

March 8, 2024

Name: Hannah Lodwick
Subject: Regional Partnerships 2024 Request for Letters of Interest
To: Members of the Council

Attachment. *Regional Challenge Grant Update*
cc: Abbey Roth, KC Deane

Summary

The Regional Partnerships team will provide monthly updates to the Council during the process of reviewing applications for the 2024 Request for Letters of Interest. This memo summarizes the application pool, outlines the review process, and provides a timeline leading to the May Council meeting.

2024 Letters of Interest

On Friday, February 16 the 2024 Request for Letters of Interest closed with 38 submitted Letters of Interest. We are very pleased with the letters received as they exemplify deep vision alignment, namely that it takes community-based partnerships to lead and drive change in their respective regions to meet the state's postsecondary attainment goal. The 38 applications include:

- 200 total partnership organizations.¹
- 34 of 39 counties across the state.
- \$11.9 million of requested funds.
- A wide range of proposed activities and award amounts, including many that fall within the funding priorities.

As a reminder, we plan to award up to six partnerships in this request that are in alignment with the RCG vision and the 2024 funding priorities, which include emerging or forming partnerships, activities proposed around credential completion, and a focus on adult learners. Funding priorities do not exclude consideration of other proposed areas.

¹ Including organizations that have multiple applications as duplicates.

Review Process

The review of the 2024 Request for Letters of Interest has been thoughtfully designed with a focus on equity and the voices of select experts within the Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State, and across the country. The process begins with the Advisory Committee, which includes nine members that will be advising from one of two approaches: partnership function and community responsiveness.

After consulting with education leaders, we will host discussions with selected partnerships to gain a deeper understanding of their Letter of Interest. We conclude this process with an Internal Review Committee, comprised of six staff from the Washington Student Achievement Council who have portfolios within the funding vision and three members from the Regional Partnerships team. This committee will provide deep thought partnership specific to the partnership activities proposed and how they will contribute to increasing educational attainment for their region.

We expect to bring community-responsive partnerships as recommendations to the May Council meeting as a result of this rigorous and competitive process.

Timeline

Feb 16	Letters of Interest Closed
Feb 23	Internal Review Committee Orientation
Feb 29	Advisory Committee Orientation
Mar 13	Internal Review Committee Discussion
Mar 14	Advisory Committee Discussion
Apr 1 – 15	Partnership Discussion Period
Apr 15	Internal Review Committee Discussion
May 14	Recommendations Made to Council
Jul 1	Partnership Funded Work Begins

For additional details, please visit wsac.wa.gov/challenge-grants.

Sincerely,

The Regional Partnership Team