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

Key Dates

Q: When are Pilot Grant proposals due?
A: The Pilot Grant proposals are due December 5, 2025, by 11:59 PM ET.

Q: How long is the Pilot Grant period, and when does it begin?
A: The pilot grant period will run from February 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026.

Business Engagement

Q: Should the business partnership be finalized at the time of proposal submission, or can it be confirmed at a later stage? Will support be available?
A: A letter of support from at least one business partner is required at the time of submission. The letter should outline the partnership's planned activities and/or the employer's contributions. Partnerships can continue to grow and evolve during the grant period as business partners may take on new roles or deeper their involvement. The BHEF and NEBHE teams are available to help identify business partners and define partnership scopes during proposal development. Please contact techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com for support.

Q: If we have already identified a business partner and secured a letter of support, does our business partner need to complete the Business Interest Form?
A: No. The Business Interest Form is an optional tool to help BHEF connect applicants with potential partners, if needed. It is not required.

Eligibility

Q: Are proposals from graduate schools eligible, or only from colleges and universities?
A: Yes. Proposals from graduate schools affiliated with Connecticut 2- or 4- year public and independent institutions are eligible to apply.

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: Will the grant be awarded to the institution or the individual faculty member/PI?
A: The grant is administratively awarded to the institution, although faculty members typically serve as the Principal Investigator (PI).

TTA 3.0 Key Priorities
Q: How many TTA 3.0 priority areas must an application address?
A: Proposals must address at least one TTA 3.0 key priority area outlined in the RFP. Applicants seeking supplemental Work-Based Learning (WBL) funds must select at least one additional priority area beyond "Expand Work-Based Learning Opportunities."

Q: Can proposals include partnerships with high schools or education-focused nonprofits (e.g., ReadyCT, AdvanceCT)?
A: Yes. One TTA 3.0 priority area supports dual enrollment and secondary programs that prepare high school students for AI-related postsecondary pathways. Institutions may partner with high schools or education nonprofits but must also include a business partner.

Q: Will proposals that integrate both AI and quantum themes be considered?
A: Yes. Because AI and quantum technologies are closely connected, proposals incorporating both will be eligible. Award decisions will prioritize labor market alignment, demonstrated industry demand, and future relevance of skills within Connecticut.

Supplemental Work-Based Learning (WBL) Fund
Q: Can the supplemental WBL opportunity focus be entirely non-credit continuing education?
A: Standalone WBL grants will not be awarded. Applicants are invited to submit supplemental proposals that build WBL component onto a proposed Pilot Grant project. Pilot Grant and WBL projects can include non-credit programs. However, we consider pay and/or credit to be markers of a quality WBL opportunity.

Q: Are applications more competitive or scored higher if they also apply for supplemental WBL funding?

A: No. Pilot Grant applications will be scored based on their own merit, and we do not want to encourage poor-quality WBL components for the sake of scoring higher.

Outcomes

Q: Is it a requirement for the program to enroll learners during the grant period?

A: Ideally, Pilot Grant projects will begin enrolling learners/workers within or shortly after (1-2 months after) the grant period.