholders, to make necessary changes in the licensing framework and/or use its experimental program approval powers to create new paths to licensure for graduates of high quality, innovative programs.

4.2. Ohio Innovation Partnership Dual Applications

The particular genius of the American higher education system is that the faculty members who create the research also teach the next generation. This combination of research and education has made this nation pre-eminent in high-technology innovations because both the research results and the graduates have been empowered through American entrepreneurship. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship and the Ohio Research Scholars Programs together, as the Ohio Innovation Partnership, encourage the enhancement of this combination of STEM education and STEM research, and take it to the next level, with Ohio entrepreneurship innovation possibilities. Accordingly, a single proposal may seek an award under one or both programs within the Ohio Innovation Partnership.

4.2.1. Proposal Review for Dual Applications

Ohio universities and colleges are encouraged to consider making proposals that combine the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program and the Ohio Research Scholars Program. The RFP release date for the former program is September 26, 2007 while the RFP release date for the Ohio Research Scholars Program is tentatively set for October 2, 2007. Joint proposals submitted for funding consideration under both programs of the Ohio Innovation Partnership should be submitted on or before January 21, 2008. Joint proposals received by this time will have the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program portion reviewed during the first review cycle, while joint proposals received after January 21, 2008 will have the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program portion reviewed during the second review cycle, if sufficient funding remains from the first-round review of proposals. Any dual application proposals submitted subsequent to the proposal

submission deadline for the Ohio Research Scholars Program, but prior to the May 7, 2008 due date for second-round Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals, will be ineligible for funding consideration under the Ohio Research Scholars Program portion of the Ohio Innovation Partnership. Such dual application proposals that are submitted after the published deadline for the Ohio Research Scholars Program may still be reviewed for funding consideration under the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program as part of the second-round review, but only if sufficient funding remains from the first-round review of proposals and such dual application proposals are submitted on or before the May 7, 2008 deadline, and if they are fully compliant with the requirements of the latter program's RFP.

4.3. Institutional Eligibility as Lead Applicants

All public universities and technical and community colleges, as well as all independent universities and colleges that are acting in partnership with one or more public institutions, are eligible to compete for state funds as lead applicants to this program to implement novel, as well as well-proven, programs, strategies, and initiatives designed to recruit, and/or to ensure greater academic success for, students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine as well as STEM education. For the purposes of this RFP, all branch campuses are considered to be a part of and integral to the parent university.

4.4. Institutional Eligibility as Collaborating Partners

All public universities and colleges, all independent universities and colleges, as well as other public, independent, for-profit, or non-profit Ohio entities, including college access programs, are eligible to serve as collaborating partners to compete for state funds from this program in order to implement novel, as well as well-proven, programs, strategies, and initiatives designed to recruit, and/or to insure greater academic success for, higher education students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine as well as STEM education. There will be no limit imposed on the number of collaborating partners contributing to each proposal nor will there be any limit imposed on the number of proposals that a given institution might contribute to as a collaborating partner. Each lead applicant, however, is limited to the submission of one single-institution, or two multiple-institution partnership proposals on which it is listed as the lead applicant, for each 10,000² full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate students during the previous fiscal year with the resulting number rounded up to the next integer. See Section 4.9 below for details on the maximum number of proposals to be submitted by each lead applicant institution.

4.5. Proposal Development Process

² 9/27/07: This value was incorrectly given as 15,000 in the original document.

Each lead applicant institution is encouraged to engage collaborating partners and regional stakeholders in the proposal development process to insure the relevance of the resulting proposal(s) to regional and statewide economic development goals. Lead applicant institutions may desire to carry out internal reviews to determine the best proposal(s) for submission to this program. Such an internal review process ideally would involve representatives of regional corporate entities, local school systems, and technology leadership councils who serve as collaborating partners.

4.6. Eligible Subject Areas

All higher education undergraduate and graduate STEM areas plus medical and STEM education/teacher preparation are eligible for support under this program. The emphasis is on STEM areas most relevant to the Ohio economy, which would include all degree programs in the physical, biological, and agricultural sciences as well as engineering, computer science, and mathematics, including programs such as two-year technical degrees and four-year technology degrees, as well as those areas covered under STEM education/teaching and a broad interpretation of medical degree programs, such as the nursing and allied health fields.

4.7. Funding

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program incorporates total funding to universities and colleges of \$50,000,000 per year over the two-year period of the current fiscal biennium, FY 2008-09, as established by Amended Substitute House Bill 119 of the 127th General Assembly. Two proposal review cycles are planned, one culminating on or before February 29, 2008, and the other to be completed by June 26, 2008; however, if the quality and number of proposals warrants awarding the entire FY 2008 allotment of \$50,000,000 during the first review cycle, the second round of proposal reviews will be cancelled as of February 29, 2008, with the release of an appropriately revised RFP.

Funds must be dedicated to student tuition reimbursement scholarships and must be identified as such on each student's financial aid summary. All costs must directly support the program plan rather than incidental expenses. Also, state funding under this program may not be used for indirect expenses not recovered from the sponsoring organization on a related extramural award. All funds awarded under the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program must be expended in Ohio by organizations identified in the proposal and that have a principal place of business in Ohio.

4.7.1. Indirect Charges

No indirect charges may be applied to these awards.

4.7.2. Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts

The minimum institutional award amount to be granted by the Chancellor will be \$100,000; and the maximum institutional award amount to be granted by the Chancellor will be \$10,000,000. As provided by House Bill 119, the entire institutional Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant must be used for scholarships, fellowships, grants, or other monetary or nonmonetary incentives to students and not for administrative costs.

4.8. Term of Agreement

The term of agreement under an award from this program will be from two to five years with three additional years of required reporting. The project period should be at least two years but may be as long as five years, during which the funding by the state must be expended. During the remaining years of the grant period, or at least for three additional years, the grantee will be required to submit an annual report detailing the overall status of the project.

4.8.1. Reporting Requirements

Grantees will be required to submit regular reports as specified in the grant agreement. At a minimum, semi-annual performance reports, periodic success stories attributable to the state-funded program, and annual reports for the final three years of the grant period will be required. The lead applicant will be responsible for submitting reports to the Chancellor's staff utilizing the specified mechanism.

4.9. Limits on Numbers of Proposals to be Submitted

There will be no limit imposed on the number of collaborating partners contributing to each proposal nor will there be any limit imposed on the number of proposals that a given institution might contribute to as a collaborating partner. Each lead applicant institution, however, is limited to the submission of one single-institution proposal per review cycle for each 10,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate, graduate, and professional students during the previous fiscal year with the resulting number rounded up to the next integer; and, each institution is limited to serving as lead applicant on no more than two multiple-institution partnership proposals per review cycle for each 10,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate, graduate, and professional students during the previous fiscal year with the resulting number rounded up to the next integer. Ranges of allowable submissions, therefore, are as follows:

- Lead applicant institutions with 1-10,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate, graduate, and professional students will be allowed to submit one single-institution

proposal or two multiple-institution partnership proposals per review cycle where they are listed as lead applicants;

- Lead applicant institutions with 10,001-20,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate, graduate, and professional students will be allowed to submit two single-institution proposals, four multiple-institution partnership proposals per review cycle where they are listed as the lead applicants, or one single-institution proposal plus two multiple-institution partnership proposals per review cycle where they are listed as the lead applicants;
- Lead applicant institutions with 20,001 or more full-time equivalent undergraduate, graduate, and professional students will be allowed to submit three single-institution proposals, six multiple-institution partnership proposals, or some corresponding combination of the two during each review cycle.

4.10. Project Budget

As provided by House Bill 119, the entire institutional Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant must be used for scholarships, fellowships, grants, or other monetary or nonmonetary incentives to students and not for administrative costs. The lead applicant must provide an itemized budget for each year of the proposed grant period, including any funding anticipated for collaborating partner institutions, to demonstrate that the funds being requested will be fully dedicated to student tuition reimbursement scholarships. Budgetary requests must be for specific dollar amounts on a fiscal year basis rather than for a specific number of student scholarships for each academic year. It is important to provide a projected estimate of the total number of Ohio resident student scholarships at each level to be provided if the proposal receives full funding. Ancillary project expenses, such as costs incurred for periodic program evaluation, student assessment, or project management must be covered entirely by institutional cost-share and cannot be incurred as direct project expenses charged against the grant.

4.10.1. Range of Student Scholarship Awards

As provided in House Bill 119, “In each academic year, no student who receives a Choose Ohio First Scholarship shall receive less than one thousand five hundred dollars or more than one-half of the highest in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees charged by all state universities.”

4.10.2. Cost-Share Requirements

Cost-share is required in the ratio of approximately 1:1 for state funds to dedicated institutional funds. All reasonable institutional operational and

capital costs, including ongoing internally funded STEM scholarship programs and previous investments made since July 1, 2006, that are associated with delivering the project outcomes identified in the proposal may be counted as eligible cost-share. Participating institutions must make regular cost-share investments in the funded Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program project but will have until the end of the reporting period to meet the full cost-share obligation, which shall be June 30, 2014, if on a three-year grant agreement, or June 30, 2016, if on a five-year grant agreement.

4.10.3. Budget Justification

A detailed budget justification must be provided for each fiscal year of the proposed project beginning in either FY 2008 or FY 2009. It is important to provide a projected estimate of the total number of student scholarships at each level to be provided if the proposal receives full funding. As provided by House Bill 119, the entire institutional Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant must be used for scholarships, fellowships, grants, or other monetary or nonmonetary incentives to students and not for administrative costs.

4.10.4. Commitment to Future Funding

The Chancellor, subject to Controlling Board approval, may commit to giving a proposal preference for future Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program awards after the current fiscal year, or after the current fiscal biennium, conditionally based on future appropriations from the General Assembly and the lead applicant institution's adherence to the grant agreement it entered into with the Chancellor, including its fulfillment of pledges from other institutional, public, or nonpublic resources.

5. Proposal Evaluation Criteria and External Panel Review

Proposals for scholarship grant awards will be evaluated by the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, consisting of experts in the STEM, medical, and STEM education/teaching disciplinary areas who live and work outside of the State of Ohio. The evaluation will address the responsiveness of the proposal to the requirements of this RFP and, specifically, to the evaluation criteria described in the following sections. This panel will be engaged by the Chancellor's staff to review Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals and make recommendations directly to the Chancellor. Nominations for service on this panel shall be solicited from representatives of the colleges and universities intending to submit proposals in response to this RFP. The Chancellor's appointments to the External Review Panel will be final.

Based on the outcome of the review by the External Review Panel, a recommendation shall be prepared and forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration of funding decisions. The Chancellor shall take into

account the evaluations and recommendations made by the External Review Panel and shall exercise independent judgment in making final funding decisions. The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final.

If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when their proposals are being reviewed and considered for funding. All lead applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications after final funding decisions have been made by the Chancellor.

5.1. General Evaluation Criteria

In particular, proposals are expected to include the following two required elements:

- The proposed plan will result in significantly increased higher education participation and success of Ohio undergraduate and graduate students majoring in STEM, STEM education, or medical areas.
- The funds being requested will be dedicated to undergraduate or graduate student tuition reimbursement scholarships and will be identified as such on each student's financial aid summary.

In addition to the two mandatory elements identified above, proposals should encompass one or more of the following optional, yet highly desirable characteristics:

- The proposed plan incorporates student internships and/or cooperative education experiences.
- The proposed plan develops mentoring experiences involving faculty, students, and/or industrial partners.
- The plan will result in appropriate ethnic diversity among majors and graduates in the STEM, STEM education, or medical areas with particular emphasis on first-generation, needs-based, and underrepresented groups of students.
- The proposed plan specifically targets timely degree completion and the reduction of attrition rates among majors in STEM, STEM education or medical areas.
- The applicant will demonstrate specific successes by its STEM students and graduates in fields that match the high-technology economic strength of Ohio.
- The proposed plan will increase the recruitment of Ohio residents back into the state in order to enter graduate study in a STEM, STEM education, or medical discipline.

5.2. Specific Evaluation Criteria

The specific evaluation criteria enunciated in House Bill 119 and reproduced below will be used to judge a proposal's potential for excellence and qualification for a Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program award:

- (A) The quality of the program that is the subject of the proposal and the extent to which additional resources will enhance its quality;
- (B) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with the strengths of the regional economy;
- (C) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with centers of research excellence within the private sector;
- (D) The amount of other institutional, public, or private resources, whether monetary or nonmonetary, that the proposal pledges to leverage;
- (E) The extent to which the proposal is collaborative with other public or nonpublic Ohio institutions of higher education;
- (F) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with the university's or college's mission and does not displace existing resources already committed to the mission;
- (G) The extent to which the proposal facilitates a more efficient utilization of existing faculty and programs;
- (H) The extent to which the proposal meets a statewide educational need;
- (I) The demonstrated productivity or future capacity of the students or scientists to be recruited;
- (J) The extent to which the proposal will create additional capacity in educational or economic areas of need;
- (K) The extent to which the proposal will encourage students who received degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine from two-year institutions to transfer to state universities or colleges to pursue baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine;

- (L) The extent to which the proposal encourages students enrolled in state universities to transfer into science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine programs;
- (M) The extent to which the proposal facilitates the completion of a baccalaureate degree in a cost-effective manner, for example, by facilitating students' completing two years at a two-year institution and two years at a state university or college;
- (N) The extent to which the proposal allows attendance at a state university or college of students who otherwise could not afford to attend;
- (O) The extent to which other institutional, public, or private resources pledged to the proposal will be deployed to assist in sustaining students' scholarships over their academic careers;
- (P) The extent to which the proposal increases the likelihood that students will successfully complete their degree programs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine or in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medical education;
- (Q) The extent to which the proposal ensures that a student who is awarded a scholarship is appropriately qualified and prepared to successfully complete a degree program in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine or in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medical education.

6. General Proposal Requirements

Proposals must be submitted in the following manner:

- One original paper copy marked as "Original."
- One additional paper copy marked as "Copy."
- Eight (8) copies of a CD-ROM containing one PDF and one WORD-compatible file of the proposal. Do not include multiple PDF or WORD-compatible files containing individual proposal sections. The proposal must be completely contained on the CD-ROM in one PDF and one WORD-compatible file.
- Proposals may not be submitted via fax or email.
- Proposals (one original and one copy plus eight copies of the CD-ROM) must be received by the Chancellor at the following address on or before the due date:

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Ohio Board of Regents

30 East Broad Street

36th floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Attention: “Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program”

- The narrative section of the proposal must not exceed fifteen (15) pages.
- The non-narrative portions of the proposal must not exceed fifty (50) pages.
- Original proposals are to be submitted on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Margins must not be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch on all sides.
- Font must be 10 point or larger with no more than 6 lines per inch.
- All pages must be numbered consecutively using the format “Page # of total number of pages” (e.g. Page 2 of 10)
- The proposal title and lead applicant name must appear at the bottom of each page.
- Proposals should not include color figures that cannot be understood when photocopied in black and white.
- The first page of the proposal must be the standardized applicant information form and title page found in Appendix A to this RFP.
- Do not include a cover, or cover letter, other than the applicant information form and title page.
- Proposals must be stapled or clipped once in the upper left-hand corner and must not be bound.

6.1. Trade Secrets

Lead applicants and collaborating partners are strongly discouraged from including any information in the proposal that qualifies as a trade secret. All information submitted will be considered public information pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43 and not exempt from disclosure unless identified as a trade secret. Any assertion of trade secrets

information must be clearly identified, and the basis for the assertion must be included.

6.2. Order and Content of Proposal Sections

- The first page of the proposal must be the completed standardized applicant information form and title page found in Appendix A to this RFP.
- Prepare and include an abstract that is no more than one page that summarizes the anticipated academic outcomes of the project. Keep in mind that the abstract may be used, in whole or in part, within various public documents released by the Chancellor's staff.
- The lead applicant must provide an itemized budget for each year of the proposed grant period that includes funding anticipated for collaborating partner institutions.
- The proposal narrative must not exceed fifteen (15) pages in total length.
- All non-narrative sections of the proposal combined must not exceed fifty (50) pages.

Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Fiscal Year 2008

1. Lead Applicant Institution:

Institution: _____
Street/Building/P.O. Box Number: _____
City: _____ State: OH Zip Code: _____
Email: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

2. Proposal Information:

Assigned Proposal Identification Number: _____
Working Title for the Proposal: _____
Lead Applicant Academic Department(s) Involved: _____

3. Project Budget:

Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Award Amount Requested: _____

Institutional Cost-Share to be Committed: _____

4. Collaborating Institutions and Organizations (if appropriate):

5. Institutional Certification and Endorsement:

The signature of the lead applicant institution's president below certifies that the information contained in this proposal is accurate and, further, that the institution endorses the objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program by agreeing to make the specific investments and carry out the specific project(s) outlined in the attached proposal.

President: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____