



Request for Proposals to Expand Teacher Certification Programs based on the UTeach Model

OVERVIEW

In partnership with the [Alabama STEM Council](#) and the [UTeach Institute](#), the Alabama Commission of Higher Education (ACHE) invites proposals from state-supported colleges and universities to develop new teacher certification programs based on the UTeach model and to expand existing UTeach programs. Originally developed in 1997 at The University of Texas at Austin, UTeach is an innovative, university-based teacher preparation program working to increase the number of qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers in U.S. schools. The program combines rigorous STEM degrees with secondary teaching certification without adding time or cost to degree completion. Currently, there are UTeach partner programs at 50 universities across the country, and this grant opportunity is intended to expand the number of UTeach partner programs in Alabama.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Alabama's Education Trust Fund (ETF) Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) established a new appropriation item in the amount of \$4.5 million for the STEM Major Teacher Recruitment Initiative (the "Initiative"), which is part of comprehensive statewide efforts to improve STEM education and address teacher shortages in STEM fields. Funding for the Initiative is included within the agency budget for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, with the intent of supporting a multi-year partnership between the Alabama STEM Council, the UTeach Institute, and public institutions of higher education in Alabama.

Of the total amount appropriated for FY 23, approximately \$3 million will be distributed to institutional partners to support the expansion of existing UTeach programs or the development of new UTeach programs. ACHE anticipates making 4-5 awards under this RFP. Remaining funds will support the administration and delivery of the program, including extensive technical assistance to be provided by the UTeach Institute.

Depending on continued state funding for the Initiative in future fiscal years, awardees will eligible to receive a grant award of up to \$3 million over a five-year period. The grant award amount will be based on proposed program size. Grant funds are expected to support approximately 70% of total program costs.

PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP NEW TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

State-supported institutions may submit proposals to partner with UTeach in developing new programs leading to secondary teacher certification in science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Details about the full proposal requirements for new programs are available through the UTeach webpage for this initiative <https://institute.uteach.utexas.edu/uteach-alabama>. **Interested institutions are encouraged to send letters of interest by July 13, 2022 to Alabama@uteach.utexas.edu.**

To support institutions in preparing strong proposals, UTeach has published a number of resources around planning, budgeting, implementation, and curriculum, and they plan to hold a series of pre-proposal webinars on these topics as well. Resources and webinar information are posted at <https://institute.uteach.utexas.edu/uteach-alabama>.

PROPOSALS TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS

An institution with an existing UTeach program may submit a proposal for a grant of up to \$400,000 for FY 23. Proposals to expand existing programs should include the following components:

- A narrative report on current program status, including, but not limited to, a program overview that addresses approved majors, recruitment strategies, and unique implementation features; program enrollment for recruiting courses, methods courses, and apprentice teaching; an analysis of Praxis and edTPA scores for program participants; and overall data on program graduates.
- A budget for use of expansion funds with a budget narrative briefly justifying how expansion funds implement the UTeach model.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Proposals are due September 26, 2022. Proposals for new and existing programs will be reviewed first by UTeach to determine the institutional commitment, strength, and capacity of the applicant university to implement programs aligned with the *UTeach Elements of Success* that will increase the number and diversity of secondary STEM teachers produced. Proposals will then be reviewed by a state-level committee who will select the awardees. It is expected that new program awardees will be notified on or before December 1, 2022, with the aim of launching programs in January 2023. Awards for existing programs may be made sooner.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FUNDS

Institutional awards will be distributed by ACHE following the schedule and requirements recommended by UTeach and in keeping with state procurement regulations. Each awardee must execute an MOU with ACHE to receive FY 23 funds, which require the following commitments on the part of the institution and ACHE:

1. JURISDICTION

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alabama. The parties hereto agree that the terms and commitments contained herein shall not be constituted as a debt of the State of Alabama in violation of Article 11, Section 213 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901, as amended by Amendment No. 26. It is further agreed that if any provision of this Agreement shall conflict with any statute or constitutional provision or amendment thereof, either now in effect or which may, during the course of this Contract, be enacted, then that conflicting provision in the Contract shall be deemed null and void.

2. IMMIGRATION

Pursuant to §31-13-9(k) Code of Alabama 1975, by signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

3. DISPUTES AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of any dispute between the parties, senior officials of all parties shall meet and engage in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. Should that effort fail, and the dispute involves the payment of money, a party's sole remedy is the filing of a claim with the Board of Adjustment of the State of Alabama pursuant to §41-9-60 *et seq.*, Code of Alabama.

For any and all other disputes arising under the terms of this contract which are not resolved by negotiation, the parties agree, in compliance with the recommendations of the Governor and Attorney General, when considering settlement of such disputes, to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation. Such dispute resolution shall occur in Montgomery, Alabama utilizing where appropriate, mediators selected from the roster of mediators maintained by the Center for Dispute Resolution of the Alabama State Bar.

Please note that ACHE cannot guarantee grant awards beyond FY 23, and additional agreements for future years will depend on legislative appropriations.

QUESTIONS

General questions about this RFP can be directed to Dr. Robin McGill, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs (robin.mcgill@ache.edu).

Specific questions about proposals for new UTeach programs can be directed to Alabama@uteach.utexas.edu.