

6A-20.046 Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to set forth the requirements for the notice of the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program and the reporting required by the Department on the grant.

(2) Notice of Grant Program. Each year that the grant is funded by the legislature, the Department will publish notice of the availability of grants at www.fldoe.org/pathwaysgrant and request for proposals. The notice will include:

- (a) Notification of the grant period;
- (b) Notification of the date to submit a notice of intention to apply for a grant;
- (c) Notification of the earliest and latest date to apply for the grant;
- (d) Notification of apprenticeship regions; and
- (e) The dollar amount of available grant funds.

(3) In order to be eligible for a grant, proposals to create, expand or operate apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs must include the following:

(a) A narrative describing the need for the apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program, its design, the geographic area to be served, anticipated enrollment by occupation for three (3) years and plans for recruiting, selecting and retaining persons in the program;

(b) The amount of funds requested;

(c) A proposed budget for the program that includes personnel costs, operating expenses, equipment costs and training expenses; and

(d) For registered programs, a certificate of registration awarded under Rule 6A-23.003 or 6A-23.010, F.A.C. or for proposed new programs, a training plan for the program that meets the requirements for registration under Rule 6A-23.003, 6A-23.004, or 6A-23.010, F.A.C.

(e) All applicants must certify to the Department that the entity will not use grant funds for prohibited expenditures as outlined in subsection (6) of this rule.

(4) Grants will be awarded based upon the criteria established in Section 1011.802(2)(a) and (b), F.S., and subsection (3) of this rule. Should an annual appropriation be insufficient to fund all proposals that meet the grant requirements, at least one grant will be awarded in each of the apprenticeship regions. Proposals to fund critical statewide or regional shortages as set forth in Section 1011.802(2)(a), F.S., will be prioritized for an award.

(5) Reporting Under the Grant. Annually, by December 31st, the Department will publish a report at www.fldoe.org/pathwaysgrant detailing the information set forth in Section 1011.802(5), F.S.

(a) Employment and wage data will be derived from data submitted to the Florida Education and Training Placement Information System Program data collection system established under Section 1008.39, F.S.

(b) Retention and completion data will be derived via the process outlined in Rule 6A-23.011, F.A.C.

(6) Prohibitions Related to Use of Grant Funds. In accordance with Section 1004.06, F.S., grant recipients, and sub contractors/recipients may not expend any funding awarded under this program to:

(a) Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), or promote or engage in political or social activism as defined in Rule 6A-14.0718, F.A.C.; or

(b) Purchase goods or services from, or membership in, an entity or organization that promotes or engages in DEI or political or social activism, as defined in Rule 6A-14.0718, F.A.C.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), (2)(n), 1011.802, F.S., and 1004.06(4), F.S. Law Implemented 1011.802, F.S., and 1004.06, F.S.. History--New 5-3-22, Amended 9-26-23.