

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 Innovation Grant RFP

Business Engagement

Q: Are there preferred business partners, or can applicants use their own contacts?

A: There are no preferred business partners. Applicants are encouraged to leverage their existing relationships and contacts, or seek new partnerships aligned with their proposal. BHEF is available to help connect applicants with potential business partners during the proposal development process. Please contact techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com for support.

Eligibility

Q: Can multiple proposals come from the same institution?

A: Yes, multiple proposals can be submitted from the same institution, and multiple proposals may be selected from the same institution, as long as each proposal has a different Principal Investigator (PI) and represents a distinct program, partnership, or pathway.

Q: If we were a TTA Pilot Grant awardee, how closely aligned does our Innovation project have to be to our Pilot project?

A: While prior Pilot Grant awardees are welcome to apply, the Innovation project does not need to be directly tied to or an extension of the Pilot project. The Innovation proposal, if related to the Pilot, should demonstrate a new approach, program design element, partnership, etc. to be eligible.

Q: What models of WBL are eligible for support under the TTA Innovation Grant?

A: There are several models and intensities of WBL that are eligible under the Innovation Grant. These include:

- *Low-Intensity:* Job-shadowing; site visits, industry panels; micro-projects.
- *Moderate-Intensity:* Employer-led capstone; industry-driven projects, microinternships.
- *High-Intensity:* Internships, co-ops.

Please see the RFP for more requirements related to WBL.

TTA 3.0 Key Priorities

Q: What AI skills are Connecticut employers actively looking for? For example, neural networks, prompt engineering, AI agents, etc.?

A: Connecticut employer demand spans a range of AI competencies, from foundational skills like prompt engineering and data literacy to more advanced technical capabilities such as AI agents, machine learning, and applied AI integration across business functions. Skills needs also differ by industry and employer partner. For a detailed breakdown, please refer to the [TTA 3.0 CT AI Skills Framework Landscape Analysis](#) to start. BHEF's How to [Build an AI-Resilient Workforce: The AI-Enabled Professional Framework](#) may also be a useful resource related to durable skills needs and AI skills across a career progression. Feel free to contact techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com or madison.myers@bhef.com with any labor market information questions.

Q: How deep should AI skill integration be in non-credit vs. degree programs?

A: The depth of AI skill integration is flexible and should be driven by the needs of your employer partner(s), industry demand and target learners. Both credit and non-credit programs are eligible, and there is no prescribed level of integration required. Proposals should clearly articulate the intended AI learning outcomes and how they align with Connecticut labor market demand.

Q: What level of AI integration is expected—standalone AI courses, or embedding AI across programs (e.g., business, healthcare, engineering, cybersecurity)?

A: Both approaches are welcome. Applicants may propose new standalone AI courses, embedded AI content within a new program, or a combination of both. The Innovation Grant is designed to support a variety of models—what matters most is that the proposed approach represents innovation at the institutional-level, responds to demonstrated employer need and produces meaningful outcomes for learners.

Grant Budget, Funding, and Activities

Q: Does the program offer upfront mobilization funds, or is it strictly milestone-based?

A: The program disburses a 75% upfront payment shortly after grant agreement execution. After grantees demonstrate sufficient progress towards their program goals (detailed in the timeline section of their application), the remaining 25% will be remitted.

Q: Are grantees expected to conduct only program development activities during the grant period, or are they also expected to pilot the program during the year-long grant?

A: Grantees are expected to develop their program *and* pilot it with at least one cohort of learners during the year-long grant period.