



COLORADO
Department of Education

2022-2023 Rural Coaction Coach Application

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Contact:
Christina Monaco, Field Services Manager
monaco_c@cde.state.co.us

Introduction

Rural districts, BOCES, and other local education providers (LEPs) provide students in their communities with high-quality learning experiences each and every day. To expand student pathway opportunities and career-connected learning, partnerships among and across districts and BOCES can be very valuable. Collaborative action (also referred here as coaction) allows districts and BOCES to work together in partnership to increase opportunities for students across their regions. As such, CDE is launching the Rural Coaction Program to seed the creation of new and further the development of existing partnerships and pathways for learning in our rural communities. This program will be funded through the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER III) funds.

Background on Rural Coaction Program

The Rural Coaction program exists to provide funding to coalitions of LEPs [designated as rural](#) to utilize a collaborative partnership to increase student access to and engagement with student career pathways and career-connected learning. A coalition of LEPs or group of providers (as defined in the [Rural Coaction Request for Applications](#)) may apply for a grant.

The purpose of this funding is to improve student engagement in learning—particularly for those students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic—through increased collaborative action. The results of these collaborations will be the creation and/or expansion of student pathways/career-connected learning opportunities amongst rural Colorado school districts and/or BOCES, community partners, Institutions of Higher Education (IHE's), and industry partners in ways that innovatively address local needs. With these funds, districts will build capacity and resources (primarily to build student career pathways and learning opportunities), be able to incentivize hard-to-fill positions, be more adequately positioned to attract quality staff, and increase opportunities for student growth and achievement, in addition to strengthening and/or maintaining relationships with industry partners and IHE's.

A coalition of rural LEPs and/or BOCES (coaction partners) awarded a grant under the Rural Coaction Program shall use awarded funding to establish coaction partnerships to build student career pathways and career-connected learning opportunities that address the local needs of their communities.

Examples of the eligible work include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing and/or expanding career-connected and other workplace learning opportunities (including Career and Technical Education) or increased student [career pathways that lead to in-demand careers](#), including but not limited to:
 - Establishing shared infrastructure for offering students access to career-connected learning;
 - The acquisition of equipment and other capital expenditures;
 - Developing new career-connected learning pathways;
 - Strengthening student engagement/re-engagement through career-connected or workplace learning opportunities;
 - Offering transportation so students can access career-connected learning opportunities; and
 - Building the groundwork for a successful application for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Grant (Perkins Grant).
- Programming that encourages enrichment, academic innovation and/or strengthens school climate, including but not limited to:
 - Work-based learning opportunities in district and out of district; and

- The creation of summer internship and career-based learning opportunities.
- Addressing educator workforce challenges, including but not limited to:
 - Supporting the hiring of educators for the student career pathways or current academics so that new pathways can be developed; and
 - Hiring staff to provide coordination across districts and build relationships with industry and other community partners.

Coalitions can apply to one of two different cohorts:

- 1) ***Cohort 1: Accelerated Coaction*** -- This path is intended for coalitions that have existing partnerships with neighboring LEPs, strong connections already in place with community industry partners, and/or existing career-connected learning opportunities and are ready to expand the reach of their programs through partnerships. The goal of this path is to expedite funding to coalitions in order to initiate work in advance of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2) ***Cohort 2: Incubated Coaction*** -- This cohort allows coalitions of LEPs, such as those building new programs or new collaborations across LEPs, additional time to plan their collaboration and put the systems and processes in place to ensure a successful implementation of the coaction program. Applicants awarded in this cohort will have a planning period to build out the plans and infrastructure starting on July 1, 2022, and ending no later than December 31, 2022.

Rural Coaction Coaches

A list of Rural Coaction Coaches will be made available to all potential Rural Coaction Program applicants. These individuals/organizations may provide a wide range of technical assistance to the coaction partners such as: supporting coaction partners in developing a theory of action, developing systems and processes, facilitating collaboration among coaction partners, supporting community engagement activities, other planning/coordination that supports the coaction partners in successfully implementing the proposed program including, for Cohort 2 applicants, supporting the efforts outlined for the planning period such as completing the Planning Period report. Rural Coaction Coaches are not required for any application, but are available as a support. The costs of such coaches should be incorporated into the application budget.

To establish the list of Rural Coaction Coaches described above, CDE is releasing a call for individuals and organizations (vendors) experienced in supporting rural districts and/or implementing the activities associated with the successful implementation of the Rural Coaction grant program. A [form](#) has been created in which interested vendors may submit their information. For reference, the questions included in the form are included below.

No applicant will be required to use any vendors identified throughout this process and applicants may choose vendor(s) not included on this list to support the implementation of their Rural Coaction program, if they are interested in external support. CDE will retain this information for school districts as an available resource and support in identifying coaching vendors.

For priority consideration, all interested vendors should submit their information by March 1, 2022, to be released to districts. This list will be shared as a resource with all districts that submit an “Intent to Apply” on March 7, 2022.

Questions for the Coaches

Completion of [this form](#) will result in you/your organization being included on a list of potential “Rural Coaction Coaches” to be shared with applicants to the “Rural Coaction” program. Submission of this form does not guarantee that a Rural Coaction applicant will select a particular Rural Coaction Coach and inclusion on this list does not indicate endorsement by the Colorado Department of Education.

Please see the [Rural Coaction Program Page](#) for more information.

Contact Information

1. Name of individual consultant/organization.
2. Mailing address of individual consultant/organization.
3. If an organization, name of primary contact for the Rural Coaction program.
4. If an organization, title of primary contact for the Rural Coaction program.
5. Email of individual consultant/primary contact for the Rural Coaction program.
6. Phone number of individual consultant/primary contact for the Rural Coaction program.

Experience in Work Areas

7. Briefly describe your/your organization’s primary areas of focus.
8. Describe your/your organization’s experience in supporting rural districts.
9. Describe your/your organization’s experience in supporting strategy development and implementation in education/district settings.
10. Describe your/your organization’s experience in supporting the building, expansion, and/or implementation of CTE, student pathways, and/or other career-/workplace-connected learning programs.
11. Describe your/your organization’s experience in facilitating collaboration amongst partner organizations.
12. Describe your/your organization’s experience in supporting districts with strengthening community engagement.
13. Describe any other experience that you/your organization possesses that is related to the Rural Coaction program.

References & Fees

14. List contact information for your three most recent previous partners/clients that Rural Coaction applicants could contact for reference. Please include the dates of the partnership/contract.
15. How do you structure your fees for your work?