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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents
District Superintendents
Technical College Directors
Florida College System Workforce Administrators
District Career and Technical Education Directors
Adult Education Directors
Employer and Industry Partners

FROM: Kathryn S. Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System 
Henry Mack, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education 

DATE: September 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Open Door Grant Program – Request for Applications Now Available

The Request for Application (RFA) for the Open Door Grant Program is now posted on the Florida Department of Education's (department) website at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/opendoor.stml>. In addition to the RFA, the department also posted frequently asked questions (FAQs). To assist agencies in the application process, the department is hosting a webinar on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Participants may register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/232937452655308304>. A recording will be available on the department's website for those unable to attend.

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. If an agency submits an incomplete application, the agency will have an opportunity to revise and resubmit the incomplete portions; in which case, the agency's start date will reset to the date in which a completed application is received. Agency allocations will be prioritized according to the date the completed application was approved by the department, with prioritization given for integrated education and training programs. Additionally, 25 percent of funds will be reserved for rural institutions for applications received by the first review date.

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Please be mindful of the following dates:

- October 15, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. (EDT) – Deadline to submit completed application to be considered in the first review period.
- November 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. (EDT) – Final deadline to submit a completed application to be considered for an Open Door grant allocation.

The Open Door Grant Program was established to support student completion of short-term, high-demand credit and non-credit career and technical education (CTE) programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers, charter technical career centers and Florida College System (FCS) institutions. The funds for this grant are appropriated under the 2021-22 State of Florida General Appropriations Act (Laws of Florida, Chapter 2021-36): \$15,000,000 for career centers under Appropriation Number 121A – Aid to Local Governments – Grants and Aids and \$20,000,000 for FCS institutions under Appropriation Number 129A – Aid to Local Governments – Grants and Aids.

The legislature and Governor’s continued commitment to CTE is essential for us to become #1 in the nation for workforce education by 2030. We look forward to ongoing collaboration to provide the highest quality career preparation opportunities for all Floridians.

Questions regarding the program may be addressed to opendoor@fldoe.org.

KH/HM/yh

cc: Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor, Division of Public Schools
Dakeyan Graham, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice
Michelle Dennard, President and CEO, CareerSource Florida
Dan McGrew, Vice President, Strategic Policy and Performance, CareerSource Florida
Carrie Henderson, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida College System
Tara Goodman, Vice Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education