FY2026-2027 Grant Guidelines & Application Process Q&A Document

Instructions: Please submit any questions that you have regarding the State grants, Perkins grants or WTCS Apply Portal to grants@wtcsystem.edu. We will review and then post the questions and responses to them in the appropriate sections below. Note that general questions will be listed first followed by State, Perkins and then WTCS Apply Portal.

# **GENERAL QUESTIONS** (applies to all grant categories)

### How often will the Q&A be updated?

The Q&A will be updated at a minimum weekly.

## Will all FY26-27 grants be submitted through the WTCS Apply Portal?

Yes, the grant applications, any revisions and the grant reports will all be submitted through the Apply Portal.

## Where can we find the FY26-27 grant applications?

Please go to the WTCS Apply Portal website at wtcs.smapply.io

# **Procurement Questions**

## For services under $50,000, does this follow the academic or calendar year?

The service follows the length of the contract.

## How specific does the description of the equipment need to be?

If the function and type of equipment is grant eligible it can be listed in the grant. If the equipment meets the thresholds of your college’s procurement process, that process must be followed.

# **Program Income Questions**

## Does program income apply to all grants?

Program income **applies to federal grants only**, which currently is Perkins and AEFLA. Any additional federal grants that we get that we subaward, we will notify colleges that program income applies during the grant conference.

## If you have program income for a grant event, can you purchase food?

Program income should be used for costs that are typically allowable under Federal guidelines. Because food is not typically allowed under Federal guidelines, you should not use program income to purchase food.

# **STATE** (applies to all state grant categories)

## If professional development occurs early in the next fiscal year, can a college pay for registration and basic airfare costs in one fiscal year (with college funds to secure a spot and save money) and then be reimbursed for those costs from a state grant when the new grant year begins?

### This is allowable in State General Purpose Revenue grants.

### Can you provide a link to the rubrics?

<https://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/grants-data-reporting/grants/application-forms/>

## Regarding sustainability - We are supposed to describe ways outside of the operational budget. I don’t know another way to “sustain” other than to state, “Seek external funding opportunities.” How will that be looked at?

Sustainability plans that include more detail often score higher on this rubric criterion. Describing how the program is tied to other supporting initiatives such as career pathways, student success and support programs at the college and/or part of the WTCS mission, vision and Commitments to Progress, future grant and/or other internal/external funding opportunities, community partnerships, advisory/employer relationships, etc. help to explain the college’s plan to bolster the named program.

## What happens if there are discrepancies with the detailed budget, SFR and budget summary in my competitive grant application?

If there are discrepancies in these three areas, you will lose points in the budget section of the rubric.  The totals in each budget line item for these three areas should match.  We’ve set up the detailed budget spreadsheet so that the amounts in the total lines should automatically be pulled over and appear on the SFR sheet.  If you delete or alter the formulas that we have set up in the detailed budget spreadsheet, it will change/impact what gets pulled over into the SFR.  To complete the budget summary section, you just have to copy the totals from each line item from the SFR.

## When is the blackout date for questions regarding the State grant categories?

All blackout dates for questions relating to the following grants are one week prior to the application due date.

* State Grants - the blackout date is Friday, January 2, 2026, at 4 pm
* IET Development and Expansion Grant - the blackout date is Friday, March 9, 2026, at 4 pm
* WAT grant - the blackout date is Thursday, April 24, 2026, at 4 pm

# **Career Pathway**

##  7/31/25 - Does the Career Pathways grant still support mileage expenses? I noticed details were removed from the funds available and the additional limitations section but were not specified as an allowable activity.

Travel/mileage is still allowed; the limit was removed.

##  7/31/25 - What is the deadline for WTCS program approval for programs that are supported by Career Pathways grants? Is it the same as Developing Markets, or different?

The Guidelines state: All WTCS pathway program(s) and credentials included in the project must be in approved status by the System Office, identified by program name, number and date of official approval (i.e., Medical Assistant, 31-509-1, approved 03-01-2013) on the Career Pathway grant application. Program revisions in pending or disapproved status at the time of application are not allowed. This means the program needs to be approved prior to application submission.

# **Completion**

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# **Core Industry**

1. 7/30/25 – Can the Core grant be used to create an ITS (Individualized Technical Studies) degree

The short answer is no, ITS do not qualify for inclusion in Core Industry grants.

The longer answer is that ITS are not named in Core Industry grant guidelines as allowable, and I will explain a little bit about why that is the case:

1. **ITS are not WTCS Board-approved programs and thus do not meet the “prior approval” program requirements outlined in Core Industry grant guidelines.** ITS are special-case associate degrees offered and documented by colleges and recognized internally by the System Office, but do not exist as formally approved WTCS programs with open student enrollment and completions.
2. **ITS are intended to serve a single student who would not otherwise be able to attain the desired education by taking any other program or combination of programs offered by the college.** ITS must not supersede existing WTCS-approved programs, and they should not be created with the intent of open enrollment; program areas that are new and might be relevant and useful to a larger population as indicated by industry demand should follow the standard program approval process or be organized as a local certificate.

All of that being said, a college could create a Core Industry grant application for a qualifying, existing, WTCS-approved program and feature pathway development as an activity. Simply put, you could do curriculum work to the primary program to set it up for pathway expansion and/or ease of progression along the pathway. You could not create an ITS, however.

# **Developing Markets**

## 7/31/25 - For the Developing Markets grant category, can multiple programs be funded in a single application for $200,000?

Based on verbiage used in the guidelines referring to “a” or “the” program, only one program may be funded per application.

## Can a college run more than one section of a course for one-time delivery funding support as part of a Developing Market request? Or would only one section of the course be covered under the grant?

# **Emergency Assistance**

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# **IET Development & Expansion**

## 7/29/2025 - What is considered a student barrier?

For the purposes of the IET Development and Expansion grant, the 10% limit for student barriers is restricted to unexpected emergencies or situations which may make it difficult for a student to attend classes or complete the program. Allowable expenses may include—but are not limited to—transportation assistance, emergency childcare, temporary housing support, or other urgent needs that directly impact a student’s ability to participate in and complete their IET program. These expenses would go in line 8.0 – Other.

A student barrier could also be basic needs to complete the courses within a program. Course instructional materials or supplies (welding protective clothing, scrubs), etc. would be listed in line 7.0-Supplies.

All expenses must be necessary, reasonable and aligned with the goals of the grant.

# **Workforce Advancement Training** (WAT)

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# **PERKINS** (applies to all Perkins grant categories)

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# **Targeting Attainment Gaps**

## Question 1:

Response 1:

# **Career Prep**

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## Question 2:

Response 2:

# **NTO**

## Question 1:

Response 1:

# **Strengthening Programs**

## Question 1:

Response 1:

# **Student Success**

# **WTCS APPLY PORTAL**

## Can colleges see the archived grants/other documents (grant documents, grant reports, budgets)?

Due to portal limitations, we must archive grants when the year is final, and all reports have been submitted and approved. We highly recommend you keep copies of the documents uploaded to the WTCS Apply Portal. On a very limited basis, we may be able to help.


## Is there a way to search or organize the grants so we don’t have to scroll through so many grants to get to the one we need?

Due to portal limitations, this is not possible. We have put in this request, but Survey Monkey has not updated this feature yet.

## Regarding revision, once a revision is submitted and approved, it becomes the new “original” submission. So, if you need to submit a second revision, you will work from the most recent submission. Is this correct?

Yes, everyone on your team should work off the new, same grant application & information. Please see the WTCS Apply Portal User Guide for instructions for first and subsequent revisions. The guide can be found here (very bottom of the page), <https://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/grants-data-reporting/grants/egrants-apply-portal/>