



FAFSA 22 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), invites college-attainment-focused nonprofits and Educational Service Center (ESC) organizations across Ohio to express interest in receiving Federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grant funding for FAFSA intervention during the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that funds are provided on a **reimbursement basis**. Responses should be received by **Friday, August 20, 2021**. ODHE will announce grantees shortly thereafter.

Program Purpose

- COVID-19 has negatively impacted FAFSA completion, both nationally and in Ohio, creating additional barriers for students who might otherwise pursue postsecondary education.
- With an average decline of 4.8% in FAFSA completion rates compared to the same period last year, this change represents a significant loss in funding for students and, likely, a significant decline in postsecondary enrollment in Ohio.
- \$1.8 million in federal GEER funding has been allocated to support short-term intervention services to support FAFSA completion for the students most impacted by COVID-19.
- Minimally, proposals should focus on high school students planning to graduate in 2022. Proposals that *also* have strategies to serve recent graduates (2020 and 2021) are encouraged.

Program Eligibility

- College-attainment-focused nonprofits and ESC organizations across Ohio may apply.
- Any applicant that believes it meets the definition of a "college-attainment-focused nonprofit" is invited to apply. The applying entity must be an organization that is classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as a public charity under section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Code. Please note that the application requires all applicants to describe their focus on attainment and any relevant work to date, particularly as it relates to FAFSA.
- Collaboration between entities (e.g. multiple nonprofits in a region) is encouraged, but not required. Due to the reimbursement-only nature of GEER funding, respondents may also partner together to assist with financing the proposed work, such that a larger organization may offer to provide upfront funding to get the work under way. If it is a collaborative proposal, partnerships should clearly identify one lead organization for the proposal that will serve as the fiscal agent and project lead.
- Nonprofit and ESC organizations applying for funds should conduct FAFSA intervention work in partnership with public schools and districts, community schools, and nonpublic schools, and should prioritize those entities most impacted by COVID-19. Please consult the list of schools and districts in Ohio that have been deemed most impacted by COVID-19 based on FAFSA completion rates, labeled "FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools." Districts and schools are considered priority districts and schools if they meet at least one of two criteria: (1) A percent completion below 40 percent on/about June 30, 2021; and (2) A -3.5 percent difference or greater between June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2020. If districts with more than one high school did not meet these criteria at the district

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level, a secondary analysis was performed to determine if *individual schools within those districts* met the same criteria; if so, those schools are deemed priority schools and included on the list. Please note: Data limitations with FAFSA reporting may lead to some inconsistencies.

- The “FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools” list is meant to provide support to applicants as they determine how best to allocate resources. Additional schools may also benefit from services if resources are focused on student populations most impacted by COVID-19: low-income students, students with limited access to broadband, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster youth.
- To receive a subgrant an institution must have a valid DUNS number and SAM registration. The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. Government found at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

Funding Amounts & Funding Period

- There is a \$10,000 minimum threshold for requests.
- We expect requests will vary based on the number of students being served and that the majority of requests will be within or below the range of \$25,000 to \$75,000. If an applicant believes circumstances merit additional funding, please present the rationale in the application and make the desired request.
- Note that budget adjustments may be requested prior to receiving an award.
- Expenditures should occur prior to June 15, 2022.
- This is a reimbursement program; organizations may request funds monthly after activities are completed. Awardees will be expected to submit reimbursements *no less* than every other month. Requests will be submitted via the Ohio Department of Education Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (ODE CCIP) and documentation must be provided.

Eligible Expenses

Minimally, activities must: (1) support those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) be in support of the FAFSA completion initiative, and (3) support, but not supplant, existing FAFSA activities. As the funding for this program comes from the GEER funds, it is subject to federal Uniform Guidance, which in general requires that grant expenses are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to accomplish the goals of the federal program. In this case, **necessary** means expenditures were required because of the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. (As stated in the USDE FAQ, the GEER Fund is an emergency appropriation to address the harm to students caused by COVID-19.)

Examples of allowable activities include:

- Staff time for one-on-one FAFSA completion support, virtually or in person
- Staff time for FAFSA completion workshops, virtually or in person
- Staff time to conduct “FAFSA peer coach” orientations, virtually or in person, and manage peer coaches
- Texting campaign to seniors who have not completed the FAFSA



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- Deployment of WiFi-enabling options (mobile WiFi vans, hotspots) in conjunction with FAFSA-support activities
- Meals/refreshments for workshop participants (Note: Food-related expenses are allowable only if they are accompanied by an education or outreach component, and the food-related expenses are explicitly listed in the proposal budget and justified as part of the education or outreach components.)

Indirect costs are permitted. However, applicants should note that the driving consideration in making awards is the likely impact on students. Gifts, souvenirs, door prizes, etc., are not permitted.

Selection Criteria

Funding to applicants will be based on the likelihood of impact on students. Factors considered in making that determination include:

- (a) Needs of the schools/districts served
- (b) Organizational focus on college attainment and relevant work to date
- (c) Likely effectiveness of selected strategies, generally and for specific subpopulations
- (d) Proposed outcomes and use of data
- (e) Logical and/or thoughtful timeline and budget
- (f) Collaborative relationship with schools/district served, as evidenced through organizational history and letters of support

Geographic diversity will also be considered in making final awards.

Application:

To receive full consideration, please submit an application by 5 p.m. on **Friday August 20, 2021.**

To submit an application, please email FAFSA@highered.ohio.gov with:

- (1) a complete narrative (see guidance below under “Application Narrative”)
- (2) any letters of support from schools/districts
- (3) the budget template (see guidance below under “Budget Template”)

Application Narrative

Please use the chart below. Alternatively, you may develop your own document that includes the same content. Bulleted format is welcome.

Organizational Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of Lead/Fiscal Agent • Primary Contact • Contact Information (Phone/Email) • Entity DUNS number
CCIP Account	<input type="checkbox"/> Our organization can access CCIP.



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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Our organization cannot currently access CCIP but understands that establishing a CCIP account in a timely fashion is essential for reimbursement.</p> <p><i>To determine whether your organization has access to the Ohio Department of Education’s CCIP, visit https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us, hover over “search” and click on “Organizations.” Search for your organization by typing your organization name OR organization IRN in the appropriate field and search. If not listed, you may contact ODE at 614.466.4161 to register your organization with ODE and CCIP.</i></p>
Partnering Organizations (if applicable)	Please list names, points of contact, and contact information (phone/email) for partnering organizations.
Schools Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify which of the schools/districts most impacted by COVID-19 will be served.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please consult the list of educational entities most impacted during COVID-19 (“FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools”) for a list of schools and districts that meet those criteria. The list can be found on https://www.ohiohighered.org/FAFSA.• If applicable, identify other districts/schools that will be served that are not on the FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools list. This would include extending service to an entire district that does not meet FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools criteria as a district, per the FAFSA 22 Priority Districts and Schools list, and which only has individual schools meeting the criteria. The rationale should address the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the district/school and/or how the activities will focus on populations known to be adversely impacted by COVID-19, such as: low-income students, students with limited access to broadband, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster youth.
Focus & Evidence of Effectiveness	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Our organization was a FAFSA 21 (<i>previous funding opportunity</i>) awardee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Our organization was not a FAFSA 21 (<i>previous funding opportunity</i>) awardee.</p>



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	<p>Please describe the lead organization’s focus on college attainment and highlight relevant work to date, particularly on FAFSA, and/or the relationship with the schools/district being served. Information on partnering organizations (if applicable) is welcome, but not required. <i>If your organization was a recipient of FAFSA 21 funding, please discuss the outcomes achieved to date.</i></p>
Key Strategies	<p>Indicate the key strategies that will be used to increase FAFSA completion and provide a brief rationale for the selected strategies/activities/services. Innovation is encouraged, as is use of known best practices. Applicants must be able to explain how and why a particular strategy is likely to be effective. Cited sources are welcome, but not required.</p>
Needs Served	<p>Are the activities designed to meet the unique needs of any of the following populations: low-income students, students with limited access to broadband, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster youth? If so, please indicate how the activities have been designed to meet their needs.</p>
Proposed Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicate the estimated number of students you intend to serve.• Indicate the projected number of FAFSA completions achieved through program strategies.
Timeline & Roles	<p>Provide a high-level timeline with anticipated monthly milestones. If a collaborative grant, indicate organizational involvement in the milestones.</p>
Budget Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide your overall budget request.• If you are requesting more than the suggested threshold (\$75,000), please explain why• Please divide your budget request by the number of students to be served to provide a cost per student.• Please divide your budget request by the project number of FAFSA completions achieved through the program strategies to provide a cost per completion.
Budget Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please attach the budget template (see embedded link below).



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	<div style="text-align: center;">  FAFSA 22 Budget.xlsx </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Budget Detail section of this narrative, please provide enough detail to understand how the funds support the strategies and the underlying assumption(s). You may use a chart like the one below or any format of preference. <table border="1" data-bbox="597 686 1416 1199"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="597 686 872 921">Cost</th> <th data-bbox="872 686 1143 921">Description (e.g. staff time for one-on-one workshops, equipment for mobile FAFSA bus)</th> <th data-bbox="1143 686 1416 921">Assumption (baseline for cost estimate; e.g. salary x hours; cost x number of items)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="597 921 872 991">Salaries + Benefits</td> <td data-bbox="872 921 1143 991"></td> <td data-bbox="1143 921 1416 991"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="597 991 872 1060">Purchased Services</td> <td data-bbox="872 991 1143 1060"></td> <td data-bbox="1143 991 1416 1060"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="597 1060 872 1094">Supplies</td> <td data-bbox="872 1060 1143 1094"></td> <td data-bbox="1143 1060 1416 1094"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="597 1094 872 1163">Capital Outlay + Replacement</td> <td data-bbox="872 1094 1143 1163"></td> <td data-bbox="1143 1094 1416 1163"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="597 1163 872 1199">Other</td> <td data-bbox="872 1163 1143 1199"></td> <td data-bbox="1143 1163 1416 1199"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cost	Description (e.g. staff time for one-on-one workshops, equipment for mobile FAFSA bus)	Assumption (baseline for cost estimate; e.g. salary x hours; cost x number of items)	Salaries + Benefits			Purchased Services			Supplies			Capital Outlay + Replacement			Other		
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Letters of Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please indicate the schools/districts that have signed letters of support for this initiative. Please attach any letters of support. 																		

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please send them to FAFSA@highered.ohio.gov. Answers, along with a copy of these guidelines and other information, will be posted publicly on www.ohiohighered.org/FAFSA.