



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

Perkins Reserve Grant

I. Overview

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) requires that funds be used to foster innovation or promote the development, implementation and adoption of programs of study or career pathways aligned with state identified high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations or industries. The Perkins Reserve Grant is a competitive grant awarded annually to CTE Perkins recipients. For the 2026-2027 grant cycle, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education will award approximately \$2.0 million to eligible secondary and postsecondary recipients. The maximum award amount for each individual grant is \$150,000.

Project Period

The Reserve Grant will run from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027. Applicants must encumber all funds prior to the end of the grant period and will not be given a grant extension. Funds must be expended by February 28, 2028 with final reimbursement requests submitted by March 31, 2028.

Deadline

The deadline for submission is Friday, November 13, 2026, at 5 PM ET. Applications will be reviewed, and notification of awards will be sent in December.

Grant Usages

Reserve Grants can be used for any activity that is allowable under Section 135 of Perkins. Administrative costs are unallowable with this grant.

II. Grant Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility

All secondary and postsecondary Perkins recipients are eligible to apply for the Reserve Grant. Postsecondary institutions may submit applications by individual campus and/or as a system. Each entity applying must identify a gap that the grant will be used to address. The gap may be:

- A gap between one Perkins recipient and another recipient
- A local performance gap between two different student groups
- A gap between local performance and state performance levels
- A gap between local/regional labor market demand and district/campus enrollment

CTE districts/campuses that are designated as rural according to the census data provided by the Department of Education/The National Center for Education Statistics will receive additional consideration according to the selection rubric.

The maximum amount a district can request in their application is \$150,000. The Commission will determine the individual grant awards and may fund the entirety of an applicant's request or partially fund a request.

Evaluation Criteria

Each application will be scored using the rubric found on Page 3. Applicants are encouraged to include the following items when developing their application:

- Performance gap is identified using state or local level data. The application should also include discussion of how stakeholders, including local employers and industry, informed the selection of the identified gap. Activities and funds are clearly targeted to address the identified gap.
- Clearly defined best practice activities that demonstrate a high likelihood of success. Chosen activities should be innovative and proven to have a high-impact and focus directly on the gap identified.
- Activities and strategies aimed at impacting high-value CTE programs of study, including information about how stakeholders informed the selection of the proposed activities and strategies.
- Activities and strategies with a specific and detailed budget. This would include quotes for contracted services, as well as new equipment. Where applicable, applications should also include information on how the activities and strategies will be sustained following the grant period.
- Activities and strategies with the potential to significantly impact a district's student outcomes within the measures of program quality (credential attainment, dual credit attainment, WBL participation).
- Activities and strategies that include close collaboration with local workforce boards and other stakeholders. This could include the development of work-based learning partnerships.

Additional factors, reflected in the rubric, that will be considered include the length of time since the district/campus last received a Reserve Grant and the portion of unspent funds from the applicant's Perkins distribution during the prior fiscal year.

III. Application Submission and Review Process

Reserve Grant applications can be submitted within IndyGrants. A guide for submitting the application will be shared with all Area CTE Directors and postsecondary Perkins coordinators. Questions can be directed to:

Kathleen Ash

CTE Grants Administration Manager:

KAsh@che.in.gov

All proposals will be reviewed by the Commission's CTE team and scored based on the evaluation rubric. Notification of award status will be sent via email to the point of contact listed in the proposal.

Reserve Grant Soring Rubric

Eligibility		Maximum Points
Gap identified	10-Well developed. 6-Adequately developed 4-Marginally developed 2-Poorly developed	10
Rural	4-One or more sending schools defined as rural remote 2-One or more sending schools defined as rural distant 1-One or more sending schools defined as rural fringe	4
Need	4-No recent grant 2-Reserve grant (23-24) 1-Reserve grant (24-25)	4
2024-2025 Perkins Spending	4-0% unspent 2-Up to 5% unspent 0-5%+ unspent	4
Activities/Strategies		Maximum Points
Proposed strategy(ies) to address performance gap	10-Well developed 6-Adequately developed 4-Marginally developed 2-Poorly developed	10
Budget and Sustainability	4-High Detail 2-Moderate Detail 0-Lacks Detail	4
Programs of study impacted	4-High value 2-Moderate value 0-Less-than-moderate value	4
Student Outcomes - Focus areas include the following: - WBL participation - Dual Credit opportunities - Access to Credentials of Value - Improved special population/non-traditional student enrollments	10 – Specifically stated and well aligned to one or more of the provided student outcomes 6 – Generally mentioned and/or adequately aligned to one or more of the provided student outcomes 4 – Passing reference and/or marginally aligned to one or more of the provided student outcomes 0 – Not addressed and/or poorly aligned to one or more of the provided student outcomes	10
Total Points		50