

RESOURCES FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT 2020-2021

Request for Application (RFA)

I. PURPOSE OF THE RESOURCES FOR UDL IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education is requesting applications from Local Education Agencies (LEAs) interested in improving and optimizing teaching and learning for students with disabilities receiving instruction in the general education classroom through the purposeful selection and implementation of universally designed resources, tools, and lesson delivery. The ultimate goal is to equip educators with resources to reduce the inherent barriers to learning so all students may reach their full learning potential independent of how instruction is delivered during the 2020-2021 school year.

The purpose of the Resources for UDL Implementation Grant is to:

- 1) Enhance educators' knowledge of the principles of UDL as a means to engage ALL students to become expert learners that are purposeful and motivated, resourceful and knowledgeable, and strategic and goal-directed about their learning
- 2) Support educators in anticipating and planning for learner variabilities by identifying and utilizing both known and innovative resources

II. APPLICATION CRITERIA AND GRANT PRIORITIES

A. ELIGIBILITY

Local Education Agencies, including school districts, charter schools, and cyber charter schools are eligible to apply. Grant monies will be awarded to applicants that:

- 1) commit at least one educator to building a foundational knowledge of UDL; while
- 2) developing and implementing flexible options for teaching and learning that have clear goals; and
- 3) engaging in self-reflection that addresses how the design and delivery of instruction:
 - a. Engages all students in the learning,
 - b. Is presented in multiple ways to reach all learners, and
 - c. Offers purposeful options for students to show what they know

The funding available for each successful grant applicant will be available from the date of the award through June 30, 2021. Resources for UDL Implementation grantees are eligible for up to \$10,000.00 to enhance current programming.

B. ASSURANCES

The grantee must agree to the following assurances to ensure quality and fidelity to the stated purposes of the grant.

- 1) Assurance that all activities and expenditures of funds conducted in association with the program are in direct compliance with the provisions of the funding authorities.
- 2) Assurance that all required financial and program data is reported in a timely manner on a schedule established by the grantor.
- 3) Assurance that program staff will participate in all required PaTTAN/PDE virtual training and technical assistance activities.

C. GRANT PRIORITIES

The following essential program priorities must be addressed in the grant application.

- 1) **Identify barriers:** The grantee must provide a description of specific challenges or barriers that will be reduced or eliminated by the use of UDL resources. This can include barriers and/or access related to environment, curriculum, and/or instruction.
- 2) **Participate in professional development:** The grantee must identify at least one but not more than five educators for whom the utilization of UDL resources would positively impact the learning of students with disabilities in the general education classroom. The educator(s) must engage in foundational UDL training delivered virtually, implement resources, and develop lessons utilizing UDL resources.
- 3) **Implement a plan:** The grantee must develop an action plan to address the variability of learners through flexibility, choice, and/or engagement of learners as well as the settings for which the UDL resources will be utilized.
- 4) **Engage family/caregivers as partners in UDL implementation:** The grantee must engage family/caregivers as participants in the understanding of UDL and the selected resources.
- 5) **Collect and report data:** The grantee will provide reports on the overall outcomes of the implementation of the UDL resources in relation to results for students.
- 6) **Sustainability:** The grantee must describe the vision for sustaining and/or continued expansion of the project at the end of the grant period. LEAs are encouraged to identify an administrator to participate in the Administrator Professional Learning Community (PLC) projected to begin in Winter, 2021.

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D. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Grant awardees will receive support as follows:

- 1) Technical assistance provided by PaTTAN educational consultants.
- 2) Technical assistance and networking opportunities supporting the following:
 - i. Initial grant application training on required grant elements
 - ii. PaTTAN and PDE trainings and/or meetings designed to provide support for funded project priorities
 - iii. Other assistance, as determined by the needs of the grantee

III. BUDGET

The funding available to each successful grant application is as follows:

- A maximum of \$10,000.00 is available.
- A minimum of one educator is required to participate in the grant activities, with a maximum of five participating educators per LEA.
- Grant funds available to LEAs is based on the number of participating educators.

The following terms will apply:

- During Phase 1 (Timeline: From date of award through completion of Phase 1 Activities) the grantee is eligible to request reimbursements of expenditures attributed to Phase 1 activities for up to half of the overall grantee's award contingent upon submission of data and participation in the required, virtual professional development.
- During Phase 2 (Timeline: From completion of Phase 1 through June 30, 2021), the grantee is eligible to request reimbursement of expenditures attributed to the whole of the project contingent upon submission of data, including lesson plans, and participation in the required, virtual professional development.
- Equipment costs, clothing (except work uniforms – not streetwear), gift cards, food and entertainment, and student salaries are not allowable expenses.
- General supplies must be purchased prior to May 31, 2021.

IV. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The application can be accessed from the Inclusive Practices webpage of the PaTTAN Website or using the following link:

<https://fs25.formsite.com/3fHiZQ/UDL/index.html>

Applications must be submitted by **3:00 PM on Friday, October 9, 2020**.

Note: Use of the Google Chrome browser will allow for easiest navigation. Applicants have the ability to save and return to the application as needed. The online application platform will also enable applicants to provide electronic signatures.