

ANALYSIS

Item 3: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development

Analyst: Kim To

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, in the amount of up to \$200,000 to develop cybersecurity pathways that address local, regional, and statewide workforce needs.

Analysis: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) national initiative for Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships to Stimulate (RAMPS) cybersecurity education grant will fund activities to support partnerships of employers, institutions of higher education, schools and training providers, and other community-based organizations to develop cybersecurity pathways that address local, regional, and statewide workforce needs. This funding opportunity aligns with the work of the Technology Industry Consortium, a permanent advisory council to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and the State Workforce and Talent Development Board. The Consortium was created within HECC as part of the Future Ready Oregon investment and serves as a forum for understanding employers' technology needs and building technology career pathways in the state of Oregon.

If successful, HECC will use this grant to support the Consortium's continuing work to address skill shortages in the cybersecurity sector by coordinating with employers, community partners, workforce service providers, and education and training providers, including Oregon's universities and community colleges, as well as the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

There is a required non-federal match of 50% of the requested federal funds. HECC plans to leverage existing Consortium costs to satisfy the match requirement. HECC is not requesting additional positions or FTE, and the match will have no impact on budgeted services, as the HECC is already engaged in convening partners around technology workforce development and will be able to incorporate the activities of the grant into existing activities.

The application deadline was July 1, 2025. HECC submitted a notice of intent to apply on June 18, 2025. The performance period for the grant is two years anticipated to begin in October 2025 through October 2027.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

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Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Chase

Request: Retroactive authorization for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to apply for a \$200,000 grant for cybersecurity education and workforce development from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: HECC requests retroactive authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$200,000 through the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish community-based partnerships to develop cybersecurity career pathways that address local workforce needs.

If awarded, HECC will use the grant funds to expand the industry, education, labor, and community-based partnerships of the Technology Industry Consortium to align educational and training programs with cybersecurity workforce needs identified by employers. Grant funding will allow for additional partnership-building and coordination among employers, community partners, workforce service providers, and education and training providers including Oregon's public universities and community colleges as well as the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

The grant was announced on May 1, 2025, the agency provided a 10-day notice on June 13, 2025, and applications were due on July 1, 2025. The grant requires a 50 percent cost-share which HECC intends to satisfy using existing General Fund resources (e.g., Personal Services costs, Consortium travel and stipends, indirect costs). If awarded, HECC may request an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation at a future meeting of the legislature.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

8/25/2025

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair

The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair

Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means

900 Court Street NE, H-178

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

Nature of the Request

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) requests retroactive approval to apply for a federal grant opportunity of up to \$200,000 through the Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships to Stimulate (RAMPS) Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This program intends to build upon the established industry, education, labor, and community-based partnerships of HECC's Technology Industry Consortium and will expand cybersecurity workforce pathways in the State of Oregon.

Agency Action

The HECC has applied for a federal grant that was due July 1, 2025. The period of performance is for two years which is anticipated to start October 1, 2025. The NIST National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) program will fund activities to establish community-based partnerships of employers, schools and training providers, institutions of higher education, and other community-based organizations to develop cybersecurity pathways that address local, regional, and statewide workforce needs. These multistakeholder workforce partnerships will address skill shortages in cybersecurity to develop the skilled workforce required to meet industry needs within local, regional, and statewide economies. The HECC will leverage the activities of the Technology Industry Consortium to align educational and training programs with cybersecurity workforce needs identified by employers.

Action Requested

HECC is requesting the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means to provide retroactive approval for the federal grant submission. The agency plans to leverage existing positions, personnel salaries and fringe benefits, existing Consortium travel and stipends, and associated indirect costs to satisfy the match requirement. The agency is not requesting additional FTE, and the match will have no impact on budgeted services and performance measures, as the HECC is already engaged in convening partners around technology workforce development and will be able to incorporate the activities of the NOFO into existing activities.

Legislation Affected

None

Sincerely,



Deputy Executive Director

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