Higher Education AI Readiness Grant
Applicant Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: 10/16/2026

The deadline to submit questions regarding the Higher Education AI Readiness Grant was Tuesday, October 13, 2026. See submitted questions and corresponding responses below. Grant applications are due no later than Friday, October 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m. per the Notice.

Eligibility

1. *Is my institution eligible for this grant opportunity?*

   See list of eligible institutions below:

Kean University	Caldwell University	Atlantic Cape Community College
Montclair State University	Centenary University	Bergen Community College
New Jersey Institute of Technology	Drew University	Brookdale Community College
Ramapo College of New Jersey	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Camden County College
Rowan University	Felician University	County College of Morris
Rutgers University Camden	Georgian Court University	Essex County College
Rutgers University New Brunswick	Monmouth University	Hudson County Community College
Rutgers University Newark	Princeton University	Mercer County Community College
Stockton University	Rider University	Middlesex College
The College of New Jersey	Saint Elizabeth University	Ocean County College
Thomas Edison State University	Saint Peter's University	Passaic County Community College
William Paterson University	Seton Hall University	Raritan Valley Community College
	Stevens Institute of Technology	Rowan College at Burlington County
		Rowan College of South Jersey
		Salem Community College
		Sussex County Community College
		Union College of Union County, New Jersey
		Warren County Community College

Partnerships

1. *May campuses within one institutional system partner with each other?*

   Yes, any eligible institution listed above may partner with any other eligible institution listed above in groups of two (2) to five (5).

2. *Are institutions permitted to submit independent applications outside of a partnership?*

   No.

3. *Are institutions permitted to join more than one partnership and/or submit more than one application?*

   No, for this grant, institutions may join exactly one (1) partnership of two (2) to five (5) institutions. Each partnership may submit exactly one (1) application with a focus on exactly one (1) priority area.

4. *Are entities other than eligible institutions of higher education permitted to be listed as members of the application grant partnership?*

   No, application partnerships may comprise only eligible institutions of higher education. This does not preclude application partnerships—or the institutions within them—from leveraging new or existing connections to external organizations, pursuant to the "collaboration" section of the Notice. Any grant funds flowing to these external organizations must be included as expenses in the required budget template submission.

5. *Does each institution have to submit a signed letter of partnership/commitment?*

   Yes, the lead institution and each partnering institution must submit a letter of partnership/commitment signed by the institution's president or designee. These letters do not count toward the page limit. Letters must be submitted with the grant narrative as a PDF document. Letters from other entities are not required or requested.

Budgets/Expenses

1. *May grant funds be used to compensate external individuals/organizations/corporations for goods and/or services rendered?*

   Yes, this is permissible. Applicants must include these (and all) anticipated costs in the required budget template submission. Applicants may use the "consultant services" line or other line as appropriate. The expenses should be justified as with all other proposed budget expenses. No terms between a grantee and external consultant may supersede this grant's directive to develop public assets that may be shared across institutions.

2. *Can OSHE facilitate, encourage, or sponsor connections with specific external individuals/organizations/corporations?*

   No.

3. *May grant funds be used to provide stipends to faculty and/or for release-/reassignment-time?*

   Yes, calculations must be included in the budget template submission.

4. *How are institutions' expenses to be reflected in the budget template?*

   Each partnership must designate a lead institution for grant disbursement purposes. The budget template submission is meant to reflect the **partnership's total** proposed project expenses. Pursuant to the "collaboration" section of the Notice, application partnerships must detail in the grant narrative how funding will be utilized across the institutional partners. This is intended to be narrative description to substantiate the partnership's collaboration. If partnerships find it useful for their own purposes, they may complete a separate budget template for each institution, then add them together. The required budget template submission to OSHE must be for the full requested grant amount across the partnership, however. Institutions within the partnership may draft agreements between themselves to delineate how they will transfer funds between the lead institution and partnering institution(s).

5. *When will funds be distributed?*

   We anticipate releasing the first disbursement for half of the full grant amount at the start of the project year after grant agreements are executed; the second and final disbursement will be released halfway through the project year after interim reports have been submitted and reviewed.

Outcomes/Deliverables

1. *Will a final report/evaluation be required? When?*

   Yes, an interim and a final report will be required. Specific dates cannot be confirmed now—an interim report will be due halfway through the project year. A final report will be due some number of weeks following the conclusion of the project year.

2. *How are partnerships/institutions expected to share out deliverables to other institutions at the end of the grant?*

   Grantees are not expected to formally distribute deliverables to conform with grant requirements. Grantees are expected to develop assets that may be shared/adapted/adopted across peer institutions in the state; grantees are not responsible for the actual adoption of any guides, programs, or other interventions. The State will work across partners, including grantees, to leverage existing projects, repositories, and resources to share out learnings.