**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFA# 202402024 Career and Technical Education Equipment Bond |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Maine Department of Education |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | May 17, 2024 |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | June 12, 2024 |
| **APPLICATION DUE DATE:** | July 10, 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **APPLICATIONS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II Section B Page 6 | Is it allowable to use these funds to pay off an existing lease purchase agreement? For example, we are starting a welding program in September 2024. We need to purchase the equipment in July 2024. Local funds could not be raised for this project, so a lease to purchase agreement needs to be secured. Our intent is to use Perkins funding initially and then purchase the equipment once the bond funds come through.  |
| **Answer** |
| No, these funds are only allowed to be used for the allowable uses stated in Part II Section B, which states * 1. Equipment
		1. A single piece of equipment that exceeds $5,000 or multiple pieces of equipment grouped together to serve a single program. Example: 20 new computers for an Engineering Tech program; fully equipped toolbox for Automotive program; oven, broiler, and grill station for a Culinary Arts program; etc.; and
		2. Must have a useful life expectancy of at least five years; and
		3. Must align with current industry technical standards and/or projected industry standards for emerging technologies, requiring a sign off from a subject matter expert in the related industry.
	2. Professional development may also be included if required to operate the new equipment. Example: training session costs, registrations, travel to training location, additional materials, etc.
	3. ONLY minor infrastructure cost is allowable and not to exceed 15 percent of the equipment’s price. Minor infrastructure cost must be directly related to the installation of each requested piece of equipment as required.
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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part 2 Section A Page 6 | Are buses and other vehicles that transport students or equipment an allowable use of funds for this bond? I would like to replace passenger vans with “mini-buses” with reinforced passenger cages. This is a much safer alternative to passenger vans.  |
| **Answer** |
| No, any school transportation requests utilizing state funding needs to be made through the state bus purchasing program.  |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part 2 Section A Page 6 | Also, we need a vehicle to safely move loaded trailers, equipment on trailers, canoes, and other items. Currently we need to borrow vehicles or instructors use their own. Is this allowable under this bond?  |
| **Answer** |
| Any purchase of a vehicle would need to be directly connected to a specific program and must align with current industry technical standards and/or projected industry standards for emerging technologies, requiring a sign off from a subject matter expert in the related industry.  |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part V Page 12 | Do proposals need to be one project, or can there be multiple projects with separate applications? For example, one application for Firefighting, one for Health Occupations, one for Culinary Arts…OR…one application for the projects at the school? When I look at the application there is Proposed Project, Budget, then equipment items. Please provide some clarification around this. |
| **Answer** |
| The proposed project is the overall summary of the full request, there will only be one project submitted. Each piece of equipment for each program that is part of the full request is then itemized in the proceeding pages titled Equipment Item #1, Equipment Item #2, etc.. |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV Section C Page 10 | Will the application receive a lower score if the equipment could potentially be shared with community organizations. For example, a local fire department would partner with the tech school to use a firefighting simulator/prop.  |
| **Answer** |
| Scoring will be based solely on the criteria that is laid out on page 10 of the RFA.  |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part III Section A Page 8 | Can questions be asked after May 17 and who can answer them? |
| **Answer** |
| No formal questions will be answered after the submitted question due date of May 17.  |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part 2 Section A Page 6 | Are vehicles allowable expenses in the RFA Equipment Grant if they are tied to the industry standards for the individual program curriculum?  For example, a police vehicle for Criminal Justice, a fire truck for Fire Science, a potato truck spray coupe, and John Deere gator for agriculture, loader for Large Equipment, and Class A vehicles for CDL.  |
| **Answer** |
| Any purchase of a vehicle would need to be directly connected to a specific program and must align with current industry technical standards and/or projected industry standards for emerging technologies, requiring a sign off from a subject matter expert in the related industry.  |

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| **8** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | At a recent seminar, the presenter mentioned that there could be a financial cost to sending school districts if a CTE center or region was awarded funding from this bond. Is this correct? |
| **Answer** |
| The full intent of the bond is that all payments will be made by the Department of Education. However, it will be up to the receiving CTE center or region to take on the initial burden of receiving the funds through the referendum voting and local bond counsel costs. |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II Section A Page 6 | Will these funds be available for currently approved programs only or future programs that have not yet, but are most likely, to be approved? |
| **Answer** |
| Only projects that address active CTE approved programs will be considered. |

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| **10** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Is this program 100% funded by the State (like a grant)?  Or is it partially funded, and then the CTE, if approved, would be responsible for paying for a portion of it?  |
| **Answer** |
| The full intent of the bond is that all payments will be made by the Department of Education. However, it will be up to the receiving CTE center or region to take on the initial burden of receiving the funds through the referendum voting and local bond counsel costs. |