

## Libraries Accelerating Learning Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **What is the Libraries Accelerating Learning grant?**

The purpose of the Libraries Accelerating Learning Grant is to solicit proposals from Ohio public library systems to address learning disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may serve students entering pre-kindergarten through grade 12 in activities designed to address learning loss and accelerate learning. The library funding is meant to complement other programs that are part of Future Forward Ohio, including the Summer Learning and Afterschool Opportunities grant, Regional Education Partnerships grant and Statewide Mathematics and Literacy Tutoring grant. Applicants may serve students through similar types of programming (for example, summer learning, after-school learning), particularly if there are no funded programs in their regions or if they can demonstrate the programs are not being offered on a sufficient scale. While the primary goal is to address learning loss and accelerate learning (with a focus on literacy) applicants may offer programming that embeds learning alongside other needs and interests to increase engagement. Programming that also addresses preparing students for future success is encouraged.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Ohio's public library systems are eligible to apply and collaboration between public library systems is permitted. One system must serve as the fiscal agent. Libraries that are listed in the [State Library of Ohio public library system](#) are considered public libraries for the purposes of this grant.

### **How do I submit an application? When is the application deadline?**

Applications must be submitted to [acceleratinglearning@education.ohio.gov](mailto:acceleratinglearning@education.ohio.gov). The deadline to apply is Sept. 30 by 5 p.m. EST.

Please submit all applications in a single PDF.

### **When is the earliest the project can start? When should it be completed?**

The grant period begins on the date of the signed grant agreement and concludes on Sept. 30, 2024. All funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024.

For application planning, applicants can assume that activities can begin on Nov. 15, 2024.

### **How much funding will eligible applicants receive?**

The Department will award up to \$5 million in funding to eligible applicants. We expect grant requests will range from \$25,000 to \$250,000. However, requests outside of the expected amount are permitted.

### **How will applications be reviewed?**

All applications will receive a technical review to ensure they have responded to the required grant components. Applications that meet the technical review will receive a quality review by two independent reviewers who are Department staff according to the rubric included in the RFQ.

### **Can we partner with another library?**

Yes. One library must serve as the fiscal agent for the project.

**How will the Department determine final award amounts?**

The Department will award the highest-scoring applications that meet a minimum threshold determined by the Department until funds are exhausted. The Department may request budget modifications from a grantee prior to making an award, particularly if there is concern that a cost may not be allowable.

**What are allowable costs for this grant?**

All costs must be necessary, reasonable, allocable and aligned to the purpose of the grant program: to help students recover from the impact of the pandemic. Allowable costs include staff costs to operate the program, relevant training for staff operating the program, development of materials or resources to aid learning acceleration and purchase of curriculum and supplies to aid learning acceleration. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If there is doubt about whether an expenditure is appropriate, please refer to [Uniform Guidance, Part 200](#).

**What are unallowable expenses for this grant?**

Expenses that aren't directly aligned with the purpose of the grant program (helping students recover from the impact of the pandemic) are not allowable, and each grant application will be reviewed to ensure that all expenses support this purpose. Some examples of expenses that are generally unallowable for this grant include out-of-state travel, gifts, souvenirs, alcohol purchases, general-purpose capital expenditures and general library advertising.

**Can grant funds be used to provide incentives to students?**

Any incentives that utilize ESSER funds must meet the requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, including the requirement that the amount of the incentive is reasonable and necessary, and any other applicable laws or requirements (e.g., incentives may not involve alcohol under 2 CFR § 200.423, may not violate applicable privacy and parental consent laws). An allowable incentive that is reasonable in size (nominal) and scope and likely to lead to an increase in the rate of participation may be permitted.