

H.901

An act relating to expanding access to adult technical education equipment funding

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 33a, as amended by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 21, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 33, is further amended to read:

Sec. 33a. ADULT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
EQUIPMENT GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

(a) The General Assembly hereby establishes a pilot grant program to authorize the Department of Labor, in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board, to administer the Adult Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant Pilot Program to support the purchase of equipment necessary for the delivery of occupational training for students enrolled in a postsecondary course offered by Vermont's Career and Technical Education Centers or the Vermont State Colleges.

(b) Career and Technical Education Centers and the Vermont State Colleges are the only eligible applicants for grants awarded under the Program. Not more than 50 percent of the allocated funding under this provision may be awarded to the Vermont State Colleges.

(c) Grants may only be awarded to applicants who demonstrate how use of the grant-funded equipment:

(1) in the case of a Career and Technical Education Center, will be shared with at least one other Career and Technical Education Center, the Department of Corrections, or an accredited post-secondary college or university located in Vermont; or

(2) in the case of a Vermont State College, will be shared with at least one Career and Technical Education Center and will align with programming offered at a Career and Technical Education Center that results in an expanded career pathway in partnership with an adult career and technical education program.

~~(e)~~(d) An applicant's training program shall qualify for a grant described in subsection (a) of this section if it includes all of the following requirements:

(1) meets current occupational demand, as evidenced by current labor market information;

(2) aligns with a career pathway or set of stackable credentials involving a college or university accredited in Vermont;

(3) is supported with a business or industry partnership;

(4) sets forth how equipment will be maintained, insured, shared, and transported, if applicable; and

(5) is endorsed by the Adult Career and Technical Education Association.

~~(d)~~(e) Grants awarded under this program shall be used to purchase capital-eligible equipment. Grants shall not be used to support curriculum development, instruction, or program administration.

~~(e)~~(f) On or before July 15, 2018, the Department shall develop and publish a simplified grant application that meets the criteria described in ~~subsection (b)~~ of this section. The Department shall consult with the Agency of Education and the State Workforce Development Board in reviewing applications and selecting grantees.

~~(f)~~(g) Grantees shall have ownership over any share of equipment purchased with the use of these funds. Any equipment purchased from this program may also be used by secondary career technical education programs.

~~(g)~~(h) On or before February 15, ~~2019~~ 2021, the Department of Labor shall submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions that includes the following:

(1) how the funds were used, expected outcomes, recommended performance metrics to ensure success of the program, and any other relevant information that would inform future decisions about the use of this program;

(2) assessment of the functionality and accessibility of shared-equipment agreements; and

(3) how, and the extent to which, the program shall be funded in the future.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.