




# Open Educational Resources Grants 21/22

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**Consent item for approval of  
recommendations for Cohort 4  
2021/22 OER grants rewards**



# OER Grant Program

- The Open Educational Resources grant launched in 2018
- The first three years of the OER grant program awarded \$1.5 million in grants and achieved \$10.2 million in savings for students across Colorado
- SB 21-215 expanded and extended the program for 5 years
- 2022 awards ~\$1 million to Cohort 4 grantees

# COLORADO OER DASHBOARD

Grant Cycle:  
Years 1 and 2

INVESTMENT OF  
**\$1.55**  
MILLION AWARDED

Return on  
investment goal

3x

6x

▶ Actual Return on Investment

**\$10.2 million**

Cost-savings to students during  
grant cycle one and two.

**500+**  
COURSE TITLES  
Developed by OER grantees

**60,000**  
Students enrolled in courses  
with OER grant materials





# Types of OER grants

- Institutional grants ranging from \$10,001 - \$75,000
- Individual or small group grants up to \$10,000
- Grants are awarded to public higher education institutions, faculty, and staff to support and expand creation, adoption, adaptation, expansion, and promotion of the use of openly licensed educational resources in the state of Colorado.



# Funds for Cohort 4 (2022 awardees)

The total funding requested this year is \$1,279,625

\$66,894 individual/small group grants

\$901,909 institutional grants

There is \$968,803 to award this year



# Proposals received for Cohort 4

- 29 proposals
  - 19 institutional grants
  - 10 small group grants
- 20 institutions
- All proposing institutions have previously received and successfully completed a grant



# **New this year: 2 year proposals**

11 proposals were for two year grants. The OER Council is committed to at least partially funding 10 of those proposals.

OER council did not commit more than 75% of Cohort 4 funding for 2023 Cohort 5 - with the single exception of CSU Pueblo.





# Recommendations for OER grants

- \$968,803 awarded
  - 20 successful proposals (out of 29 submissions)
    - 18 institutional grants, 2 small grants
    - 19 institutions represented
- Largest amount awarded \$75,000
- Smallest amount awarded \$4,000

# Recommended OER grant recipients





# Example highlights of Cohort 4 Projects

- Completion of transforming Spanish B.A. to full zero textbook cost “z-degree”
- Creation of a new platform to increase discoverability, accessibility and participation of OER in nursing education
- Development of course shells and OER for 16 community college courses
- OER development for the core curriculum in Business Management across 13 community college institutions across the state
- Creation of OER and interactive computational notebooks for math and statistics courses from first year to graduate levels



# What is recommended not to be funded

- 9 proposals were not funded
  - 1 institutional proposal for staff salary
  - 8 small grants that would be covered by a submitted institutional proposal for the same institution
- 16 proposals were funded 70%+ of requested amount
- 3 proposals were funded 25%-65% of requested amount



# Sustainability

- Sustainability was a metric when scoring proposals
- Many grants focused on high impact, high enrollment courses
- Proposals for regular staff salary were not approved
- Examples of commitment from institutions:
  - Strauss Health Sciences Library hired a librarian whose job duties explicitly include OER
  - MSU Provost's office has committed \$100,000 over the past three years and will continue
  - PPCC hired an OER Coordinator to ensure ongoing support for implementation



# Upcoming changes to the program

- Clarify language for the 2022/23 request for proposals
  - Institutional and individual award levels
  - Sustainability of covering employment costs
  - Open licensing requirements
  - More specified Diversity, Equity and Inclusion language
- More regular, informal check-ins for progress from recipients



# Got questions?

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