 “Quick Start” Student Success Grant Application

# \*\*Updated June 2024 to reflect additional Quick Start Cycle\*\*

# Grant Opportunity Description

Postsecondary education and training play an essential role in upskilling Michiganders to build a globally competitive economy. Recognizing this, the state set a postsecondary attainment goal of having sixty percent of working-age Michiganders with a postsecondary credential by 2030. To achieve this goal and address talent shortages, ambitious strategies are needed to support postsecondary institutions to enroll and graduate more learners who have historically been the most marginalized by existing systems. Therefore, the Office of Sixty by 30 at MiLEAP is offering a wide range of competitive grant opportunities for Michigan’s public colleges, tribal colleges, and public universities to invest in the implementation of evidence-based student success strategies.

The goal of the 2024 Student Success Grant funding opportunities is to provide support to institutions that are committed to planning for, improving upon, or scaling implementation of promising reforms of policy and practice associated with decreased time to credential, increased student persistence, improved completion rates for all learners, and the elimination of equity gaps. All grant information is available at <https://www.michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants>.

The **“Quick Start”** opportunity will provide institutions, consortia of institutions, or nonprofits working in partnership with a college or university with $50,000-75,000 per award to undertake an action-oriented self-assessment process to strengthen grounding in student experience and/or to develop a coherent and strategic approach for removing institutional barriers to student success. Institutions seeking Quick Start funds should aim to do one or more of the following:

1. Engage in self-assessment using an evidence-based framework for student success as a planning process for a larger Student Success grant in another category and later window;
2. Elevate student voice and experience to galvanize internal and/or key external stakeholders around a major student success vision and strategy (through a survey, focus groups, student-centered journey mapping); and/or
3. Bring internal stakeholders together across units and divisions to generate a student success theory of change aligned to the institution’s strategic plan and grounded in data and the student experience.

The Quick Start funding opportunity was created to help colleges that are not currently ready to apply for a larger Student Success grant (either/both a College Success grant or Barrier Removal—Growing Institutional Capacity grant) to plan for and/or strengthen the foundation for the development of a larger proposal in a later window. Information about these other grant categories can also be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants>.

## Important Dates:

Two opportunities for Quick Start grants are being made available, with deadlines for applications on **March 22** or **May 3**. Neither window provides an advantage in terms of likelihood of success.

The only advantage to submitting for the March 22 deadline is that it is more likely an institution can use the activities funded by the Quick Start grant to plan for a larger College Success grant with an October or November 2024 deadline. Colleges who receive Quick Start grants via the May deadline could struggle to complete their activities completed in time to use the results for another 2024 application. It is anticipated but not guaranteed that other opportunities will open in 2025.

**\*\*\*Update\*\*\***

We have added a third Quick Start grant application. The deadline for this application is July 26th.

## Eligibility:

Michigan public community colleges, tribal colleges, and public universities are eligible to apply. Nonprofit organizations may apply with strong support and partnership of one or more college partners. The Quick Start grants will not be used to fund *prospective* partnerships between nonprofits/technical assistance providers and colleges.

Partnerships or consortia that include one or more colleges are eligible, though members should think carefully about how the goals can be achieved if spread across multiple institutions.

Colleges are eligible even if they are still receiving a 2023 College Success Grant.

## Evaluation criteria:

Proposals for Quick Start Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. An understanding of the role of student experience data in building institution-wide awareness and urgency around the need for a grounded student success strategy.
2. The quality of the self-assessment tool, process, or consultant/TA partner selected.
3. A plan for disseminating and using the information gleaned through the process to engage faculty, staff, and administrators around key improvement opportunities.

## Grant awards:

The grants, awarded on a competitive basis, will provide between $50,000-$75,000 for a project not to exceed eight months.

## **Eligible expenses:**

Institutions can use funding to support the following expenses.

* High-quality self-assessment tools, educational consultants, and or student voice research partners
* Stipends for faculty and staff taking on additional roles
* Convening and event planning
* Expenses related to training that is directly related to your self-assessment tool or process
* Materials and supplies
* Stipends/honoraria for students participating in planning efforts
* Resources to incentivize participation from community-based partner organizations

## Application Assistance:

For grant eligibility questions or technical assistance, please contact [Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov](mailto:Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov).

# Grant Application

**DO NOT EMAIL A DOCUMENT AS AN APPLICATION**. All applications must be submitted through the grants application portal found at <https://www.michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants>.

This word version of the application is being provided for your planning and drafting purposes only.

You will be prompted to provide the following information:

* Applicant Organization Name
* Organization EIN
* Project Name (if applicable)
* Address
* Contact Person & Title
* Direct Phone
* Email
* Applicant Organization CEO Name & Contact
* Amount Requested
* A brief description of the project(s), in 300 words or less. This description may be used in communications materials.

(This application must be signed by the person authorized to accept external contracts and grants on behalf of the organization. No application will be accepted without a correct authorized fiscal agent signature.)

## Proposal Description

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please describe your plan for using Quick Start funds to accelerate progress on removing institutional barriers to student success. (max 3200 characters) *Be sure to address the following:* 
   1. How did you determine that this project is the right process for your institution right now? (e.g., does it align with your institution’s strategic plan, your students’ needs, or the questions you have about how to strengthen your student success efforts?)
   2. What student experience data will you be drawing on/collecting/investigating?
   3. What process/tool/framework you will use?
2. How will you ensure the engagement of faculty/staff/administrators in the process and/or results? (max 2000 characters)
3. What is the intended outcome of the project, and how do you intend to use or deploy the work that results from this grant? What actions or decisions would follow? (max 1300 characters)
4. Provide the names and roles of the core team involved in the proposed Quick Start project, and describe how relevant internal and external stakeholders will be engaged through your proposed project? (max 1300 characters)
5. Please describe in general terms and at a high level, how you will use the resources. *See below for the description of budget categories and budget form.* (max 1300 characters)
6. Please describe your timeline for the activities in your Quick Start grant, in a few bullet points. (max 600 characters)
7. Please confirm your commitment to all the following statements:

☐ We commit to centering the interests and experiences of learners.

☐ The institution's president is aware and supportive of this project and the grant application.

☐ We commit to the courageous examination of the impacts of institutional policies and practices on the experiences and outcomes of students.

☐ We commit to approaching students from an asset-based perspective and to being tenacious in the work of removing institutional barriers to student success.

☐ We understand that we will not be eligible to receive a College Success *Accelerate,* College Success *Go Big*, or a Barrier Removal–Growing Institutional Capacity Grant until the activities of this Quick Start grant are concluded. (We are eligible to concurrently apply for the Barrier Removal-Direct to Students or College Success *Amplify* grants.)

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## Budget Guidelines and Budget Narrative Instructions

Please complete the budget form below for your proposed program. Match funds are not required. Each field must have a number entered, so for fields you are not using, please enter a 0. Do not use commas for values over 999.

* **Contractual Services** – Includes contracted professional services and any sub-awards to partner institutions or organizations necessary for the implementation of the grant (e.g. funds to field NSSE or for an external consultant to facilitate a grounded planning process)
* **Convening and Event Planning** -- Includes the cost of meeting space, catering for events, AV, etc.
* **Travel** – Includes funds to support stakeholder participation at in-person meetings/convenings
* **Materials and Supplies** – Includes expendable office, meeting, and educational materials and supplies supporting the project.
* **Other Direct Costs** – Includes services such as computer services/web support, meeting costs not included in the Convening/Event Planning or Materials & Supplies category, phone/fax/postage, and printing.

## Attachments to Grant Application

* REQUIRED: Organization W9
* Optional: If you will partner with any other organizations to administer the program(s) for which you are seeking funding (for instance, a community-based organization), submit a letter of support from that entity.
* Optional: If your application includes multiple colleges, the college serving as the project’s fiscal agent should apply but include a 1–2-page supplement that describes the role other colleges will play, and lists team members from partner colleges.
* Optional: Please provide any additional information about consultants that will be used.

## Budget Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category | Amount |
| Contractual Services |  |
| Convening & Event Planning |  |
| Travel |  |
| Materials & Supplies |  |
| Other direct costs (See Budget Narrative) |  |
| Total |  |

# Resources for Anchoring Student Success Efforts & Centering Student Experience

Colleges, universities, and nonprofits applying for College Success grants should be committed to leveraging existing knowledge and evidence related to promising practices from Michigan and nationally. Michigan is a member of Complete College America and Strong Start to Finish, and MCCA, MASU, and MCACS are important sources of information, research, and practical tools. The following list of frameworks and resources are examples of grounding material for student success efforts. It is not an exhaustive list.

[National Survey of Student Engagement](https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/about-nsse/index.html)

[Community College Survey of Student Engagement](https://www.ccsse.org/join/options.cfm)

[The Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan Framework for Student Onboarding and Success](https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/easyblog/acip-reimagining-onboarding.html)

[Michigan Center for Student Success Resources](https://www.mcca.org/Initiatives-and-Resources)

[Michigan Developmental Education Scale of Adoption Assessment Tool](https://www.mcca.org/uploads/ckeditor/files/DESOAA%202022%20Final.docx)

[The Loss and Momentum Framework](https://achievingthedream.org/loss-and-momentum-framework-revised/)

[Complete College America Strategies](https://completecollege.org/strategies/)

[Strong Start to Finish](https://strongstart.org/)

[Core Principles for Transforming Remediation Within a Comprehensive Student Success Strategy](https://strongstart.org/what-we-do/core-principles/)

[Charles A. Dana Center Math Pathways](https://www.utdanacenter.org/our-work/higher-education/dana-center-mathematics-pathways)

[Advising Success Network Resources](https://www.advisingsuccessnetwork.org/resources/)

[SSIP Holistic Student Supports Model](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f5018c7021d6a309f29a28b/t/608976b347e53c49c7bd0726/1639527930942/SSIPP)

[NACADA (National Academic Advising Association)](https://nacada.ksu.edu/About-Us.aspx)

[The Equity Accelerator](https://accelerateequity.org/tools-and-resources)

[Motivate Lab](https://motivatelab.org/)