



Call for Peer Reviewers

Career Pathways Exploration Grant Program | 2026 Grant Competition

ABOUT THE CPE PROGRAM

The Career Pathways Exploration (CPE) Grant Program provides competitive grants to States to build their capacity to integrate career exploration into statewide career pathways and workforce readiness programs. The program supports efforts to provide elementary and secondary school students with more career exploration opportunities, enabling them to develop, expand, and prioritize the skills and knowledge needed to excel in high-demand fields. The supports provided through this program facilitate access to opportunities that expose students to real-life workforce realities through a variety of career pathway programs aligned with State priorities.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Departments seek:

- State and district staff who have designed and/or implemented career exploration programs that evolve as K-12 students grow and include postsecondary options.
- State and district staff who have designed and/or supported workforce development programs that are aligned with State workforce priorities.
- K-12 school-level staff who have taught in or supported career pathway programs that include academic and technical sequences in high-demand fields tied to State priorities.
- K-12 school-level staff who have supported career pathway programs that foster career and college readiness.

COMMITMENT, HONORARIUM, AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Peer reviewers are expected to:

- Work approximately 60 hours over a 2-week review period.
- Complete virtual reviewer training (June 25, 2026). Be available for the full review period (June 29 - July 10, 2026) and participate in at least three panel meetings on June 29, July 2, and July 7 during AM or PM time slots.
- Have access to a computer, internet, and phone during the review period.

Compensation for selected reviewers is **\$300 per application**.

Individuals **may not serve** as reviewers if they:

- Participated in preparing an application.
- Are affiliated with an applying organization.
- Have a financial or professional interest in the competition outcome, including interests of family members, employees, or associates.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Selected reviewers will:

- Independently read, score, and evaluate assigned grant applications.
- Provide detailed, objective, and constructive written comments.
- Participate in panel discussions to support funding recommendations.

Reviewer feedback will be used to inform funding decisions. Written comments will be shared with applicants (with all personally identifiable information removed), and comments for funded applications may be made publicly available following the review process. Reviewers are expected to adhere to all requirements outlined in this Call for Peer Reviewers.

HOW TO APPLY

- Submit a resume (Word/PDF, max 3 pages) to CareerPathways@ed.gov.
- Include the Subject Line: 2026 CPE Peer Review.
- Register as a reviewer in [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.grantsolutions.gov).
- For questions, please contact: CareerPathways@ed.gov.

Selection is competitive and not guaranteed.