1. Can student funds, financial aid or other means, that are being used to finance a student’s education beyond scholarships, be considered match toward the grant?
   a. No, matching funds may not include direct student aid such as Pell or federal and state student support or tuition payments by the student.

2. Will the COF FY21 New Funding Webinar be recorded?
   a. Yes, ODHE will post a recording of the webinar and a copy of the accompanying Power Point.

3. Is there a page limit for the project narrative section?
   a. No, there is no page limit for the project narrative section. Applicants should prepare clear, concise responses that provide ODHE with the requested information.

4. Is only one submission permitted from the university as a whole or can we make separate submissions from individual departments or colleges within the university, as we previously have done?
   a. Each institution may submit only one application that can encompass programs from individual colleges and/or departments.

5. What is an example of collaborating with another institution’s application?
   a. A university and community college may prepare a proposal that provides COF scholars the opportunity to seamlessly transfer between institutions and receive COF support each year of their academic journey.

6. Have the CIP codes been expanded to include environmental studies and psychology and many similar disciplines under STEMM?
   a. Environmental studies and similar programs are eligible COF programs within the group Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources, with CIP codes beginning with 03. Psychology is an eligible program at the graduate level, but not at the undergraduate level.

7. The RFP shows cohorts lasting three years at community colleges. If a part-time student, for example, takes more than three years to complete, can they continue to receive COF funds until completion?
   a. Yes, the institution may continue to support students until they complete.
8. In the annual minimum and maximum offered through COF, does this include fall, spring, and summer, or just fall and spring?
   a. The minimum and maximum are spent over an academic year - summer, fall, and spring semesters, with summer being the leading semester.

9. We see that instructional costs, general fees, books, and meals are allowable. Is technology allowable, specifically laptops and hotspots?
   a. Software and hardware technology are not eligible costs for COF. Beyond instructional and general fees, book vouchers and meal plans are approved as an eligible use of COF funds. The student’s tuition bill shall reflect all eligible costs indicating this use. General fees are defined as those assessed uniformly to all students and those that do not allow for a waiver to be offered to any student(s), unless the waiver is approved by the Chancellor. For example, a fee charged to students to provide health care coverage would not be uniformly assessed if students can opt out, and therefore would not be considered a general fee.

10. Please confirm, has the GPA requirement been removed?
    a. The 3.0 GPA is a benchmark to help COF awardees identify students needing additional academic supports; it is not a program requirement.

11. May a regional campus submit an application?
    a. Regional campuses may not apply separately. An institution with regional campuses may include those students as part of its proposal. The selected CIP codes are for the institution, including its regional campuses, and its students within the selected disciplines.

12. May an applicant include short-term certificates in its COF proposal?
    a. Yes, an institution may include support for eligible short-term certificates that are included within the selected CIP codes.

13. Can COF funds provide scholarships for a master’s degree program?
    a. Yes, COF funds may be awarded to master’s degree students, if the student is an Ohio resident who completed an undergraduate degree out of state or country but returned to Ohio to receive a graduate degree.

14. Can we apply for nursing and pre-med together in one application?
    a. Yes, an institution’s one application may seek funding for up to 45 CIP codes that may include nursing, pre-med, and other eligible disciplines.
15. Can we continue to support students recruited in the later years of the grant period (e.g., in years four or five) after the project period? And if so, do we consider that within the budget request?
   a. Yes, ODHE intends, with the support of the Ohio General Assembly, to provide funding for students to complete their education after the initial five-year project period ends. The institution does not need to include a budget request beyond the five-year term of the program in its proposal.

16. Are we able to recruit students for academic year 20-21, if awarded? Or will there be a gap year for awardees?
   a. The FY16 Choose Ohio First programs end on June 30, 2021. The FY21 awards will be announced in the spring of 2021. If an institution receives FY21 funding, it may provide scholarship funding to students beginning in academic year 2021-2022. Summer semester 2021 will be the first semester that students can receive COF scholarships awarded from the FY21 RFP.

17. Can institutional letters include letters from high school partners or other academic partners?
   a. An institution may include letters from other stakeholders if it believes the information strengthens its proposal.

18. Can we include letters of support from potential industrial partners who will provide internships for COF students?
   a. Yes, an applicant may include letters of support from potential industrial partners who may provide internships to COF students.

19. Is the work-based learning requirement 100% absolute for all COF participants?
   a. A work-based learning experience must be made available to each COF scholar. ODHE recognizes that some students, due to personal situations, may not be able to take advantage of work-based learning at this time in their life.

20. Would matching funds from a company or hospital strengthen an application?
   a. Matching funds directed to and tracked for COF activities, including additional scholarship resources, may be part of the match description. Additional private resources are welcome to help institutions meet the 1:1 requirement.

21. Is there an option for multi-institutional grants? Would a four-year institution be able to partner with a two-year community college to focus on transfer students?
   a. Yes, a four-year institution may partner with a two-year institution to provide pathways that allow for seamless transfers and COF support for a student’s entire educational pathway.
22. Do work-based learning experiences need to be paid?
   a. ODHE strongly encourages institutions to connect students to paid work-based
      learning experiences; it is not a requirement.

23. Can curriculum-required training experiences (such as fieldwork, clinicals, practicum,
    etc.) be counted as work-based learning experiences?
   a. No, a required training experience that is part of the curriculum does not count
      toward the required internships, co-ops, and/or research laboratory experiences
      that is not part of the curriculum.

24. If we lose a student in Cohort 1 at the end of year one due to major change or another
    reason, will we be able to add a student to that cohort in year two?
   a. If a student leaves a cohort, an awardee may allocate COF funds to a new
      student of equal rank or greater. For example, a student does not return for his or
      her sophomore year an institution may offer a COF scholarship to an eligible
      student who is a sophomore, junior, or senior.

25. Although only one application per institution is allowed, can a community college partner
    with more than one four-year college?
   a. Yes, a community college can partner with more than one four-year institution.
      An institution may be the lead applicant on only one proposal.

26. Can you provide more information about the 1:1match, specifically in-kind funds?
   a. Matching funds may be provided by institutional, public, and private funds. In-
      kind contributions may include, for example, faculty time spent directing the
      program or tutoring services directed toward COF scholars. All matching funds
      must be supported by appropriate documentation.

27. Some programs, particularly in the social sciences, are only classified as STEMM at the
    graduate level. So, is it possible for graduate programs (such as Clinical Psychology)
    who enroll students from non-STEMM undergraduate degree programs to apply for COF
    funding?
   a. Ohio Revised Code 3333.66 allows graduate students to be funded by Choose
      Ohio First if they are Ohio residents returning to Ohio for graduate school after
      receiving an undergraduate degree in a different state or country. These
      graduate students must be enrolled in a COF eligible STEMM CIP; their
      undergraduate CIP code does not affect eligibility.
28. If a community college plans to collaborate with a 4-year partner school, can we only select one partner? And if a 4-year partner school decides to be included in our COF proposal, does that mean that they (as an institution) can’t also apply for the grant?
   a. An institution may partner with multiple institutions, but an institution can only be the lead applicant of one proposal.

29. Is a private, non-profit higher education institution eligible to apply for Choose Ohio First?
   a. Yes.

30. Are there any specific format requirements for resumes that we are submitting as part of the RFP?
   a. No, there is not a specific format required for resumes submitted as part of the RFP.

31. Are micro-credentials eligible as COF certificates?
   a. No, unless the micro-credential is also a technical certificate approved by the Chancellor.