1. **Is this presentation available from the webinar on 11/8/2021?**
   a. Yes, the presentation and recording are posted with the Grantee Resources on the Choose Ohio First Website: [https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof/resources](https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof/resources).

2. **Our institution is planning on including programs for teachers in Math. These are graduate programs, and it wasn't completely clear to me if that is allowed for the FY22 RFP.**
   a. Graduate programs for math educators, CIP 131311, is an allowable academic program for Choose Ohio First Scholarships.

3. **This is our college's first application but there are other units in our university that have applied and will reapply this year. Do we submit our applications together or separately?**
   a. Only one application from each institution will be considered for funding. Colleges within the institution must work together to develop a unified application.

4. **Where can we download a high resolution Choose Ohio First logo to provide our graphic designers to include in materials?**
   a. Choose Ohio First logos are available on the grantee resources page of the Choose Ohio First website: [https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof/resources](https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof/resources), under the heading, “Choose Ohio First Promotional Materials”

5. **For the CIP codes list provided, can you please confirm if graphic design is the same as graphic communications?**
   a. Graphic Design, 500409 is not an eligible CIP for Choose Ohio First. Graphic Communications, 100301, or 100399 are allowable CIPS for Choose Ohio First.

6. **Do these work-based experiences need to be new, or can we use existing experiences that our university already uses?**
   a. Work based learning experiences can be those already in place at the university or college.
7. Can the time spent on reporting and data maintenance count towards in-kind match?
   a. Yes, staff time, salary, and benefits, spent on reporting and documented may count towards in-kind match.

8. Is a school able to start the FY22 program in the summer semester?
   a. Yes. The summer semester is the beginning of the academic year for the Choose Ohio First program. If your institution is awarded funds from the FY22 round, it can recruit scholars to start in the summer after Controlling Board approval.

9. Is it permitted for the same academic program to appear in both a lead application and in a collaboration proposal?
   a. Yes, an institution may submit the same academic program as a part of its own proposal and as a collaboration with other colleges and universities.

10. May an institution that received an FY21 Choose Ohio First award submit a proposal?
    a. Yes, an institution that received an FY21 award is eligible to apply for the FY22 Choose Ohio First (COF) program. The FY22 COF program expands the commitment of the Governor and Chancellor to help develop Ohio’s STEM talent pipeline.

11. Would the new proposal need to be for different CIP codes?
    a. No.

12. Is an applicant able to resubmit a large portion of our proposal from the ’21 award but with some modifications for the work-based learning component?
    a. The RFP provides instructions for what is required in each proposal. It is up the institution to determine how the information in the proposal is developed and presented. ODHE encourages FY21 applicants to review, reflect, and revise previous materials to ensure the institution prepares a competitive and complete proposal based on 2021 conditions and data. The FY22 RFP contains new requirements due to changes to the Ohio Revised Code and an updated rubric.

13. Because of the Ohio Board of Nursing rule and law, nursing students cannot be in a paid externship or internship. Why is clinical time excluded in COF hours?
    a. ODHE recognizes students participating in clinical and practicum experiences required as a part of their degree program are making a time commitment to their education and career. The clinical time is part of the course requirements - along with grades and
specific learning outcomes - and is required to graduate in that field. It is, therefore, not a distinct work-based learning opportunity. A COF work-based learning experience does not have to be a paid externship or internship for these students, but it still must be distinct, supplementary, and complementary to their program, and may differ from options offered to students in other STEM fields due to schedules and opportunities.

14. If a COF student is working full time while in school, is a work-based learning experience at their current place of employment acceptable or will they need to work at another site?
   a. A student’s current employment may meet the work-based learning experience if the employer and student, with institutional support, can create a distinct opportunity that complements their program of study, degree, or certificate. The opportunity would have learning outcomes and be able to be documented by the institution.

15. Our engineering students do not receive COF funds during their co-op term. How do we report that through the HEI system?
   a. The institution includes the students in the reimbursement file and requests zero payment. This step allows ODHE to track the student as continuing their education without a break.

16. For the RFP schools are asked to include required attachments E and F - both to identify various individuals who will lead specific efforts associated with the RFP. Is the attachment simply to include a list of names and titles? Should resumes or contact information be included?
   a. Attachments E and F should include the names and titles of the individuals who will be leading the recruitment and enrollment efforts and the student support efforts, respectively. The attachments should also include information about the strategy and coordination of these efforts across the institution and in coordination with the institution’s Choose Ohio First program leaders.

17. Is it a requirement to start to welcome recruited students for fall 2022? Much of our recruiting for academic year 2022-23 is already being done and we anticipate having much of it completed by early spring, before we learn whether a grant will be awarded. This would make it difficult for us to recruit with marketing materials and expect students to make decisions that close to fall.
   a. ODHE expects grantees to award COF funds each academic year beginning with 2022-23 and proposals should provide information to support this schedule. Applicants may use COF dollars to recruit incoming or transfer students (such as students who have not declared a major or students majoring in non-STEM fields) into STEM programs.
18. When we’ve submitted previous COF applications, we used a percentage of staff and faculty time as the 1:1 match. For the current opportunity, however, we would like to use Foundation scholarships but I’m not sure how to document this (both for the proposal and for the reports). Our Foundation solicits donations for scholarships and has a significant amount for our health technology program students. Can our Foundation’s executive director provide a letter committing to provide additional scholarships as match over the five years of the COF program? Do the Foundation scholarships need to be for the same programs (and CIP codes) in our COF program or can they be for any health tech program students?
   a. Yes, grantees may use funds from Foundation scholarships as match. A letter from the Foundation’s executive director is sufficient documentation for the RFP response. The match documentation for the Foundation scholarships would appear on the student tuition statement along with the Choose Ohio First scholarship. ODHE reminds the college that it may change how it meets its match requirement during the time it administers the COF grant.

19. Two of our STEM programs (bioscience and graphic design) have co-op/internship experiences built into their curriculum. The student has to take these courses in order to graduate. I believe that under the criteria of this grant, these experiences would be viewed separately from a clinical or practicum in a health science program, and thus would be eligible as a work experience. I just wanted to confirm that.
   a. Yes, the co-op/internship experiences do meet the work-based learning requirement.

20. Another question on work experience: Students in our engineering and information technology programs have the option to have a capstone course experience or an internship co-op. As part of the capstone experience, students can and do solve real problems posed by industry. Would a capstone experience, especially if there was input from the part of an actual employer, count as work experience?
   a. No, a capstone project embedded within a course does not meet the work-based learning experience.

21. Is the work-based learning requirement different in this solicitation from the FY2021 solicitation? I may not have my facts straight, but last time I recall that the WBL experience could not be for a grade and could not be required for the academic program; it had to be something extra. Is that the same for this year? Can they do the WBL experience at any time before they graduate?
   a. Yes, the work-based learning experience may occur any time before a Choose Ohio First (COF) student graduates. The work-based learning is now a student requirement and was encouraged by ODHE in the FY2021 program.
22. Could you please provide a definition of a work-based learning experience?
   a. The work-based learning requirement, instituted with the passage of the last budget bill, can be found in ORC 3333.64. It requires that each COF scholar “be involved in work-based learning through a co-op or internship experience in a university, college, or private laboratory, or other work-based learning experience.” ODHE views the requirement through four lenses:
      - Distinct – A specific activity with outcomes
      - Complementary – Helps students build on their course work and move toward a career
      - Supplementary – Occurs outside regular coursework and assignments
      - Documented -- Grantee documents the experience

23. In the webinar, it was stated that there was a change for this RFP that graduate students could be supported even if they were not returning from out of state. I could not find any written documentation about this change in the RFP or FAQs – the only written information I found was in the FAQs for Students and Parents, which states the previous requirement for graduate students of needing to transfer back to Ohio. If I overlooked this information, please let me know where it can be found. Any elaboration on the constraints of this new opportunity for supporting graduate students through COF would be helpful. Some specific questions concerning this:
   a. HB110 changed the graduate student eligibility for Choose Ohio First scholarships. Effective September 30, 2021, ORC 3333.61 states, “The Choose Ohio First scholarship program shall assign a number of scholarships to state universities and colleges to recruit Ohio residents as undergraduate or graduate students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics education.” We are in the process of editing our website to reflect this change and appreciate that you brought this to our attention.

   Graduate students include both master’s and doctoral candidates. The COF CIP List categorizes the majors by either “All Levels,” which means all levels of certificates and degrees, or “Graduate and Above,” which means only graduate-level programs are eligible for COF scholarships.

   Regarding COF scholarships for undergraduates moving into a graduate program, the Choose Ohio First program’s goal is to increase the STEM talent in Ohio to grow Ohio’s economy. The COF program also focuses on providing opportunities for underrepresented students to pursue a STEM degree or certificate. Undergraduate
students awarded a COF scholarship and then receiving a COF scholarship for a master’s
degree or other graduate degree do not increase the number of Ohioans with STEM
knowledge and skills. A second COF award to the same individual may limit the number
of new and underrepresented students participating in the program. The most
competitive RFP responses will provide opportunities for students to benefit and pursue
a STEM career in Ohio. Institutions attracting new STEM students at all levels without a
STEM background help Ohio meet the increasing need for STEM skills. ODHE encourages
institutions to leverage COF funds with other resources to provide new, affordable
STEM pathways.

24. What part of our proposal will be publicly shared?

a. COF staff will compile the executive summaries from the proposals submitted by
institutions and refer to them in the public meeting required as part of the competitive
proposal process. Choose Ohio First proposals are public information and any requests
for copies of proposals will be handled by the ODHE legal team per the public
information request regulations.

25. Could you explain the types of data and demographic information you’re looking for in this
section? Recruitment (25 Points): Describe and explain how the institution developed its Choose
Ohio First recruitment and enrollment strategy. The response should include relevant data and
demographic information, reference to institutional priorities, and other factors to support the
strategy.

a. A complete response may include data and demographic information about locations
and secondary schools the institution plans to target for potential Choose Ohio First
students. It may also complement campus enrollment strategies and outreach
underway to connect the institution to traditional and non-traditional students. The
selected data would help ODHE understand how the institution developed its COF
recruiting plan and goals.