Questions and Responses:

1. Does the OTC need to be a Title IV eligible institution to participate in the Short-Term Certificate Grant Program?
   a. No, but if you are Title IV eligible you can align Pell to the students as applicable.

2. Does the short-term certificate program have to be an ODHE approved program?
   a. No, however, the program(s) must align to credentials for an in-demand job/occupation as determined by local / regional needs.

3. Can books/supplies be included in Fees? We currently advertise some programs as a total cost, which we also disclosed to the student the breakdown of Tuition & Books/Supplies.
   a. Yes, if books and supplies are part of your published tuition and fees.

4. Can you expand on the credit versus non/credit for a clock hour school?
   a. For the OTC's it is clock hours only.

5. Do these programs need to have ODHE approval?
   a. No, however, the program(s) must align to credentials for an in-demand job/occupation as determined by local / regional needs.

6. Can we get a copy of this PowerPoint please?
   a. A copy of the PowerPoint can be found on the Short-Term Certificate Grant Program webpage. [https://www.ohiohighered.org/short-term-certificate-grant-program](https://www.ohiohighered.org/short-term-certificate-grant-program)

7. Certificates of completion from the college is acceptable, correct?
   a. Yes

8. Are we no longer required to pull in-demand occupations from the top jobs list? Also, credentials do not need to be from the approved list, correct?
   a. That is correct, a list is not required. The program must align to credentials for an in-demand job / occupation as determined by local / regional needs.

9. Can the student receive Pell and the short-term grant for the same courses?
   a. Yes. The Short-Term Certificate grant funds can be applied with other financial aid awards.

10. How much detail is needed for "in-demand job info"?
    a. Each institution will determine what is “in-demand” for the local / regional area. Information about the “in-demand” jobs / occupation will be noted in a narrative format with submitted metrics.
11. The college award of a short-term certificate (with or without a certification) would qualify? For example, some certificates help to prepare students for an eventual certification, but it is not required. Would this be ok?
   a. It can be a certificate of completion from the institution.

12. To clarify: how much detail for in-demand in EXCEL doc.? (separate from proposal element 1c 'regional needs')
   a. Each institution will determine what is “in-demand” for the local / regional area. Information about the “in-demand” jobs / occupation will be noted in a narrative format with submitted metrics / reports.

13. We're writing for a 2-year project, but will there be another RFP next year, for a separate grant?
   a. Yes, that is correct. This year’s award is for FY22 in the amount of $3.5 million. An additional $3.5 million will be awarded in FY23.

14. Can a student take advantage of the Foster Youth Short-term funding and this short-term funding at the same time?
   a. Yes, a student receiving funding from the Foster Youth grant can also receive funds from this short-term grant certificate program.

15. Could students use these grant funds and use the Pell for textbooks?
   a. If the student is eligible for Pell, they can apply the short-term certificate grant program funds for tuition and approved fees and apply Pell to the textbook fees.

16. Is there an emphasis on which funding (ODHE vs federal) hits an account first? That's a challenge for schools to coordinate sometimes and removing that barrier would be so helpful.
   a. We defer to the institution on how they apply funding.
      i. Will this stacking of funds topic be addressed in the agreements, should we be approved?
         1. The institutions determine the need-based financial aid criteria and process for applying funds to student accounts.

17. Does it matter if it is credit or non-credit training? Is there more weight given to one or the other?
   a. Both credit and non-credit short-term certificate programs are eligible. We do see benefits to credit if there are stackable pathways for continued education and training if that is the student’s goal.

18. For previous grantees, is there a fund balance threshold at which ODHE would recommend waiting to apply for the next round? (i.e. if you have a certain amount of funds remaining, would you be less likely to receive an additional award?)
   a. Applicant’s past performance with the Short-Term Certificate Grant program will be taken into consideration (this applies to community colleges only).
19. You indicated that there is $7 million available, with $3.5 million dispersed the first year. Should we base our submission on two-year performance?
   a. Yes, these funds will be used for 24 months, from January 2022-December 2023.

20. Is there a rubric for scoring the applications to determine award amounts?
   a. This is a non-competitive grant. Final award allocations will be determined by how many institutions submit eligible applications.

21. If previous awardees do have a balance, how should we address the overlap. (Community colleges only)
   a. Please report the remaining balance on the appropriate Excel spreadsheet. The expenditure of those funds will follow the approved application when those funds were awarded.
   b. Do not include that money in the planned activities for the FY22 Short-Term Certificate Grant program application.

22. If a student is dually enrolled in degree program that has embedded short-term certificates that are NOT title IV eligible itself, can the student still get Pell grant and STC grant for those classes?
   a. Regardless if the student is eligible for Pell, the Short-Term Certificate grant funds can be used jointly with other financial aid awards; you can align Pell to the students, as applicable.

23. I understand the students can’t be awarded any grant funding until the school would see if they were awarded the funding. If we were awarded grant dollars, would we be able to apply to any current students already enrolled in a short-term program or would it be effective for the upcoming programs and students?
   a. Funds can be awarded only after the award agreement has been fully executed. We anticipate award agreements to be sent in November-December, 2021 with funds being sent to institutions in December, 2021-January, 2022. Only students enrolled in programs at the time of the executed award agreement would be eligible for this funding.

24. Was the webinar recorded or is there any additional information that may be available?
   a. The recordings from the webinars and other resources can be found on the Short-Term Grant Certificate Program webpage; [https://www.ohiohighered.org/short-term-certificate-grant-program](https://www.ohiohighered.org/short-term-certificate-grant-program).

25. Does the program have to be “less than 30 credits” or “30 credits or less”?
   a. Less than 30 credit hours and less than 900 clock hours.

26. In the criteria it says that the class leads to a credential. Does the student need to receive the credential during the course, or can they receive it after the class?
   a. The course must prepare the student for an industry-recognized credentials that are aligned to an in-demand job / occupation as determined by local / regional needs.
27. Does the credential cost need to be embedded in the cost of the course?
   a. No, the cost of the credential does not need to be embedded in the cost of the course.

28. Is there a need-based criterion we need to follow e.g. low income?
   a. The institution determines the need-based financial aid criteria for documentation purposes.

29. We have health care programs that are taught through a second party- Condense Curriculum International. Would those students qualify?
   a. The Short-Term Certificate Program Grant funds can be awarded to any in-state student who receives a bill from the institution for education/training.