# BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND

# ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Guidelines for the Submission of

# Rapid Response
# Workforce Development Proposals

**Proposal Submission: Rolling Deadline,**
**November 16, 2026 – April 1, 2027**

## FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

Request for Proposals, Number 2026-15

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, FY 2026-27**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND**

**RAPID RESPONSE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUBPROGRAM**

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. BASIS OF AUTHORITY

Article VII, Section 10.1 of the Louisiana Constitution established two funds in the State Treasury: the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund) and the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund (now known for higher education as the Board of Regents Support Fund and hereinafter referred to as the Support Fund). The Trust Fund was established with approximately $550 million received from settlement of disputed oil and gas revenues generated in the so-called 8(g) stipulation of the Federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Twenty-five percent of the interest earned from investment of monies in the Trust Fund, as well as 25% of recurring 8(g) oil and gas revenues, will continue to be returned to the Trust Fund, until it reaches a cap of $2 billion. Each fiscal year the remaining 75% of interest earned and 75% of recurring oil and gas revenues are placed in the Support Fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

### B. PURPOSES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND

On an annual basis, Support Fund money is divided equally between the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Regents (hereinafter referred to as the Board) for higher education. According to Article VII of the Constitution, the funds available to higher education from the Support Fund are to be utilized "…as that money is appropriated by the Legislature and allocated by the Board of Regents for any or all of the following higher educational purposes to enhance economic development:

1. the carefully defined research efforts of public and private universities in Louisiana;
2. the endowment of chairs for eminent scholars;
3. the enhancement of the quality of academic, research, or agricultural departments or units within a university; and
4. the recruitment of superior graduate students."

The Article further stipulates that "the monies appropriated by the Legislature and disbursed from the Support Fund shall not…displace, replace, or supplant other appropriated funding for higher education..."

Reflecting these Constitutional mandates, Board of Regents policies affirm that awards in all categories will be based on the potential for the award to enhance the overall quality of higher education in Louisiana; and the potential for the award to enhance the economic development of the State.

### C. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR; QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS RFP

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed in writing to Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives (carrie.robison@laregents.edu). In compliance with R.S. 39:1503, questions will be accepted and answered until December 1, 2026 (or until 4:30 p.m. of the first working day following this date). All questions asked about this RFP and answers provided in response to these questions will be collected and posted as soon as possible following response on a live list housed on the BoR Research and Sponsored Initiatives website (https://rsi.laregents.edu). No inquiries, whether oral or written, will be accepted after the deadline date to ensure all interested parties receive the same information.

### D. PUBLIC NATURE OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Once a proposal is received in the Board's office, it becomes public record. Applicants should be aware that, if a request for a proposal is made by the public (e.g., a faculty member or representative of the news media), a copy of the proposal, by law, must be provided.

## II. THE RAPID RESPONSE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUBPROGRAM

### A. OBJECTIVES

Based on Constitutional mandates and policies adopted by the Board, the objectives of Enhancement initiatives are to enhance the infrastructure of academic, research, or agricultural departments/units and to promote economic development. The Rapid Response Workforce Development subprogram is a limited opportunity for departments and academic units responding to the high-priority, urgent workforce development needs related to $260 billion in recent investments in Louisiana's 21st-century economy.

### B. FUNDING AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION LIMITS

A total of $2,000,000 has been allocated to the program in FY 2026-27. Each applicant may request a maximum of $200,000 for a project lasting no more than six months. All projects funded in FY 2026-27 must terminate by June 30, 2027. Institutions and academic units are not limited in the number of proposals they may submit. An academic unit submitting multiple proposals is required to disclose all applications in each submission.

### C. ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **ELIGIBLE WORKFORCE CATEGORIES:** Only programs providing high-skill workforce training in priority areas identified by Louisiana Works as the highest priorities for the State are eligible:

   Information Technology
   Manufacturing
   Construction
   Transportation and Warehousing
   Healthcare

2. **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS:** Departments/units at public two-year, four-year and special-purpose institutions, and regionally accredited independent institutions of higher education that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, are eligible to compete in the Rapid Response Workforce Development subprogram.

3. **ELIGIBLE DEPARTMENTS/UNITS:** Any formally constituted (approved by the Board of Regents or formally established by the institution/system) academic, research or agricultural organizational unit that offers workforce development programs in the workforce categories outlined in Section II.C.1 is eligible. Administrative, support and athletic units are not eligible.

4. **ELIGIBLE INVESTIGATORS:** Only faculty members or staff of an eligible Louisiana institution of higher education may act as principal or co-principal investigators. Individuals who are not employed by an eligible Louisiana institution of higher education (e.g., out-of-state scholars, scientists and/or engineers, or employees of industry) may serve as consultants on projects; however, they may not be listed as principal or co-investigators and must not be cited on the cover page of the proposal.

   Principal investigators who are delinquent in submitting contractually required reports for prior or existing Board of Regents Support Fund and/or Federal awards managed by the Board of Regents Research and Sponsored Initiatives Section are precluded from submitting a proposal in response to this RFP until the required report(s) has been received and accepted by the Board.

5. **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:** Any supplementary and enhancing activity is eligible as long as the applicant can argue convincingly that it will significantly impact the quality and/or capacity of workforce development preparation related to recent state investments in the specified workforce categories (see Section II.C.1). Operating costs, including faculty and staff salaries, basic equipment, and standard supplies, may not be requested from the BoRSF. See Section V of this RFP for more information on disallowed expenditures and guidelines for salary support.

## D. DURATION

Rapid Response Workforce Development proposals may seek up to six (6) months of support. Reflecting the urgent nature of this funding, no extensions will be permitted except when equipment and/or supplies are documented to have been ordered but not received within two weeks of contract termination. The length of an extension will be determined by the vendor's delivery estimate.

## E. COST SHARING AND MATCHING COMMITMENTS

**No cost-sharing or matching is required for participation in the Rapid Response Workforce Development subprogram.** Potential applicants and college/university officials should note that institutional cost-sharing commitments of any kind (e.g., institutional, private-sector, federal) that are pledged in the proposal are binding and must be honored in full if the proposal is funded at the requested level. Matching commitments may have to be honored in full even if the award level is reduced. Institutions of higher education should, therefore, make only realistic, concrete commitments that they are able to honor. Discounts on equipment purchases are not eligible for inclusion as institutional match.

Support Fund monies will not be disbursed until appropriate written assurances of all matches and cost sharing pledged in the proposal have been received, reviewed and approved by Board staff. Institutional approval is granted by submission of the proposal electronically to the Board through each institution's LOGAN account and certifies that the fiscal agent is aware of the claimed commitment(s) and has determined said commitment(s) to be consistent with all applicable guidelines, regulations, and statutes. Similarly, the fiscal agent's signature, which is required on the contract budget page(s) of funded projects, certifies to the Board that commitments pledged in the proposal will be honored. All matching funds are subject to the same restrictions as Support Funds except as noted in the budgetary requirements in this RFP. When a full graduate fellowship or scholarship is requested from the Support Fund, the institution is required to match or remit tuition for the student during the full duration of Support Fund payments.

## F. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

To ensure rapid distribution of funds to support urgent, time-sensitive work, proposals will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. External evaluators will assess proposals using the scoring rubric in Appendix A of this RFP. Any proposal receiving a score of 70 or above will be funded at the level recommended by evaluators. Once all funds allocated for the fiscal year are awarded, no more proposals will be accepted. Proposals not recommended for funding will receive summary evaluator reviews to assist in future proposal development.

## G. TIMETABLE

| | |
|---|---|
| October 23, 2026 | Request for Proposals issued |
| November 2, 2026 | LOGAN proposal module opens for proposal development |
| November 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | LOGAN module enabled for proposal submission to BOR by the institution (rolling deadline) |
| **November 2026 – April 2027** | External evaluations conducted and awards recommended on a first-come, first-served basis as defined in the RFP. |
| April 1, 2027 | Final date for proposal submission |
| June 30, 2027 | All FY 2026-27 awards terminate |

### H. POST-AWARD EVALUATION AND REPORTS

The Board of Regents requires that institutions receiving monies from the Support Fund report periodically on the utilization and impact of those monies. For Rapid Response Workforce Development awards, one project report and a final expenditure report will be required at the end of the contract. Reports will be submitted via LOGAN in the format provided by the BoR

## III. PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals submitted to the Board must be complete upon submission and must be received electronically through LOGAN. Modules for developing proposals and review by the institution will be available on LOGAN starting November 2, 2026; institutional submission to the Board of Regents will be enabled on November 16 at 9:00 a.m. Central time. LOGAN may be accessed at https://rsi.laregents.edu by clicking "LOGAN" on the menu at the top of the page. Paper originals or copies are not accepted. The proposal submission process includes two steps: submission by academic unit to the institution's sponsored programs or grants office, and institutional approval with submission to the Board or Regents; a proposal cannot be accepted by the Board until both steps are completed.

### A. COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

All institutional work on the proposal must be complete before submission to the Board of Regents. If the applicant determines revisions to a submitted proposal are needed, the submitted proposal may be withdrawn upon request of the submitting institution. The revised proposal must be resubmitted through LOGAN and the date of receipt will be the date on which the revised proposal was submitted. Because the program funds on a first-come, first-served basis, the final date of submission to the BoR will determine where in the review and funding order the proposal will be considered.

### B. CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT

After the principal investigator submits the completed proposal to its designated campus office via LOGAN, he/she will receive a sequence of two emails: (1) immediately following the applicant's submission to the institution, confirmation of receipt of the electronic proposal by the institution; and (2) following institution approval and submission, confirmation that the Board has received the proposal. The institution will be copied on all confirmations.

## IV. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

All narrative sections of the proposal must be presented in a single PDF document with pages numbered, one-inch margins at the top, bottom and on each side, and in type no smaller than 12 point. Forms must be completed, and proposals submitted via LOGAN.

The requirements and format must be followed closely. Proposals that do not adhere to these guidelines will be disqualified for noncompliance. Each proposal must include the following information:

**A. COVER PAGE:** The cover page template in LOGAN must be completed, including selection of the primary eligible workforce category (see RFP Section II.C.1). The proposal will be assigned for review based on these category chosen by the applicant.

**B. NARRATIVE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY:** The narrative may not exceed eight (8) pages. Information applicable to multiple sections should be referenced rather than repeated.

1. **THE CURRENT SITUATION:** Briefly describe the unit applying and its active workforce development activities in the area(s) relevant to the target areas of this funding opportunity. Discuss the economic development and workforce environment that informs the unit's current structure and priorities, as well as its history of placing completers in relevant jobs.

2. **ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN WORKFORCE DEMAND:** Indicate what changes are anticipated in workforce demand, including potential new employers and industries, and the timeline for arrival of jobs. If appropriate, discuss workforce opportunities that will be phased out as a result of new industry entering the workforce market.
3. **GAPS IN CURRENT OFFERINGS AND CAPACITY:** Describe resources that will be needed to successfully address the change in demand by enhancing offerings (e.g., equipment, student support, curricular changes, consultants, etc.) and how this program will contribute.
4. **PROGRAM DATA:** Complete the following data tables for all programs to be supported through this award.

**Current Program Performance**

| | |
|---|---|
| # Students Enrolled | Graduate |
| (Last Academic Year) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| # Graduates from the Impacted Program | Graduate |
| (Last Academic Year) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| # Students Finding Employment Post-Graduation | Graduate |
| (Last Academic Year) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| Completers Employed in Louisiana | |
| Completers Employed Out of State | |
| Average Starting Salary | |

**Projected Expansion**

| | |
|---|---|
| New In-Field Jobs in Louisiana | Graduate |
| (Projected Number – Cite Source) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| Gap in Supply Based on Projections | Graduate |
| (Projected Number – Cite Source) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| Anticipated Enrollment Growth | Graduate |
| (Percentage – Annualized) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| Anticipated Completer Growth | Graduate |
| (Percentage – Annualized) | Baccalaureate |
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |
| Anticipated Average Starting Salary | Graduate |

| (Whole Number – Cite Source) | Baccalaureate |
|---|---|
| | Associate's |
| | Certificate/Diploma |
| | Other |

5. **IMPACT:** Describe the impact of the project on the workforce preparation provided by the academic unit by citing specific data relative to the proposal goals. Data in the Current Situation and Anticipated Growth in Workforce Demand sections should be referenced to provide specific details on impact. For any proposal section that falls outside of the planned activities and enhancement, respond with "not applicable".
   a. **Impact on Existing Resources:** Describe the manner and the extent to which the project will complement and improve upon the unit's ability to prepare workforce to meet anticipated demand.
   b. **Impact on Curriculum and Instruction:** Explain the impact which the proposed project will have on the quality and capacity of workforce training opportunities.
   c. **Impact on Workforce Development:** Describe how the project will increase the workforce competitiveness of graduates and provide specific data from State agencies that demonstrate how the project will address urgent projected workforce priorities.
   d. **Economic Impact:** Describe the short- and long-term benefits of the project to Louisiana's economic development.
6. **EVALUATION:** Indicate how project outcomes will be assessed. Where possible use tangible and specific indicators.
7. **SUSTAINABILITY:** Describe the academic unit's plan for ensuring that the impact of the project is sustainable beyond the life of the grant. Issues such as equipment repair, maintenance, salary support for new hires or released faculty and staff, etc., should be addressed.
8. **PROJECT TEAM EXPERTISE:** Identify the individuals who will execute and administer the project, define their roles, and provide their qualifications for undertaking the specific responsibilities assigned to them.
9. **OTHER RRWD PROPOSALS IN WHICH THE UNIT IS PARTICIPATING:** Provide a list of proposals submitted to this program in which the unit is participating and their relationship to the current request. Failure to disclose may result in disqualification of the current proposal.

**C. PREVIOUS BoR SUPPORT FUND AWARDS:** List all awards received from any Support Fund program during the previous five (5) years by all faculty and staff on the project team. Include the following information in this summary statement: (1) Participating faculty/staff, type of award, amount of award, and period of support; (2) title of the project; (3) summary of project results; and (4) how the current proposal is related to the previous award(s).

**D. CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT:** Complete the form for the principal investigator and all senior project personnel.

**E. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:** Provide information necessary for reviewers to evaluate the capabilities and experience of all senior project personnel. Regarding publications, biographical sketches should only include relevant books, peer-reviewed publications, and manuscripts formally accepted for publication. Works in progress or submitted for publication should not be included.

**F. BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE/JUSTIFICATION:** The itemized budget template in LOGAN must be completed and a corresponding budget narrative uploaded. The narrative must describe every item for which the expenditure of Support Funds is requested, and for which institutional/private match monies are committed. The significance to the project of each expenditure must be clearly indicated. All funds for which a commitment from an external source has been pledged and that are cited in the narrative section of the proposal must be listed on the budget page and explained in the budget narrative. Matching funds must be specified as "in cash" or "in kind." Use State contract prices for equipment purchases and travel expenditures if applicable.

## V. DISALLOWED BUDGETARY ITEMS

Support Fund monies cannot be used for ongoing operational costs of existing or proposed programs, entities, or projects. As indicated in Section I.B of this RFP, "Purposes of the Board of Regents Support Fund," Article VII, Section 10.1 of the Louisiana Constitution stipulates that "[The] monies appropriated by the Legislature and disbursed from the Support Fund shall not…displace, replace, or supplant other appropriated funding for higher education…"Applicants must make a case in their proposals that what they are proposing does not violate this stipulation. Applicants should also be aware that Support Fund program staff will make panels of out-of-state evaluators aware of this Constitutional prohibition. Panels will then be asked to develop recommendations relative to whether providing Support Fund money for specific proposals under serious consideration would violate this Constitutional stipulation. Indirect costs may not be requested from the Rapid Response Workforce Development subprogram but may be provided as institutional match.

BoRSF funds may not be requested for maintenance or repair of equipment, whether existing or purchased through the Support Fund. Long-term maintenance contracts for equipment cannot be requested from the Support Fund; these expenses may be provided as match.

Applicants should also note that the scope of the program does not permit: (1) construction of facilities; (2) routine renovation or upgrading of facilities; (3) paying faculty from the submitting university to train other faculty at the same university, or faculty at other universities who are a part of an multi-institutional project; (4) purchase of standard motorized vehicles such as cars, vans, boats, etc.; or (5) purchase of standard office furniture or routine office equipment (e.g., desktop computers, copiers, desk chairs). The proposal must detail and fully justify the specific workforce development uses of the requested equipment as related to project goals, objectives, and activities.

Equipment and supplies purchased with Support Fund monies may not be given to grant participants (faculty, students, teachers, etc.) as personal property during or after the grant period. Support Fund money may not be requested for equipment or other expenditures, such as faculty stipends, additional compensation, or overload pay, to be issued to K-12 entities or employees, or to private-sector partners. K-12 entities are eligible for funds through the BESE portion of the Support Fund, so may not receive Support Fund monies. (See also Section VI below.)

The scope of the Enhancement Program does not permit funds to be used for entertainment costs, with the exception of meals for consultants or other professionals brought to the State as part of a funded project. Only under exceptional circumstances and with compelling justification as approved by Board staff may Support Fund monies be used for receptions, group meals for faculty and students, refreshments, performers, and other entertainment. All meal charges must comply with State rates as set forth by the Louisiana State Travel Office.

Support may not be requested for shortfalls or deficits in budgets, scholarships or tuition, augmentation of salaries of individuals pursuing regularly assigned duties, or unspecified contingencies; and finally, funds may not be requested for anticipated centers or institutes that require Board approval prior to their establishment and that have not been approved prior to submission of the proposal.

Any item deemed ineligible shall not be funded, regardless of the recommendations of the external consultants.

Discounts received on equipment purchases may not be counted as part of the institutional match.

Only under exceptional circumstances may Support Fund dollars be used to support institutional memberships to business, technical, and/or professional organizations. Individual faculty memberships to any of the above are disallowed.

## VI. FUNDS FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL

The principal investigator may request partial salary support for personnel working directly on the project. Salary support must be requested to cover release time in proportion to the amount of time each affected employee is expected to contribute to the project and may not exceed 25% of academic-year salary. Support may be provided only as release time and in no event may salary charged to the Support Fund exceed the percentage share of base salary pledged to the project. Faculty and staff may not receive stipends, overload pay or additional compensation for work performed outside of regular duties or work hours, and may not be paid on a contract basis as consultants to a funded project.

If salary support is requested, the applicant must certify that: (a) Support Fund monies will not supplant State funds; and (b) full-time faculty and staff will not, under any circumstances, receive in excess of 100% of their regular salaries through Support Funds. In addition, the budget narrative must provide detailed explanations of the type of salary requested, regular salary level, percentage of effort to be committed, institutional guarantee of appropriate release, and justification in terms of project work to be performed for each individual requesting support. Institutions may provide salary support and additional compensation through in-cash or in-kind matches.

While requests may be made to fund a full- or part-time faculty or staff position, such requests require substantial justification and a firm commitment from the submitting institution to continue the position after the award period ends or a persuasive case that the staff work will not be necessary after the grant period. Staff positions created to implement the award must serve a longer-term need met by hiring new individual(s), even on a limited basis, and may not be requested solely to support the grant.

## VII. FUNDS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

Support may be requested for graduate and/or undergraduate students either working on the project or to be provided with fellowship or scholarship support aligned with project goals and objectives. Such support must be at a level appropriate to recruit and/or retain superior students in the targeted workforce development programs and must yield a benefit beyond the individual student awarded funds. Funds requested should be justified in reference to support packages offered to similar students enrolled in the same or similar degree program. The budget should delineate the maximum support for individual students over the duration of the award.

Support Fund money may not be requested to pay tuition or fringe benefits for graduate or undergraduate students; institutional match may be provided for these expenses (see Section II.E).

## VIII. PROJECT ACTIVATION DATE AND ANTICIPATED DATE OF COMPLETION

The project activation date will be established following a recommendation of funding from an external evaluator and confirmation that funds are available to support the project; the termination date will be six months from the activation date or June 30, 2027, whichever is sooner. Since the purpose of the program is to provide rapid response funding to immediately address urgent needs, no-cost extensions will not be considered except when equipment and/or supplies are documented to have been ordered but not received within two weeks of contract termination. The length of an extension will be determined by the vendor's delivery estimate (see Section II.D).

# Rapid Response Workforce Development Rating Form

**Goals/Objectives (10 Points) _____**
-To what degree are the goals reasonable, achievable, and clearly designed to address anticipated workforce needs as defined? Do the goals and objectives respond to a documented and urgent Louisiana workforce need?

**Work Plan (25 Points) _____**
-Does the proposal set forth a compelling and realistic schedule to achieve project goals within the short timeframe of the grant? Are the tasks described appropriate for achieving the project goals and objectives? Are personnel qualified and prepared to undertake project work?

**Impact (35 points) _____**
-Are the projected impacts responsive to urgent workforce needs? Is the scale of the project sufficient to meaningfully contribute to the applicant's ongoing ability to produce skilled workers for Louisiana's high-demand fields?

**Evaluation (10 Points) _____**
-Are the evaluation metrics identified appropriate and sufficient for determining the impact of a short-term, high-urgency investment?

**Sustainability (10 Points) _____**
-Are project goals and impact sustainable beyond the life of the grant? Are maintenance or sustainability plans established for ongoing project activities?

**Budget (10 Points) _____**
-Is the budget effectively structured to meet the workforce goals and objectives as defined and maximize the project's impact?

**Total Score** (out of 100) _____

**OVERALL RATING OF PROPOSAL**

| POOR | FAIR | GOOD | VERY GOOD | EXCELLENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Total Funding Recommended: _____

Reviewer Comments and Funding Stipulations (if any):