# I. PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL) OPTIMIZING IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education is requesting applications from Local Education Agencies (LEAs) interested in optimizing equity and accessibility through the implementation of Universal Design for Learning principles for ALL students. The ultimate goal is to enhance the established systems use of UDL methodologies across all stakeholders (staff, student, family, administrator) through customized coaching and technical assistance resulting in a more robust continuum of services and improved least restrictive environment (LRE) outcomes for students with disabilities.

Outcomes of The UDL Optimizing Implementation Grant are to:

1. Support the development/enhancement of a shared vision for improvement (among stakeholders) to enhance equity, accessibility, and student outcomes.
2. Promote expert learning by removing barriers within the educational environment.
3. Increase educators’ responsiveness to learner variability by equipping them with tools to provide multiple means of engagement, representation, and action and expression through coaching, TA, and participation in a Community of Practice.
4. Enhance administrative knowledge of UDL to build systemic change through evaluation of educator effectiveness and implementation of successful student programming that is equitable to ALL.

**II. APPLICATION CRITERIA AND GRANT PRIORITIES**

1. **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 to the creation of a UDL Implementation Team consisting of a representative from each of the following stakeholders:
	1. an administrator (district and/or building level);
	2. staff (i.e. related service, general education, counselor, special education, paraprofessional);
	3. student;
	4. family member not employed by the LEA;
2. develop an action plan that guides the integration of UDL into already existing structures;
3. enhance the LEA’s continuum of services by applying the principles of UDL; and
4. implement Danielson’s Educator Effectiveness Framework using the UDL Crosswalk.

The funding available for each successful grant applicant will be available from the date of the award through June 30, 2022.

Optimizing for Implementation grantees are eligible for up to $15,000.00 to enhance current programming.

1. **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.
4. **GRANT PRIORITIES**

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

1. **Establish a UDL Implementation team**: The grantee must establish an implementation team consisting of a representative from each of the following stakeholders:
	1. administrator (district and/or building level);
	2. staff (i.e. related service, general education, counselor, special education, paraprofessional);
	3. student;
	4. family member not employed by the LEA.
2. **Map needed resources and processes:** The grantee will plan for student variability through the development of appropriate resources and processes to create a climate that is flexible and maintains high expectations for all (i.e., personnel, scheduling, curriculum).
3. **Build a cadre of UDL experts:** The grantee will build a cadre of UDL experts within their building and/or LEA to serve as local supports to expand effective practices of their stakeholders.
4. **Utilize the Danielson Framework for Teaching UDL Crosswalk:** The grantee will utilize the UDL Crosswalk to inform the educators’ effectiveness of the implementation of UDL principles.
5. **Participate in professional development:** The grantee will engage in the four Community of Practice sessions during the established grant period to share resources, explore practices and processes, and discuss implementation efforts.
6. **Collect and report data:** The grantee will provide reports on the overall progress outcomes of the implementation of the UDL action plan.
7. **Sustainability:** The grantee must describe the vision for sustaining and/or continued expansion of the project at the end of the grant period.
8. **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Grant awardees will receive support as follows:

1. Technical assistance provided by PaTTAN educational consultants and Intermediate Unit training and consultation (TaC) staff via Community of Practice meetings.
2. Technical assistance and networking opportunities supporting the following:
	1. Initial grant application training on required grant elements;
	2. Implementation check-ins scheduled at a minimum of three times;
	3. PaTTAN and PDE trainings and/or meetings designed to provide support for funded project priorities; and
	4. 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 $15,000.00 is available.

The following terms will apply:

* Upon completion of Phase 1 activities, (Timeline: From date of award through completion of Phase 1 Activities) the grantee will receive a stipend disbursement of half of the overall grantee’s award contingent upon submission of data and participation in the required, virtual professional development.
* Upon completion of Phase 2 activities, (Timeline: From completion of Phase 1 through June 30, 2022), the grantee will receive a stipend disbursement of the remaining half of the grantee awarded funds contingent upon submission of data 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, 2022.

# IV. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

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

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

Applications must be submitted by **3:00 PM on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.**

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.