

Date: April 14, 2020

To: School Administrators, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Directors/Administrators, High School Principals, Federal Programs Administrators and Community College/University CTE Deans/Directors

From: Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner, Office of College and Career Readiness

Subject: Perkins V

The Office of College and Career Readiness (OCCR) recognizes the many complexities local educational agencies (LEAs) across the state are dealing with during this time of school closures due to COVID-19. Therefore, OCCR is committed to work with LEAs and will be as flexible as possible with deadlines and requirements related to the Perkins V grant for Fiscal Year 2021. The following information is provided to LEAs to assist with the upcoming Perkins V requirements:

Local Application

Each local secondary or postsecondary Perkins grant recipient must submit a local application in order to qualify to receive Perkins V funds. At this time, the Perkins V Local Application for Fiscal Year 2021 is available on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website in the Compliance Plans System. To assist grant recipients with the application process, OCCR created a Perkins V Local Application Guidance Document and has posted it on the DESE website at <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/cte-perkins-v-local-application-guidance-document.pdf>.

Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment

A new component of Perkins V is the introduction of the comprehensive local needs assessment (CLNA) which requires data-driven decision-making on local spending. Each Perkins grant recipient must conduct a CLNA related to CTE to be eligible to receive funding, and the results of the needs assessment must be included in the local application. DESE will not be collecting the CLNA.

Budget

Perkins grant recipients must use funds to develop, coordinate, implement, or improve CTE programs to meet the needs identified in the CLNA. Local funding decisions must be based on the local needs assessment. There must be a clear linkage between the needs assessment and how funds are budgeted and expended. As in previous years, the Perkins V Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 will continue to be submitted through ePeGS. However, at this time, the allocations for the Perkins V grants are not available. OCCR plans to have the allocations completed and budgets opened in ePeGS by mid-May.

Submission Deadline

In the past, the deadline for Perkins grant recipients to submit the application and budget has always been July 1. OCCR would like to continue with that deadline for Perkins V, and our Office strongly encourages the Perkins V Local Application and Budget to be submitted on or before July 1, 2020. However, OCCR will handle exceptions to this deadline on a case-by-case basis. If requested, OCCR will provide additional technical assistance regarding the application or CLNA via conference call, WebEx or Zoom meeting.

In order for a Perkins grant recipient to have the authority to obligate and expend grant funds at the start of the fiscal year, the application and budget must be submitted on or before July 1, 2020. Once the status of the application and budget indicate "Submitted" in their applicable system, the Department considers the Perkins grant recipient to be substantially approved. If the application and budget are not submitted by the July 1 deadline, then the Perkins grant recipient may not obligate and expend grant funds at the start of the fiscal year.

Contact

Questions regarding Perkins V should be addressed to Roger Barnes, CTE Coordinator, by email at roger.barnes@dese.mo.gov or by phone 573-751-0450.