

# Innovation Investment Award Applicant Information

April 23, 2024



The Michigan  
Center for  
Adult College  
Success

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We collaborate to drive postsecondary innovation, transforming Michigan into a place where more adult learners enroll, complete and thrive.

Collaborate. Innovate. **Transform.**

An initiative of  
 **TALENTFIRST**

# Collaborate. Innovate. Transform.



Innovation  
Investment  
Awards



The Michigan Center  
for Adult College Success

[mcacs.talentfirst.net](http://mcacs.talentfirst.net)

An initiative of  
**T TALENTFIRST**



# Our “why”

# 48.9%

adults in Michigan lack postsecondary credentials



- Bolster enrollment and success of postsecondary institutions
- Reduce the cost of state’s social safety net programs
- Increase tax revenues
- Lift Michiganders out of poverty



# What a Difference 2% Makes

Here's what is possible by 2030 with a 2% annual increase in Michigan's adult postsecondary credential attainment:

**+79,155**

more credentials

**+ \$4.3**

billion more  
earnings accrued

**+ \$183**

million more in  
tax revenue



# Closing Demographic Gaps

- 42% of white adults have a postsecondary degree or credential, compared to;
- 27% Blacks adults;
- 29% Hispanic adults



# Innovation Investment Awards

**\$5 million**

for systemic change and partnerships  
serving adult learner completion goals

- Awards up to \$1 million
- Application Window 5/1-7/15
- Funding programs August 2024 - August 2026.

# NEW COMPETITIVE GRANTS



## Quick Start

## College Success

## Barrier Removal – Direct to Students

## Barrier Removal – Growing Institutional Capacity

## Reconnect Community Action Grants

Self-assessment, planning, elevation of student voice. Helping colleges hone their strategy for student success.

Three levels of grants that help colleges scale student success reforms and increase graduation rates.

Emergency grants and other direct aid to students to eliminate financial barriers to completion.

Developing supportive policies and practices for students struggling to meet basic needs.

Growing community support and partnership for post-secondary learning pathways.

*subset of other categories*

\$12 million

\$7 million

\$5 million

\$10 million



# Award Highlights

- ✓ Up to \$1M for implementing system changes based on promising practices to increase adult completion rates.
- ✓ Public & tribal community colleges and public universities serving the adult learner population, defined as adults over the age of 25.
- ✓ Independent colleges may partner with a public institution on a joint application but cannot be the lead applicant.
- ✓ Grants run through the end of August, 2026.







# Promising Practices

- ❖ **There is no silver bullet to improving adult completion rates.**
  
- ❖ **It's a combination of effective strategies that begins with a commitment to continually engaging adults to learn how to best meet their needs.**
  - Proactive, comprehensive advising
  - Prior learning assessments
  - Credit for prior learning
  - Competency-based education
  - Flexible scheduling
  - Eliminating barriers to transfer
  - Work based learning opportunities
  - Holistic basic needs support
  - Career-aligned, guided pathways
  - Corequisite learning
  - Systematic approach to basic needs



# Guiding Principles



1. Adult-learner focused
2. Equitable access and service to adult learners
3. Collaborative nature



# System Change

Deliberate and comprehensive efforts to transform various aspects of the educational system. This involves addressing fundamental structures, processes, policies, and practices within higher education institutions to create positive and sustainable impacts. For the Innovation Investment Awards, the change will focus on supporting adult learners.



**GRANT APPLICATION**

**Innovation Investment Awards**

Supporting system change for adult learner success.



# System Change Elements

- **Structural Reforms:** This involves rethinking and reconfiguring organizational structures within institutions, such as administrative hierarchies, departmental structures, and decision-making processes.
- **Policy Revisions:** Identifying, revising, or creating new policies that support adult learners. This may involve changes in admissions policies, financial aid structures, and curriculum development.
- **Cultural Shifts:** Promoting a culture of innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement within the institution to support adult learners. This may involve fostering a climate that values diversity, encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, and supports experimentation and risk-taking.
- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging technology to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes to support adult learners. This could include implementing improvements to learning management systems, online learning platforms, and data analytics tools that support adult student success efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging stakeholders both within and outside the institution, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, community partners, and policymakers. This may involve seeking input, building partnerships, and mobilizing resources to support institutional goals, priorities and programs to support adult learners.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring that changes are sustainable over the long term by considering the environmental, economic, and social impacts of institutional practices and decisions.



# Eligible Expenses

- FTE attributable to proposed project implementation
- Costs of consultants, vendors, and other contractors necessary for the project
- Costs for training of staff, faculty, or partners related to the project
- Travel expenses directly related to the project implementation (align with federal GSA rates)
- Supplies, materials, or other collateral necessary for project implementation
- Expenses related to the design and implementation of data systems related to the project and its evaluation\*

*\*Data system updates, NOT replacement of an entire data system.*



# Ineligible Expenses

- Direct aid to students (emergency loans, textbook fund, etc.)
- Food and beverage
- Indirect costs (see SLFRF guidance)
- Tuition
- Replacement of an entire data system

**Utilize office hours and early review process to discuss expense proposals.**



# Rubric Overview

## GRANT APPLICATION

### Innovation Investment Awards

Supporting system change for adult learner success.

- **Maximum score 80 points**
- **Required Elements – 14 points**
  - Letter of Organizational Support
  - Executive Summary
  - Project Narrative explains how labor market needs are addressed
  - Evaluation metrics proposed
  - Grant Budget within parameters, with minimum 10% matching funds
  - Institutional Commitments checked in the affirmative

#### Institutional Commitments

- ✓ 10% matching funds (can include in-kind)
- ✓ Monthly meeting with President and project team
- ✓ Commitment to mentoring other institutions
- ✓ Quarterly meetings with The Center to accelerate implementation
- ✓ Periodic engagement with The Center to document the change process
- ✓ Data Sharing Agreement and participate in external evaluation process



# Rubric Overview

- **Guiding Principles – 18 points**
  - Adult Learner Focus
  - Equitable access to serve historically underserved populations
  - Collaborative nature of systems change
- **Evidence-based Promising Practices – 12 points**
  - Proposal is grounded in evidence-based promising practices
  - Chosen practice(s) suggests a high level of strategic and tactical thinking/planning



**Promising  
Practices**





# Rubric Overview

- **Institutional Outcomes – 12 points**
  - Measurable institutional outcomes demonstrating a commitment to creating a culture of care for adult learners
  - Sustainable systems change to increase adult completion rates and address equity issues
- **Institutional Capacity and Sustainability – 12 points**
  - Request is feasible for organization's commitment and resources to carry out funded activities
  - Integration of matching funds, with plans to sustain the change beyond the grant period
- **Planning Process – 12 points**
  - MI-RAISE Design Lab/D3C3 participation (12 pts) or other thoughtful planning process (6 pts) demonstrated in narrative





# Center & Sixty by 30 Coordination

- ✓ The Michigan Center for Adult College Success & the Sixty by 30 Office are coordinating on the grant opportunities.
- ✓ The IIA grants are intentionally aligned to the Accelerate and Go Big Sixty by 30 grants.
- ✓ Institutions can apply for both the IIA grants and the Sixty by 30 grants.
- ✓ If the identical proposal is submitted to both entities The Center and Sixty by 30 will coordinate on the award.
- ✓ If institutions apply for both with different proposals, The Center and Sixty by 30 will seek a conversation with the institution to ensure there is capacity to execute both programs simultaneously.



# IIA Recipient Supports

- ✓ Co-develop evaluation criteria
- ✓ Logic-model development assistance
- ✓ Center data and research support
- ✓ Access to coaches or subject matter experts from The Center
- ✓ Access to Center's resources to help identify additional partners or supports

The aim is to learn and share what works to get results for adult learner completion.



# Important Dates



Webinar

## Innovation Investment Awards

Grant Application Information for Michigan Public Colleges, Universities, Tribal Colleges, and Partnering Organizations.

 TIME  
12:00-1:00 PM

 TUESDAY  
APRIL 23

[Register Now](#)

 For More Information  
[thecenter@talentfirst.net](mailto:thecenter@talentfirst.net)



**April 23, 2024** – Informational Webinar for Applicants (12:00-1:00 p.m.)

**April 30, 2024** – Bi-weekly Office Hours Commence (Tues. 9-10 a.m./Thur. 3-4 p.m.) through July 11.

**May 1, 2024** – Application Portal Opens

**June 7, 2024** – Last date to submit drafts via email for pre-review.

**July 15, 2024** – Submission deadline through Application Portal (11:59 pm ET)

**August 8, 2024** – Innovation Awards Announced

**Sept. 1, 2024-Aug. 31, 2026** – Funded Project Dates

*Web address: [mcacs.talentfirst.net](http://mcacs.talentfirst.net)*



# Effective Implementation

- ✓ Be clear on the 'why'
- ✓ Ensure commitment across institution
  - ✓ Leadership, faculty, staff, students
  - ✓ Find your champions!
- ✓ Engage your adults & learn from them
- ✓ Map your assets and build partnerships
  - ✓ Employers, nonprofits, etc.
- ✓ Design system changes with partners based on learnings and best practices
- ✓ Engage opponents to change
  - ✓ Make sure they know you are listening
  - ✓ Be willing to learn and adapt
- ✓ Constantly communicate
- ✓ Be willing to start small with scaling up in mind
- ✓ Plan long-term:
  - ✓ Evaluations
  - ✓ Program Improvement
  - ✓ Sustainability & Growth

Questions?

<https://mcacs.talentfirst.net>

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