



Idaho Career Ready Students

SY 2025/2026 Micro-Grant Instructions

The Idaho Career Ready Students (ICRS) program, administered by the State Department of Education, aims to increase the capacity of career technical education (CTE) in Idaho's middle and high schools, serving grades 7-12, particularly in rural and remote communities.

Up to \$1 million in grant funding is available for districts and public charter schools to apply for micro-grants for equipment and consumable supplies of up to \$50,000 for the 2025/2026 school year.

The application period closes October 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm (MST). Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.

The goals of this grant funding are:

- Capital investments for in-demand and highly skilled careers, specifically the trades, welding, fabrication, machining, agriculture, forestry, mining, nursing, and cybersecurity
- Support to develop programs that align with the priorities of local communities, industry needs, and partnerships
- Increase capacity for students to access high-quality CTE programming
- Innovation in addressing regional and community needs and in addressing the challenges local school districts and public charter schools encounter when accessing resources to sustain high-quality career technical programming

GRANT INSTRUCTIONS

Awards

ICRS grant awards will be available immediately upon approval. Preference will be given to proposals from districts and public charter schools that have not previously received an ICRS grant. Grant requests to support establishing new or expanding existing middle school programs are encouraged.

Districts and public charter schools that received a grant during a previous round of funding may apply for a micro-grant to fund programming for a school or building within their boundaries that did not previously receive funding. Districts and public charter schools that

previously received an ICRS grant of \$50,000 or less may apply for a grant for the same school or building. These proposals will be evaluated after proposals for new funding have been considered.

What items are eligible for an Idaho Career Ready Student's Micro-grant?

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Capital expenditures to upgrade or expand existing CTE programs (e.g., machines, tools, and other one-time purchases).
- Materials and supplies to develop or expand CTE programs specific to local and regional job markets (e.g., program materials and supplies, consumable materials and supplies, and equipment specific to instruction).

What Items are In-Eligible for an Idaho Career Ready Students Micro-Grant?

In-Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Curriculum for new or existing programs
- Instructor travel for professional development, coursework, and conferences
- Student travel for field trips, extra-curricular activities, and CTSO events
- Capital costs for building, programming, and construction (e.g., architectural and design fees, actual construction costs, and costs to finish out an existing construction project)
- Shipping and handling, state sales tax, and other administrative fees. Freight charges for large pieces of equipment ARE eligible, within the maximum grant award of \$50,000.
- Contractor and/or staff labor for the installation of new equipment and/or the demolition or removal of old equipment.

How are Idaho Career Ready Students Micro-Grants Awarded?

- Idaho Career Ready Students (ICRS) micro-grant proposals are awarded through the Idaho Career Ready Students Council
- The ICRS Council is established in Idaho Code [§33-2214](#) and is comprised of eleven members and chaired by the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- The ICRS Council will consider micro-grant applications during its November 6, 2025, regular meeting
- Successful applicants will be notified after the November 6, 2025, ICRS Council meeting
- Funding will be on a reimbursement basis, and documentation of expenses must be provided

What makes a District/Charter Eligible to Receive Funding?

Any Idaho local education agency (LEA), public school district, or public charter school is eligible to apply for an Idaho Career Ready Students (ICRS) micro-grant.

Evaluation Rubric

Question	Points Available
This will be the first ICRS grant the district or public charter school has received.	5 points
The district or public charter has pursued, applied for, or requested other funding sources for this program.	Other funding sources have been requested and not awarded – 3 points Other funding sources have been requested and are in process or waiting to hear – 2 points Other funding sources have been requested and awarded – 1 point
The grant will prepare students for careers in an industry identified as a priority by the ICRS.	5 points
Overall quality of responses and grant application.	Well-conceived and thoroughly developed – 5 points Clear and complete – 4 points Requires additional clarification – 3 points Lacks sufficient information – 2 points Information not provided – 1 point
	Total minimum points – 18
Bonus points – 2	This grant will support a new or existing middle school program.
	Total possible points - 20

The application period closes **October 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm (MST)**. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.

Email the completed application and supporting documentation as a PDF to icrs2025@sde.idaho.gov

For Questions Contact

Idaho Career Ready Students
Idaho Department of Education
650 W State Street, Boise, ID 83702
208 332 6800 | icrs2025@sde.idaho.gov