



**INDIANA COMMISSION** for  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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## Education Readiness Grants Open for Advanced Manufacturing and Digital Technology

*\$1 million available for high schools to expand access to advanced manufacturing and digital technology CTE programs*

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) (Commission) in partnership with [Conexus Indiana](#) and [TechPoint](#), has opened applications for Education Readiness Grants, which provide funding for high schools to implement Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in high-demand career fields. The grant is run through the Commission’s CTE team and aims to strengthen partnerships between industry and local schools, while increasing student access to opportunities in these career fields.



Grant applications are currently being accepted for three advanced manufacturing programs of study – Industry 4.0 Smart Manufacturing, Industrial Automation and Robotics, and Biotechnology – and two digital technology programs of study – Cybersecurity and Software Development. **Advanced Manufacturing applications are [available here](#) and Digital Technology applications are [available here](#).**

High schools seeking to implement or expand an eligible program are eligible to apply. A direct connection with local employers from the advanced manufacturing or digital technology fields is required of applicants. This must include a partnership with a local employer to provide students with a work-based learning experience that complements the CTE pathways coursework. Due to the strong employer involvement, required work-based learning, and opportunities to earn credentials of value through the eligible programs, schools are encouraged to work alongside partnering employers to consider non-traditional delivery options such as employer-led training programs and youth apprenticeships which can utilize Indiana’s [Career Scholarship Account](#) program.

\$1 million is available in total grant funding and the maximum award is \$125,000. Applications are open through January 24. Applicants must be seeking to expand or start an eligible program in the upcoming school year. The five eligible programs of study are part of Indiana’s redesigned [secondary CTE programs](#). The grant aims to recruit more students to these CTE programs of study and help graduate job-ready students with experience and credentials needed by Indiana employers to help meet their [top reported challenge](#) – finding and retaining qualified talent.

This is the fourth year of the Education Readiness Grant program. The grant was initially designed in partnership with Conexus as a student focused complement to the employer targeted [Manufacturing Readiness Grants](#) program. TechPoint joined as a partner in year 2 and the program expanded to also include the technology sector. Recent research of past grant recipients from Conexus indicates the grant increases enrollments and certifications in these high-demand programs, supports skill development, and improves partner collaboration.

Grant applications are reviewed by advisory committees organized by TechPoint and Conexus, which make funding recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The committees are comprised of postsecondary, industry, and state leadership partners who represent various industry sectors, technology competencies, and geographic diversity. Questions related to advanced manufacturing applications can be directed to Conexus Senior Vice President of Talent Strategy & Programming PJ McGrew at [pmcgrew@conexusindiana.com](mailto:pmcgrew@conexusindiana.com). Digital technology application questions can be directed to TechPoint Director of Program Operations Kristen Elfering at [kristen@techpoint.org](mailto:kristen@techpoint.org).

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#### **About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates, and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.

#### **About Conexus Indiana**

Conexus Indiana, a branded initiative of the [Central Indiana Corporate Partnership \(CICP\)](#), is dedicated to advancing the Hoosier State's position as a global leader in advanced manufacturing and logistics. Working closely with industry, academia, and government partners, Conexus Indiana drives workforce development, economic growth, and innovation across the state. For more information, please visit [ConexusIndiana.com](http://ConexusIndiana.com).

#### **About TechPoint**

[TechPoint](#), is the [Central Indiana Corporate Partnership's](#) industry-led growth initiative for Indiana's digital innovation economy and overall tech ecosystem. The team is focused on working with public, private and industry partners to expand tech talent pipeline, enhance resource connectivity for enterprise organizations and startups alike, and elevate the industry by activating the community and amplifying stories of success. For more information, please visit [www.techpoint.org](http://www.techpoint.org). Visit [miraawards.com](http://miraawards.com) for more detail on the awards process and gala.