



## **FAQ for STEM BEST H.D.**

### **Will I need to have my program implemented by the end of the school year that I receive this award?**

*Implementation is not a requirement within the award period. A proposal may be submitted to utilize award dollars for the applicant to explore resources and build their customized plan with implementation occurring the following school year.*

### **Do I need to provide cash to meet the cost-share requirement?**

*The cost-share contribution can be cash but also in-kind. In-kind services is how the majority of successful STEM BEST Programs have met the cost-share requirement. The requirement for the STEM BEST H.D. Program is 2:1, which means for every award dollar spent the applicant must match half of that, so a \$30,000 request would require the applicant to generate \$15,000 in cost-share. Check out this document for further examples of cost-share.*

### **What are the high demand areas and why were these particular niches selected?**

*The goal of this STEM BEST H.D. Program fund is to support the launch of up to 20 new or expanded STEM BEST Program K-12 models specifically focused on high-need job sectors of (a) computer science/IT; (b) health professions, or (c) advanced manufacturing school+business partnerships. These high demand areas were cited in the following report forecasting high need job sectors in Iowa: Education and Workforce Trends Through 2025, <https://www.luminafoundation.org/files/resources/iowa-workforce-2025.pdf>.*

### **Is the STEM BEST H.D. Program replacing the STEM BEST Program?**

*The STEM Council is offering this one-time special round of the STEM BEST® Program, called the STEM BEST H.D. Program, to help prepare students to enter job sectors that are in high demand. The annual STEM BEST opportunity will still be presented at the usual timeframe in the Spring of 2022, application to open in March 2022.*

### **Does the STEM BEST Program just money to start a program at my school?**

*The STEM BEST Program has a competitive bid process to award dollars to school+business partnerships that want to build authentic learning experiences for K-12 students of Iowa. The STEM BEST Program affords additional opportunities to support the sustained efforts of authentic learning such as the Enhancement Award, individual coaching and support through STEM BEST Mentors as well as professional development opportunities and more.*

### **Can a community partner apply as the program lead?**

*The lead identified in the application must be a public or private school of Iowa. Community partners may be involved in an application as a listed community partner.*

11/11/2021

**Our school purchased materials last year. Can that be used as our cost-share contribution?**

*The cost-share contribution must occur within the award period which begins the date of award and will continue until August 2023. The expenses and efforts accrued to be accounted for the cost-share must occur during this time frame and not before.*

**Do we need to account for an expense in each line item of the budget?**

*The budget line items provided are suggestions and each line item does not need to be accounted for in your proposed budget. Your budget proposed should reflect the needs stated in order to achieve the goals and objectives stated in the application.*

**Can a school district submit multiple proposals in the same cycle?**

*A school district may submit more than one proposal in an award cycle.*

**I have more questions. Who should I contact?**

*For more information on the Iowa STEM BEST H.D. Program, please reach out to Tanya Hunt, Project Coordinator, who coordinates this program for the STEM Council.*