



NH Department of Education

**Bureau of
Career Development**

Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC) Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Any NH designated regional high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) program or CTE program at a Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) college is eligible to apply, as these are the approved subrecipients of Federal Perkins funds.

Q: If an applicant has more than one project, can they submit multiple applications?

A: It depends. If the applicant has a single activity with multiple budget items, such as paying for teachers to become qualified to administer industry recognized credentialing exams or for students to attend trainings for equipment offered at local employers, a single application can address those activities. Another example would be paying for a piece of equipment and for the exam fees for the IRC associated with that piece of equipment.

If the applicant really has separate activities, for example paying for a piece of equipment for one CTE program and paying for IRC exams for another CTE program, that applicant would need to submit separate applications for each activity.

Q: What is the maximum amount allowable per applicant?

A: There is no minimum or maximum amount prescribed for the budget. The range NHED has seen for IRC grant projects in the past was \$5,000 to \$50,000. An applicant may submit multiple applications, as noted above, and each application may fall within the range stated.

Q: How important is the employer connection and match (Competitive Priority 1)?

A: This is a competitive priority, which if met, enhances the potential for a higher score. Working with local employers or economic development entities greatly enhances the possibility of the project or activity continuing in the future, after this funding opportunity's project period comes to a close.

Q: Can an applicant use this grant to fund program development activities, for a program not yet approved with a CIP code?

A: Yes, as long as the activities included in the application meet the absolute priority of the funding opportunity, enabling CTE students to earn industry recognized credentials.

Q: For the work based learning (WBL) competitive priority, must the WBL take place in the community, at an employer, or can it take place in the CTE learning space in a school?

A: As long as WBL satisfies the Perkins definition of "sustained interactions with industry professionals, aligned with curriculum and learning outcomes" such WBL can take place in the community or in simulated settings within schools.