

Community Colleges and Title II SAHE Grants

Query – 06.20.2006

Query:

Does anyone have information regarding the **awarding of grants to community colleges through the Title II SAHE grants program**? We didn't award any grants to community colleges (as institutions of higher education) because none of those that submitted offered a program that resulted in teacher certification (i.e., a program authorized by the state dept of education). The community colleges were pretty miffed since they offer a lot of content in the core subjects and are questioning whether our interpretation is correct. Does anyone have any definitive information to help us with this?

From: Arizona

Responses:

Oklahoma	<p>If I understand her question, I could say that I had the same situation in Oklahoma and went straight to Robert Stonehill for the answer because our CC wouldn't take my word for it. Hope this is helpful. Here's the official response from Robert:</p> <p>Hi Kyle --</p> <p>Sorry I couldn't call back -- I was out of the office all day today. Regarding your questions about community colleges satisfying the arts and sciences required partner, I think the answer (though there may be exceptions somewhere) is no, given the statutory definition of a division of "arts and sciences" (see below). Since community colleges do not offer academic majors I do not see how they could satisfy this definition. Therefore, I don't think they can be one of the required partners.</p> <p>“(1) ARTS AND SCIENCES- The term arts and sciences' means —</p> <p>(A) when referring to an organizational unit of an institution of higher education, any academic unit that offers one or more academic majors in disciplines or content areas corresponding to the academic subjects in which teachers teach; and</p> <p>(B) when referring to a specific academic subject, the disciplines or content areas in which an academic major is offered by an organizational unit described in subparagraph (A).”</p>
Georgia	<p>The Georgia Title II A SAHE grants are awarded Georgia's 2 year colleges. In our system, 2-year colleges are not necessarily community colleges. We have a separate Technical College System (they do not receive awards). College students from the University System of Georgia's 2 year colleges transfer to our 4 year institutions and they do offer core courses and education courses within the core. We also have the Educator Preparation Academic Advisory Committee (EPAAC) as a system committee and all of our 2 year colleges are represented along w/our 4-year institutions that prepare teachers, leaders, and/or counselors. Hope this helps. She can contact Ed Davis (ejdavis@uga.edu) for more information. He runs the program for us.</p>
South Carolina	<p>My impression, based on the guidelines:</p> <p>“1) A school of arts and sciences at the higher education institution (any department within the institution that provides degrees in the nine content areas); and”</p> <p>It would appear that unless the community college is a 4-year institution that offers the degrees, then they would not be eligible to be a major partner in the grant.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>My understanding is that community colleges must partner with a college or university that offers authorized teacher preparation programs in order to be eligible</p>

	for a grant.
USDOE	<p>From the NRG- I added the underline words to point out the difference of when the community college can participate in the SAHE grants.</p> <p>“G-12. Does the definition of an “eligible partnership” permit a community college to be part of a partnership that is eligible to receive a Title II, Part A subgrant?</p> <p>Yes, but it may be considered as one of the statutorily required principal partners only if the community college has a division that prepares teachers and principals [Section 2131(1)]. The community college may be the subgrantee (i.e., fiscal agent) if allowed by the rules and procedures of the subgrant competition. In any case, a community college may be an additional, non-principal member of any partnership.”</p>
California	<p>I explored community college participation when we ran an RFP in 2005 because we had a number of interested colleges in California and because they had participated previously in Eisenhower grants. However, I was advised by the Department of Education that community colleges could only qualify as a “required partner”—one of the three statutorily-required partners—if they offer a program resulting in teacher certification. A few community colleges in California qualify on that basis, but only a few. I was also advised that the department’s interpretation of participation by subject matter departments was limited to those who could offer a “major” that leads to a Bachelors degree, automatically disqualifying community colleges as the “arts and sciences” required partner.</p> <p>However, I was also advised that community colleges may participate as additional partners and that they may even be designated as a project lead and/or fiscal agent by the required partners. They are able to receive funding for their participation in the project. You may wish to confirm my understanding with the Department of Education, but it’s the guidance we are following. I personally think it’s great to have community colleges as at least secondary partners in projects, especially “pipeline” projects.</p>
Maryland	<p>In Maryland, we allow the community colleges to participate in accordance with the August 3, 2005 non-regulatory guidance that states community colleges may be considered as one of the statutorily required partners only if the community college has a division that prepares teachers and principals. While the Maryland community colleges do not offer programs that result in teacher certification, they do have divisions that prepare teachers and principals. We require that the arts and sciences partner be a four-year college or university.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>It is my understanding that community colleges are eligible to participate if they have a division that prepares teachers(they don't necessarily have to be the institution granting the teacher license).</p> <p>Here in Massachusetts this includes our community colleges that have 'teacher preparation' course paths for students who plan to continue their studies in an approved teacher preparation program at a 4 year institution.</p> <p>A community college in MA is eligible for our funding if it has a signed articulation agreement with a 4 year institution that states that the students community college teacher prep coursework will be accepted at the 4 year institution. In our projects, the community colleges have come for funding with their 4 year institution partner. We ran this by the U.S. Department of Education to be sure these arrangements met the mandate and we were told it did.</p>
Utah	<p>This issue came up a couple of years ago. Some community colleges offer teacher</p>

	certification programs typically in conjunction with 4-year institutions. My opinion is that community colleges, while they can provide some lower-division content courses, they are not equipped to provide professional development which is typically graduate-level, or at least upper-division courses. Thus, I neither solicit nor send the NCLB RFP to our community colleges.
Colorado	Yes, we in Colorado have funded one program that included a community college (Front Range Community College). We were able to fund the program, as it was for teacher preparation for highly qualified para-educators. In other words, because the participants were high qualified instructors, albeit at the para-educator level, we were able to fund their professional development at partnering teacher preparation programs at four-year institutions.
Mississippi	In our discussions with the department a couple of years ago pertaining to community college participation it was my understanding that they must partner with a division or department at a university or college responsible for teacher preparation. We were specifically told that we should include them if they established the partnership. I have not funded a community because they have been unable to create the partnership therefore none have applied. I do send RFPs to them.
Puerto Rico	The USDE Non-Regulatory Guidance addresses this issue in the following way under the SAHE questions: “Q: Does the definition of an “eligible partnership” permit a community college to be part of a partnership that is eligible to receive a Tittle II, Part A subgrant? A: Yes, but it may be considered as one of the statutorily required partners only if the community college has a division that prepares teachers and principals [Section 2131(1)]. The community college may be the subgrantee (i.e., fiscal agent) if allowed by the rules and procedures of the subgrant competition. In any case, a community college may be an additional, non-principal member of any partnership.” The real issue is certainly on the definition of what to “prepare teachers” means, or the extent to which SAHE’s are allowed to interpret it. This could produce different meanings from state to state, all acceptable if responding to the SEA’s requirements. In PR, teachers need to have a degree at the bachelor’s level, although I believe there should be teachers with an associate degree from the time it was still a basic requirement.
Kentucky	Kentucky awards, in principle, to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System because we consider them appropriate providers of professional development and their general education programs transfer statewide to BA programs that include education degrees. KCTCS also has a formal 2+2 teacher education program.
Missouri	For Cycle-4 of the Improving Teacher Quality grant, the Missouri Department of Higher Education approved community colleges to be the lead higher education institution provided that: 1) the college had a teacher education program approved by Missouri’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and 2) the other IHE statutory partner was a four-year institution. To encourage the application and further inclusion by community colleges in the grant program, we allowed our review panel to award bonus points for the participation and involvement of a two-year college. While we only had one community college apply as a lead IHE (the college did receive a one-year grant), several proposals made conscious efforts to include community colleges as additional partners.

SHEEO	<p>From our conversations with the Department of Education last April, it appears that community colleges can be included in a SAHE partnership, but they cannot serve as the lead agent because they do not offer teaching degrees, AND they don't have departments of arts and sciences and departments of education. If the community college is working in collaboration with a 4-year institution that DOES meet the necessary criteria, however, they can be part of the partnership, as far as I understand it. However, this might be a good question to ask either the Collaborative listserv, or our contact at the Department of Education, or both.</p>
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