OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

Call for Proposals
Full STEM Ahead Pilot Program FY24 Grants

Seize the opportunity to impact the future of Oklahoma students! Join the Full STEM Ahead initiative and lead the way in creating exciting and engaging STEM opportunities for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students while strengthening their math and science skills.

Apply by November 27 for a grant of up to $6,000!

Who Can Apply?

- State System institutions with authorization to operate in the State of Oklahoma. Multiple proposals from the same institution will be considered, however the priority is to broaden opportunities across the state. Therefore, if total proposal requests exceed the overall budget for this pilot this priority will be considered in the grant proposal selection process.

Funding Available

- Up to $6,000 available per grant award

Application Deadlines

- *Proposal Deadline: November 27, 2023*

Steps to Apply

1. **Review pages two and three of this document** for Application Requirements, Program Requirements and Budget Information
2. **Complete the Full STEM Ahead Grant Application Form** no later than November 27, 2023

Award Information

Award notifications will be sent no later than December 15, 2023 with the following required of participants:

- Awardee Agreements - due January 17, 2024

- Project Report - due June 15, 2024

Questions

- Contact Annette Long at along@osrhe.edu

Overview of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE)

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) serves as the coordinating board of control for all public institutions in the State System of Higher Education in Oklahoma. OSRHE has the statutory authority to prescribe academic standards of higher education, determine functions and courses of study at state colleges and universities, grant degrees, and approve public college and university budget allocations as well as tuition and fees within the limits set by the Oklahoma Legislature.

Blueprint 2030: Innovating and Elevating Oklahoma Higher Education for Tomorrow's Workforce presents recommendations that increase Oklahoma's educational attainment, align higher education with state workforce needs, and leverage system resources more effectively and efficiently. The plan looks toward Oklahoma's bright future and reflects the State Regents' commitment to leading a responsive, forward-thinking, and data-driven state system of higher education. The innovative strategies contained in the plan will guide the work of the State Regents, the 25 public colleges and universities that comprise our state system of higher education, and our agency staff. By supporting disciplines such as engineering, computer science and nursing, OSRHE hopes to address these issues and create additional opportunities for skills development in the STEM fields. The plan is anchored by four fundamental goals: 1. Produce workforce-ready graduates; 2. Grow the student pipeline; 3. Focus on student success; and 4. Improve system efficiency and effectiveness.

Background Full STEM Ahead

- The OSRHE 2030 Strategic Plan goal is to produce 100,000 degrees and other credentials in STEM and critical occupations by 2030
- **Challenges:**
  - o Over the past five years, the average ACT STEM score of 18.7 has demonstrated that students are not coming to college prepared for STEM fields
  - o The fall 2020 Oklahoma public high school math remediation rate for college freshmen was 15.7%
- **Opportunities to address challenges:**
  - o Programs that excite students about pursuing careers in the STEM fields
  - o Programs that target math and science interventions in middle school
  - o Opportunities to address academic pathways to STEM

Grant applications are due no later than November 27, 2023 and applicants will be asked to provide information regarding:

- Partnering school or agency and how the partner qualifies
- How the proposed project addresses the challenges and aligns with the opportunities outlined in the background section, citing research to support your proposal
- Recruiting methods

Additionally, within the application you will be required to upload your Proposal Budget (template attached in email).

Program Requirements

- Hold at minimum 5 events January 2024 through May 2024, each event a minimum of 3 hours
- Partner with a local school district that is underperforming, has 75% or higher free or reduced-price lunch student population or a local nonprofit that serves a similar population
- Partner with K-12 faculty with appropriate expertise
- Serve students in grades 6-8

- Provide stimulating, hands-on learning opportunities for students through focused and motivating activities in STEM.
- Strengthen mathematics and science concepts appropriate to the age group
- Include exploration of multiple STEM fields
- Submit final reporting
- Participate in a follow-up meeting to discuss successes and areas for improvement to help this initiative grow in the future
- Conduct survey of participants, provided by OSRHE
- Ensure appropriate supervision of students

This grant is intended to fund new STEM focused programs, not fund programs already in existence.

Utilizing industry partnerships to bring real-world examples to the curriculum is encouraged.

Funding

An institution may request up to $6,000 per proposal to be used to fund the student activities, refreshments, transportation (if needed to transport students), mileage for staff and personnel costs. Due to limited funding, a small percentage of budget toward other areas such as printing and incentives will be considered if institution determines these are necessary for the success of the program.

Each Full STEM Ahead program will submit a budget for their proposal, maximum $6000.

Proposal Selection Process

This pilot program has a limited budget. As the budget allows, reasonable proposals meeting requirements will be funded.

Support Offered to Full STEM Ahead Participating Institutions

- State Regents staff will provide technical assistance through the duration of this program.
- State Regents staff will provide resources for determining appropriate partnerships.
- State Regents Staff will provide assessment tools to measure areas of growth.