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Adjusted Allocation 0.00
Remaining -3,780,656.00
Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

A) APPLICATION INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Tri-County Welding Lab and Demonstration Labs

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 8 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

Student Achievement: We will have the opportunity to give the students in our region of Appalachia the best possible learning environment for their career in the trade and industry setting. Completing students will be better prepared to compete for Trade and Industry Careers in our region and the State of Ohio. Our students need cutting edge training facilities to compete with other regions of the state.

240. 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: Provide the following information:

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: William Wittman
Organizational name of lead applicant: Tri-County Career Center
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 051607
Address of lead applicant: 15676 State Route 691, Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone Number of lead applicant: 740.753.5379
Email Address of lead applicant: tj_wittman@seovec.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: Provide the following information, if applicable:

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Connie Attier
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Tri-County Career Center
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 051607
Address of secondary applicant: 15676 State Route 691, Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone number of secondary applicant: 740.753.5395
Email address of secondary applicant: tj_callier@seovec.org

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

7. Partnership and consortia and letters of support: (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

The team responsible for the grant idea and implementation is the administrative team at Tri-County Career Center. The center has a vision to increase the technology and course availability to the students in our region. Funds have not been available for the center to expand new technology and new trades for over 20 years.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)

- Student achievement
- Spending reductions in the five year fiscal forecast
- Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one:)

- New - never before implemented
- Existing and research-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
- Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
- Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

This is a NEW Never Before Implemented Project that brings to life an old trade, welding, due to the demands of the job market and the revitalization of careers in the Oil and Gas Industry. Now is the right time to attract quality students to this profession. The project will provide opportunities for students to achieve additional industry credentials and become successful while developing a skill which is in demand in our current economic environment. The development of a High School Welding Lab equipped with State of the Art Machinery and Robotic Welders will enable our students to seek and obtain employment while completing their own industrial credentials at Tri-County Career Center. Expansion of some of our Industrial Labs will provide for "Demonstration Areas" which will allow our instructors to utilize state of the art technology through "teleconference presentations," internet connections to practitioners in the field, and provide the "light at the end of the tunnel" that many students need in order to see the scope of all that can be in our new and diverse world. Interactive White board Activities and Surface Computer Technology to better understand and see professionals in the field through a classroom setting, before these students endeavor to work in "the trade craft," will provide students with a look at the complexities of the job they are pursuing. Students will be provided with "camera ready" equipment to project views of parts and internal mechanisms for an entire class on a big screen viewer, instead of all students being gathered around a small confined space.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

As has been stated by our Governor, Career and Technical Education is at the Heart of what Ohioans need to become successful in the workplace. Our plan, although specific to individual skills at first, will continue to provide young people with opportunities to reach and develop additional components, which will translate into not only that first opportunity for employment but other future job opportunities. The Oil and Gas Energy Initiative, alone, is in great need of Skilled Welders. The job outlook for new welders in the state of Ohio is growing at 15% a year. Welders' average starting salary is over $45 per hour.

Our Auto Technology Lab is struggling with enrollment even though there are jobs in our region. The Demonstration Lab will assist us in providing the space to recruit and retain quality students.

C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

- Enter a project budget
b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

Please see the details to the projected budget that have been uploaded. Financial Documents are also uploaded.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

3,780,656.00 * Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RTF money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e., staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

1. The estimated total project cost will be approximately $3,780,656.00 which will include state of the art technology and equipment for the Welding Lab and Demonstration Areas to be used with our existing Trade and Industry Programs. A Detailed drawing is attached to provide information regarding the Welding Lab as a “hub” coupled with demonstration labs. The drawing details the Welding Lab in the center and each side of the building has demonstration labs that house 50 students. The demonstration labs have a bay at the front that will allow vehicles and Semi Trucks to be on display. Please see spread sheet for narrative of budget and costs associated with this project. The land for the project and a local Project Engineer will provide part of the contribution from the school

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

105,673.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

The Financial Impact sheet has details of cost that will be associated with maintaining the building and paying for the instructor. 1. Reoccurring costs will be in the form of disposable materials such as: welding rods and metal; demonstration equipment; utilities, academic software and upgrades, instructor cost, maintenance of labs and replacement of necessary equipment as time dictates New Instructor approximately $80K per year including benefits - Disposable Materials - Welding Rods, Metal, Pipes, etc... $1,000 per pupil Please see the Financial Impact attachment for best details.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the innovative project from the implementation of this project? Expected savings expected forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast result from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

0.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

We anticipate the addition of the Welding Lab and the new demonstration labs will increase our enrollment. Our enrollment has been slowly declining over the past ten years. Adding an additional trade career choice will help with enrollment. The demonstration labs should strengthen what we can teach and offer our current and incoming students. This, too, should help us retain and recruit students.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

The project will be self-sustaining through the elimination of programs that do not meet the student minimum enrollment. It is expected new programs will generate additional student enrollment through communication with our affiliated districts. This self-sustaining effort will also allow our current Trade and Industry programs to expand their class offerings and instructional opportunities for our students. The addition of a welding lab will allow another Trade Option for our students

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of this project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could derail your concept or timeline for implementation and your plan to proactively mitigate such barriers. In addition, the narrative should list the stakeholders that will be engaged during that stage of the project and describe the communication that occurred as the application was developed.

Describe the ongoing communication plan with the stakeholders as the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational personnel in the affected entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 10/25/2013

* Narrative explanation

Notification from ODE before the end of December will dictate our next step. Should approval be given, immediate plans for development of the Labs will begin with completion schedule before Fall 2014. In addition, discussions with our affiliated schools will commence to recruit students to the programs affected by the grant award and an instructor will be hired. Following Board Approv./bids will be requested in early February for the project. Potential barriers which may delay completion of the project will be the awarding of bids for the new area of construction, equipment to complete the welding area, and availability of technology and loose furnishings for the planned labs. Up to data information on the progress of this addition will be communicated to the stakeholders; including but not limited to: students, parents, Board of Education, affiliate districts, regional advisory committees for the school on a monthly basis.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 09/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Students will be scheduled into the Welding program: students and staff will prepare lessons to engage in utilizing the technology of the demonstration labs.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 05/03/2014

* Narrative explanation

An evaluation of the program will take place throughout the year based on the assistance of an Advisory Committee and members of the region familiar with Workforce Development. The need to be flexible with work force trends in the state of Ohio will also allow Tri-County to expand and/or change offerings and subsequent use of the demonstration labs.

19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

Changes to the organization would coexist with academic requirements for all programs. We anticipate the use of demonstration labs will create a huge impact for all of our trade and industry programs. We believe enrollment and job placement rates will improve due to the value of this addition to our programs. Our current Trade and Industry programs lack the needed space and technology to compete with bigger training centers. With that said the benchmark for other Workforce Development Programs would be examined more fully.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

The oil and gas industry has indicated there is a high need for high school graduates that can work in the capacities of: Records Coordinators, Supervisors, Truck Drivers, Equipment Operators, Facility Operators, Floor Hands, Wall Tenders, Pumpers, Technicians, Derrick Hands, and Welders. Student Achievement will be highly impacted as we prepare them for positions in this highly sought after Career Field in Ohio (www.oogep.org). The spaces within Career Centers were not built with meeting or demonstration areas in the 1960’s. Centers were lab based with small classrooms. This new area, within our facility, will house the Welding Lab, as a hub, but also share space with two demonstration labs that will house 150 students. This alone will open many doors for career and technical education in our region.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

22. If so, how?

[ ] Other CTC’s in the State of Ohio could replicate these situations if warranted by their regional needs in Workforce Development.

23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

There is significant value in providing an opportunity to obtain credentials in business, industry, and specifically in the welding arena. We are hopeful these educational enhancements will provide a basis for additional skilled labor employment from our region. Our Trade and Industry Labs are in desperate need of classroom/demonstration areas. As our building was constructed in 1967, our lab areas have little room to add technology and alternate classroom settings. This will strengthen our struggling technologies with current standards and bring the atmosphere of a professional work environment to these
Trades. Opportunities for speakers from the Business, Trade and Industry arenas, by means of technology and video conferencing, will also be brought to the fore and will strengthen our core curriculum for all trade and industry areas. Tri-County Career Center is a Joint Vocational School District located in Nelsonville, Ohio serving the needs of students in grades 11 and 12 from Athens, Hocking and Perry Counties, Appalachia, Ohio. The districts in our CTPD comprise some of the poorest districts in the State of Ohio. (i.e. Trimble local has not passed a levy for many years. They only offer a curriculum at minimum state requirements and are far behind in the use and availability of technology. Perry County is the site of the DeRolph Decision regarding Funding.) Tri-County Career Center has been a vital part of this region for 46 years. Serving the needs of our struggling districts has led to ups and downs in enrollment numbers for our Trade and Industry programs over the past 10 years. At a time and place where the development of skilled labor is so important to the State of Ohio and our Nation, Tri-County serves the needs of many by providing an opportunity of hope, as students prepare for the workforce, post-secondary options, or the possibility of entering the military. We believe this opportunity will allow us grow while serving the needs of the region through the development of a stronger workforce curriculum.

24. What are the specific benchmarks related to the fund goals identified in question 9 that the project aims to achieve in five years? Include any other anticipated outcomes of the project that you hope to achieve that may not be easily benchmarked.

We are working to achieve a higher percentage of employment in the regional welding arena as well as engage students in higher achievement levels through our demonstration labs. At present our reported grade card employment percentage is 77.3%. A significant shift toward 83% would be a goal to which we would consider significant, for benchmark purposes. Expanding our trade skills and offerings will give students more opportunity to compete in today’s job market.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program’s progress).

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

The short term and long range impact of this plan would utilize an advisory committee to the Career Center comprised of representatives from the ESC; SEOVEC; Local Chamber of Commerce; Active Business Partners; Hocking College and others who understand the regional labor and workforce needs. This group would develop a rubric, based on regional workforce standards, to assess the success of our new programs. The program should be fluid and change to meet the needs of workforce development in the region.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter “I Accept” and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today’s date.

I Accept

William Wittman, Superintendent Tri-County Career Center October 25, 2013