

**U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC),  
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST),  
Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program,  
2026-NIST-SCOCD-01**

**Funding Opportunity Description:** The NIST Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program (SCOCD CAP) is seeking applications from eligible applicants for activities to develop undergraduate and/or graduate level curricula to incorporate documentary standards, standards development, and standardization of information and content into seminars, modules, courses, and learning resources. The recipients will work with NIST to strengthen education and learn about documentary standards, standards development, and standardization.

**Announcement Type:** Initial.

**Funding Instrument:** Cooperative Agreement.

**Assistance Listing (CFDA Number):** [11.057: Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program](#)

**Award Project Period:** Project performance period of up to three (3) years.

**Goals & Objectives:** Recipients are required to: 1) develop curriculum to educate students about documentary standards and standardization so that they enter the workforce and/or continue their studies with a strong understanding and appreciation for the value and benefits of standards and standardization; 2) develop sustainable approaches, methods, and models and demonstrate how the curriculum can be replicated and/or built upon by the recipient and other U.S. colleges and universities to support the integration of documentary standards and standardization content into curriculum; and 3) develop and implement a plan to broadly disseminate project information, results, and outcomes through internal and external outreach. See Section 1 of this NOFO for additional program information.

<b>Eligible Projects:</b>	Applicants must develop undergraduate and/or graduate level curricula to incorporate documentary standards, standards development, and standardization information and content into seminars, modules, courses, and learning resources. Curriculum may be in any area that supports science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and/or other related disciplines such as law, public policy, business, and/or multi-disciplinary approaches. See Section 1 of this NOFO for additional program information.
<b>Eligible Applicants:</b>	Accredited institutions of higher education (IHEs), as defined at <a href="#">20 U.S.C. 1001</a> , located in the United States or its territories. Foreign entities are not eligible to apply under this NOFO. See Section III this NOFO for eligibility requirements.
<b>Funding Amount:</b>	In Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), NIST anticipates funding up to 8 (eight) awards, for up to a total of \$95,000 per award, with a project performance period of up to three (3) years.
<b>Cost Share/Matching Requirements:</b>	Non-federal cost share is not required for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO but is encouraged. Applicants proposing voluntary non-federal cost share will not receive merit review evaluative credit, but non-federal cost share may be used as a Selection Factor. See Section III of this NOFO for additional information regarding non-federal cost share and Section V.2. of this NOFO for additional information pertaining to the Selection Factors for this competition.
<b>Estimated Number (can give a range) and Type of Award(s):</b>	Up to eight (8) awards as cooperative agreements.
<b>Submission Dates and Times:</b>	Full Applications must be received at <a href="#">Grants.gov</a> no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, July 13, 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered. NIST expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and award processing by September 2026. NIST expects the earliest start date for awards under this NOFO to be October 2026.

**How to Apply:** Applications must be submitted using [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Paper applications will not be accepted.

**Review and Selection Process:** Applications received under this group competition by the application deadline will be evaluated to determine if the requirements have been met for eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to this NOFO and to the stated goals of the program. Applications meeting all the requirements will be independently evaluated by three objective reviewers with appropriate expertise who will score each application based on the criteria outlined in Section V. of this NOFO. A rank order will be assigned to each application based on the combined average reviewer scores. The Selecting Official may recommend applicants for funding to the NIST Grants Officer based upon the availability of funding, the rank order of the applications, and the Selection Factors included in the NOFO.

**Agency Contacts:**

**Programmatic and Technical Questions:**

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**FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT**

**I. Program Description**

The statutory authority for the Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program (SCO CD CAP) is 15 U.S.C. §§ 272(b)(4) and (c).

- 1. Background Information.** The Standards Coordination Office (SCO) introduced the “Education Challenge Grants” program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to support the development of new learning resources and course modules integrating standards into the formal curriculum in business and engineering programs. The following year, the program was changed from a grants program to a cooperative agreement program, allowing SCO to work more closely with award recipients and to provide greater support to strengthen education and learning about standards and standardization. In 2023, the name of the program changed from the Standards Services Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program (SSCD CAP) to the Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program (SCO CD CAP).
- 2. Program Requirements.** The NIST SCO CD CAP is seeking applications from eligible applicants for activities to develop undergraduate and/or graduate level curricula to incorporate documentary standards, standards development, and standardization information and content into seminars, modules, courses, and learning resources. For the purposes of this NOFO, the term “standard” includes all of the following: (i) common and repeated use of rules, conditions, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, and related management systems practices; (ii) the definition of terms; classification of components; delineation of procedures; specification of dimensions, materials, performance, designs, or operations; measurement of quality and quantity in describing materials, processes, products, systems, services, or practices; test methods and sampling procedures; formats for information and communication exchange; or descriptions of fit and measurements of size or strength; and (iii) terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labeling requirements as they apply to a product, process, or production method. For the purposes of this NOFO, the term “standard” does not include metrological standards (e.g., physical measurement standards, standard reference materials, etc.).

The recipients will work with NIST to strengthen education and learn about documentary standards, standards development, and standardization.

Recipients are required to:

- a) develop curriculum to educate undergraduate and/or graduate students about the impact and nature of documentary standards and standardization so that they enter the workforce and/or continue their academic studies with a strong understanding and appreciation for the value and benefits of standards and standardization;
- b) develop sustainable approaches, methods, and models that can be replicated and/or built upon by the participating accredited IHE and other U.S. colleges and universities to support the integration of documentary standards and standardization content into undergraduate and/or graduate level curricula;
- c) develop a plan to share project information, results, and outcomes within the participating accredited IHE and with other U.S. colleges and universities, including an action plan for internal and external outreach that will effectively demonstrate how the project outcomes may be replicated and/or built upon by the applicant and other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities;
- d) broadly disseminate project information, results, and outcomes for public release with the applicant and other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities, and relevant educational communities or fields of practice through presentations, papers, news releases, newsletters, professional journals, exhibits, conferences, workshops, seminars, exhibits and trade shows, websites, and other appropriate media and forums that serve the academic community;
- e) participate in two (2) one-day workshops, which may be held virtually or in person. The first will be held in Q4 of 2026 and the other in Q4 of 2028 or 2029. Workshops held in person will take place at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Applicants should include travel-related expenses to participate in two in-person workshops in their proposed budgets (see Section IV.2.a.(6).c). of this NOFO); and
- f) write a Final Summary Paper of major accomplishments and conclusions, of approximately 10 pages in length that will describe the project and its importance, explain the original project goal, describe the project outcomes, describe how the curricula was evaluated, and report the findings and lessons learned through the activity, including a summary of the project's suitability and potential for adoption at other U.S. IHEs. The Final Summary Paper will be due to the Federal Program Officer at least 60 days before the end of the project period. It must be in a publicly releasable format and must not contain any personal or proprietary information. See Section V.1.b.ii. and Section VI.3.a.(3) of this NOFO for more information about the Final Summary Paper.

Wherever possible, the results of the project should be published in such a way as to be generally available to the public. The NIST Standards Coordination Office may collaborate with

recipients by reviewing any proposed publication prior to release and assisting in dissemination of the publication. See also Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (November 12, 2020), Section C.03., Intellectual Property Rights, and G.05.k.3., Publications, Videos and Acknowledgment of Sponsorship.

The following activities may be funded under this program:

- the design, testing, and evaluation of undergraduate and/or graduate curricula, course content and materials, courses or course modules, seminars, class assignments, student projects, and/or student participation in mock standards development activities and negotiations;
- standards curriculum in any area that supports science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and/or other related disciplines such as law, public policy, business, and/or multi-disciplinary approaches;<sup>1</sup>
- stipends for instructors who are not funded as key technical personnel but are identified in the proposal as collaborators from other IHEs and have demonstrated a commitment through a Letter of Commitment from their department head or higher, to pilot and/or implement the curricula developed into undergraduate and/or graduate curriculum at their school;
- travel to implement the Communication and Dissemination Plan (see Section IV.2.a.(6).c. and Section V.1.b. of this NOFO); and
- help for the cost for students who assist instructors.

The following activities will not be funded under this program:

- activities involving researching an idea for a project, and the evaluation of the viability, necessity, or usefulness of a project; ideas for projects should be fully developed prior to submitting an application for consideration;
- education, such as certifications, training, or courses, for individuals proposed to participate in projects, as detailed in the project budget; individuals must already have the necessary knowledge and expertise to successfully complete the project at the time the proposal for funding is submitted;
- activities involving K-12 education or workforce/industry education;
- food/beverage or catering;
- equipment and supplies categories in excess of \$3,000 combined; and
- projects involving the conduct of research, including research involving human subjects or live vertebrate animals.

Awardees develop curricula that can be replicated and built upon by other IHEs; before submitting an application, potential applicants should consider curricula developed by prior

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<sup>1</sup> Prospective applicants in the cybersecurity field should consider resources on the NIST National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Initiative webpage such as <https://www.nist.gov/itl/applied-cybersecurity/nice/nice-framework-resource-center/education-and-training-provider> and <https://www.nist.gov/itl/applied-cybersecurity/nice/resources/online-learning-content>.

awardees under this program if there is or may be overlap in any of the content. A list of prior awardees, their projects, and contact information is available on the [NIST website](#).

NIST anticipates that most costs will be incurred within the first twenty-four (24) months of the project to support project milestones, but funding will remain available for thirty-six (36) months to complete milestones and to support summarizing and reporting what was accomplished during the first twenty-four (24) months, including writing and disseminating a Final Summary Paper as described in Section I., Section V.1.b.ii. and Section VI.3.a.(3). of this NOFO.

**Applicants may propose an award start date anytime between October 2026 and March 2027.**

The most successful proposals:

- 1) are complete, meet all the criteria, and provide specific and detailed information where requested;
- 2) demonstrate a commitment from the applicant IHE to implement the curricula developed into coursework over the longer term;
- 3) include a well-qualified team to successfully implement the proposal, as needed (e.g. curricula development specialists; evaluation expertise; online/distance learning specialists; video/editing services; communications/public relations/marketing personnel to advise on developing and implementing communication plans, dissemination efforts, and potential partnerships with other IHEs);
- 4) demonstrate a commitment from other IHEs who plan to incorporate the curricula into their classrooms and/or support the development and revision of the curricula; and
- 5) include collaborations with industry and/or community colleges that directly benefit undergraduate and/or graduate students.

## **II. Federal Award Information**

- 1. Funding Instrument.** The funding instrument that will be used is a cooperative agreement. Where cooperative agreements are used, the nature of NIST's "substantial involvement" will generally include collaboration with the recipient organization in developing and implementing the approved scope of work, consistent with the definition of cooperative agreement in [2 CFR § 200.1](#).
- 2. Funding Availability and Anticipated Amounts.** In Fiscal Year 2026, NIST anticipates funding up to eight (8) awards up to \$95,000 per award with a project performance period of up to three (3) years. The awards will be fully funded in the first year. Cost sharing funds are not required but are encouraged for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO.
- 3. Indirect (F&A) Costs.** NIST will reimburse applicants for proposed indirect (F&A) costs in accordance with [2 CFR § 200.414](#). Applicants proposing indirect (F&A) costs must follow the application requirements set forth in Section IV.2 of this NOFO.

### III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants.** Accredited institutions of higher education (IHEs), as defined at 20 U.S.C. 1001, located in the United States or its territories. An eligible IHE applicant may work individually or include proposed sub-awards or contracts with others, such as non-profits or commercial organizations, in a project application, effectively forming a team or consortium. Additionally, foreign public entities and foreign organizations are not eligible to apply under this NOFO. Although Federal entities are not eligible to receive funding under this NOFO, they may participate as unfunded collaborators.

NIST seeks to collaborate with and encourages applications from a wide range of organizations. Applicants offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs are encouraged to collaborate with U.S. industry.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching.** Cost Sharing or Matching is not required for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO but is encouraged. Applicants proposing voluntary non-federal cost share will not receive merit review evaluative credit, but voluntary non-federal cost share may be used as a Selection Factor. See Section V.2.a.(2) of this NOFO. If voluntary cost sharing is included in the proposal, it will become a binding requirement in accordance with the definition of “Voluntary committed cost sharing” in 2 CFR 200.1.

Non-federal cost sharing is that portion of the project costs not borne by the Federal Government. The applicant’s share of expenses may include cash, services, and third-party in-kind contributions, as described at 2 CFR §200.306. The source and detailed rationale of the cost share, including cash, full- and part-time personnel, and in-kind donations, must be documented in the SF-424A and Budget Narrative and Justification submitted with the application. As with the Federal share, any proposed costs included as non-Federal cost sharing must be an allowable/eligible cost under this program and under the Federal cost principles set forth in 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E. Non-federal cost sharing incorporated into the budget of an approved financial assistance award is subject to audit in the same general manner as Federal award funds. See 2 CFR part 200, Subpart F. For instructions on incorporating cost share into the SF-424A and the Budget Narrative and Justification, see Section IV. Application and Submission Information.

### IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package.** The application package is available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under Funding Opportunity Number 2026-NIST-SCOCD-01.
2. **Content and Form of Application Submission.** Set forth below are the required content and form of applications submitted pursuant to this NOFO.
  - a. **Required Forms and Documents. The Application must contain the following:**

**(1) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance.** The SF-424 must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.

For SF-424, Item 8.d. Zip/Postal Code field, should reflect the Zip code + 4 (#####-####) format.

For SF-424, Item 12, should list the NOFO number 2026-NIST-SCOCD-01.

SF-424, Item 18, should list the total budget information for the duration of the project.

The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Item 21 of the SF-424 is contained in the Federal Financial Assistance Certifications and Representations (Certs and Reps) as part of the SAM.gov entity registration.

**(2) SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs.** The budget should reflect anticipated Federal and non-Federal expenses for the entire project, considering all potential cost increases, including cost of living adjustments. Expenses must be reflected in whole dollars (no cents).

- a) The applicant should reflect each year of the project, up to three (3) years, on the SF-424A form that appears as part of the mandatory forms in the Grants.gov application package
- b) In Section A, the Grant Program Function or Activity on Line 1 under Column (a) should be entered as Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program, CFDA 11.057, or an abbreviation thereof. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number on Line 1 under Column (b) should be entered as “11.057”. The total federal budget amount for the term of the award should be listed in Section A, Line 1, Column (e). The total non-federal budget amount for the term of the award should be listed in Section A, Line 1, Column (f).
- c) Section B, Column (1) of the SF-424A should reflect the costs for each object class category, including indirect charges, for the first year of the award. These costs should reflect the total Federal share plus non-Federal cost share for each category. Section B, Column (2) of the SF-424A should reflect the costs for each object class category, to include indirect charges, for the second year of the award. These costs should reflect the total Federal share plus non-Federal cost share for each category. Section B, Column (3) of the SF-424A should reflect the costs for each object class category, to include indirect charges, for the third year of the award. These costs should reflect the total Federal share plus non-Federal cost share for each category.

- d) Section C may be blank since Non-Federal cost sharing is not required for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO. However, applicants who wish to pledge voluntary cost share to the project must complete the following sections: For Column (b) enter resources provided by the applicant. If not applicable, leave blank. For Column (c), enter resources provided by one or more States. If not applicable, leave blank. For Column (d) enter resources provided by other sources (e.g., in-kind contribution, program income). If not applicable, leave blank.
- e) Section D requires a breakdown of the first year's Federal share and non-Federal share of the budget by quarter.
- f) Section E requires the budget estimate of Federal funds needed for each year of the project. The budget estimate for the first year of the award should be entered in Section E, Line 16, Column (b). The budget estimate for the second year of the award should be entered in Section E, Line 16, Column (c). The budget estimate for the third year of the award should be entered in Section E, Line 16, Column (d). And the budget estimate for the fourth year of the award should be entered in Section E, Line 16, Column (e).

**(3) CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying.** Enter "2026-NIST-SCOCD-01" in the Award Number field. Enter the title of the application, or an abbreviation of that title, in the Project Name field.

**(4) SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** (if applicable).

**(5) Project Narrative.** The Project Narrative is a word-processed document of no more than twelve (12) pages (single-spaced between lines), which is responsive to the program description and the evaluation criteria.

The page limit includes the Cover Page and Executive Summary (not to exceed two (2) pages) and the Project Narrative with all required information (not to exceed ten (10) pages). The twelve (12) page limit includes table of contents, figures, graphs, tables, images, pictures, footnotes, and references.

The Projective Narrative should contain the following information:

- a) **Cover Page and Executive Summary.** The Cover Page and Executive Summary of the project should include: (1) the title of the project and the applicant institution's name and addressal information; (2) the names, titles, mailing address(es), e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of all principal investigators; and (3) includes an Executive Summary of the project consistent with the objectives, requirements, and priorities of this program (see Section I. of this NOFO) including the final project deliverables and information indicating how each evaluation criterion (see

Section V.1. of this NOFO) and its sub-factors are addressed. A table can be helpful in providing this information. The Cover Page and Executive Summary should not exceed two (2) pages. Additional pages beyond the two (2) pages for the Cover Page and Executive Summary will not be considered during the evaluation of the application.

- b) Project Approach and Project Execution Plan.** A detailed scope of work, which includes a description of the project approach and project execution plan to support, advance, and/or integrate content on documentary standards and standardization processes into undergraduate and/or graduate courses, modules, seminars, and learning resources. The description must include sustainable approaches, methods, and models that can be replicated and/or built upon by the participating accredited IHE and by other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities. The SOW must cover all aspects of the project, including: a project execution plan to manage the project tasks and work of all project staff; final deliverables and measurable performance objectives; key interim outputs reflecting the performance objectives; milestones and timelines; short-term and anticipated long-term impacts; the intended audience; and an evaluation plan of the new curricula developed under this award. Additional pages beyond the ten (10) pages for the Project Approach and the Project Execution Plan will not be considered during the evaluation of the application.

This section should address all the elements described in the *Technical Project Approach and Project Execution Plan* Evaluation Criterion (see Section V.1.a. of this NOFO).

- c) Communication and Dissemination Plan.** A Communication and Dissemination Plan to include the applicant's approach to sharing project information, results, and outcomes, and how the proposed sustainable approaches, methods, and models will be replicated and/or built upon by the participating accredited IHE and by other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities, including details on how and when the plan will be implemented. The Communication and Dissemination Plan should include the applicant's action plan for compiling and disseminating project results for public release in relevant media, literature and forums that serve the academic community, including a summary of major conclusions, in the form of a Final Summary Paper, as described in Section I., Section V.1.b.ii. and Section VI.3.a.(3). of this NOFO.

This section should address all the elements described in the *Communication and Dissemination Plan* Evaluation Criterion (see Section V.1.b. of this NOFO).

- d) Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel.** A description of the relevant qualifications and experience of at least two key personnel at the applicant IHE who will be assigned to carry out the objectives of the project including the time commitment to the project, and how their qualifications will enable them to complete the project work. Additional key personnel may be at the applicant IHE or other supporting IHEs and/or organizations.

This section should address all the elements in the *Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel* Evaluation Criterion (see Section V.1.c. of this NOFO).

Resumes of Key Personnel assigned to the project must be provided. Resumes are not included in the page count of the Project Narrative. Resumes are limited to two (2) pages per person and must be responsive to this NOFO. Additional pages beyond the two (2) pages per resume will not be considered during the evaluation of the application.

- e) Resource Availability.** A detailed description and demonstration of appropriate use of funds and cost effectiveness of the proposed budget, including overall support to accomplish project objectives; access to necessary infrastructure and expertise to provide in person and/or distance learning, as applicable; and the applicant's intent to incorporate the project results into curriculum. Resources Availability should also be demonstrated through Letter(s) of Commitment, as described in Section IV.2.a.(7) and Section V.1.d of this NOFO, and a complete and detailed Budget Narrative as described in Section IV.2.a.(6). of this NOFO.

Note that the Project Narrative should be provided as a separate attachment instead of being combined in one (1) PDF with other required documents.

This section should address all the elements in the *Resource Availability Criterion* (see Section V.1.d of this NOFO).

- (6) Budget Narrative and Justification.** There is no set format for the Budget Narrative and Justification; however, further explanation must be provided for the specific cost categories and line items that you identified in the SF-424A form as well as any other information you deem necessary for NIST's consideration.

The written justification should include the necessity and the basis for the cost, as described below. Proposed funding levels must be consistent with the project scope, and only allowable costs should be included in the budget, and all funds should be in whole dollars (no cents). Information on cost allowability is available in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#), which apply to awards in this program.

When cost share is included in the budget, the written justification must also identify the Federal and non-Federal portion of each cost, to include indirect costs, as applicable. (see Cost Sharing Section III.2 of this NOFO for match requirements).

The Budget Narrative does not count against the twelve (12) page limit of the Project Narrative.

This section will be evaluated in accordance with the Budget Narrative evaluation criteria. It will also be reviewed to determine if all costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable under 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart E, Cost Principles.

Information needed for each budget category is as follows:

- a) **Personnel**- At a minimum, the budget justification for all personnel should include the following: job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, total personnel charges for each identified position on the proposed project, description of the role of the individual on the proposed project and the work to be performed.
- b) **Fringe Benefits**- Fringe benefits for each position should be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g., health insurance, parking, etc.) should not be charged under another cost category.
- c) **Travel**- For all travel costs, the budget justification for travel should include the following: destination; names or number of people traveling; dates and/or duration; mode of transportation, lodging and subsistence rates; and description of how the travel is directly related to the proposed project. For travel that is yet to be determined, please provide best estimates based on prior experience. If a destination is not known, an approximate amount may be used with the assumptions given for the location of the meeting.
- d) **Equipment**- For this NOFO, equipment is not an eligible cost category.
- e) **Supplies**- Supplies are defined as all tangible personal property. Provide a list of each supply, and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project. The total budget for the supplies categories may not exceed \$3,000.
- f) **Contractual (i.e., Contracts or Subawards)**- Each contract or subaward should be treated as a separate item. Identify the cost and describe the

services to be provided and the necessity of the subaward or contract to the successful performance of the proposed project. Contracts are for obtaining goods and services for the Non-Federal Entity's own use and create a procurement relationship with the contractor. A subaward is for the purpose of carrying out a portion of a Federal award and creating a Federal assistance relationship with the subrecipient. Foreign entities are not eligible to receive contracts or subawards under this program.

- g) Construction-** Not an allowable cost under this NOFO.
- h) Other Direct Costs-** For costs that do not easily fit into the other cost categories, please list the cost, and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project. Only allowable costs can be charged to the award.
- i) Indirect Costs-** Commonly referred to as Facilities & Administrative Costs, Indirect Costs are defined as costs incurred by the applicant organization that cannot otherwise be directly assigned or attributed to a specific project. The justification should include a cost calculation that reflects the applicable indirect cost rate. For more details, see Section IV.2.a.(8) of this NOFO.

- (7) Letters of Commitment.** Letters of Commitment of no more than two (2) pages each must be submitted by all proposed funded and unfunded entities that will have an active role in executing the activities outlined in the Project Narrative including:

A Letter of Commitment signed by leadership within the applicant's organization must demonstrate the organization's intent to incorporate the project results into undergraduate and/or graduate curriculum and the extent to which the applicant has the overall support necessary to accomplish project objectives, consistent with the Resource Availability Evaluation Criterion (see Section V.1.d. of this NOFO).

Letters of Commitment from other organizations who will collaborate on the project, especially industry and/or other IHEs who plan to integrate the proposed curricula into a program(s) and/or support the development and revision of the proposed curricula to benefit undergraduate and/or graduate students.

Letters of Commitment must address the level of participation, relevant qualifications of the personnel who will be actively involved (e.g., standards development experience and knowledge, curricula development experience, etc.) of the personnel who will be actively involved, and how successful completion of this project will positively impact undergraduate and/or graduate students.

Letters of Commitment must also specify any voluntary committed cost share, including the specific services and/or products to be used in the project. Letters of

Commitment must be signed by an individual with authority to legally bind the organization to its commitment.

Letters of Commitment do not count against the page limit of the Project Narrative. Additional pages beyond the two (2) pages per letter will not be considered during the evaluation of the application.

Letters of Commitment will not be accepted from NIST or other federal personnel or elected officials.

This section should address the relevant element on Letters of Commitment in the *Resources Availability* Evaluation Criterion (see Section V.1.d.i of this NOFO).

- (8) Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.** If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement if this rate was negotiated with a cognizant Federal audit agency. If the rate was not established by a cognizant Federal audit agency, provide a statement to this effect. If the successful applicant includes indirect costs in the budget and has not established an indirect cost rate with a cognizant Federal audit agency, the applicant will be required to obtain such a rate in accordance with Section B.06 of the [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#).

Alternatively, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), applicants that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate except for those non-Federal entities described in [appendix VII](#), paragraph D.1.b. of 2 CFR 200 may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC). Applicants proposing a 15 percent de minimis rate pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f) should note this election as part of the budget portion of the application.

- (9) Current and Pending Support Form.** Any application that includes investigators, researchers, and key personnel must identify all sources of current and potential funding, including this proposal. Any current project support (e.g., Federal, state, local, public, or private foundations, etc.) must be listed on this form. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, and key personnel must be included, even if no salary support is received. The total award amount for the entire award period covered, including indirect costs, must be shown as well as the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of the source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or that are being submitted concurrently to other potential funders.

Applicants must complete the Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form, using multiple forms as necessary to account for all activity for each individual identified in the PI, co-PI, and key personnel roles. A separate form should be used for each identified individual.

Applicants must download the [NIST Current and Pending Support](#) and reference the guidance provided as it contains information to assist with accurately completing the form.

**b. Attachment of Required Documents**

Items IV.2.a.(1) through IV.2.a.(4) above are part of the standard application package in Grants.gov and can be completed through the download application process.

Items IV.2.a.(5) through IV.2.a.(9) should be attached to field 15 of the SF-424 form by clicking on “Add Attachments”.

Following these directions will create zip files which permit transmittal of the documents electronically via Grants.gov.

Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions at [Grants.gov](#) to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicates only that an application was transferred to a system. It does not provide details concerning whether all attachments (or how many attachments) transferred successfully. Applicants will receive a series of e-mail messages over a period of up to two business days before learning whether a Federal agency’s electronic system has received its application.

Applicants are strongly advised to use “[Download Submitted Forms and Applications](#)” on grants.gov to check that their application’s required attachments were contained in their submission.

After submitting the application, check the status of your application here: [Check Application Status](#). If any, or all, of the required attachments are absent from the submission, follow the attachment directions found above, resubmit the application, and check again for the presence of the required attachments.

If the directions found on the [Grants.gov Online Help](#) page are not effective, please contact the Grants.gov Help Desk immediately. If calling from within the United States or from a U.S. territory, please call 800-518-4726. If calling from a place outside the United States or a U.S. territory, please call 606-545-5035. E-mails should be addressed to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, with the exception of Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays.

Applicants can track their submission in the Grants.gov system by following the procedures at the [Track My Application](#). It can take up to two business days for an application to fully move through the Grants.gov system to NIST.

NIST uses the Tracking Numbers assigned by Grants.gov and does not issue Agency Tracking Numbers.

**c. Application Format**

- (1) Paper, Email, and Facsimile (fax) Submissions.** Will not be accepted.
- (2) Figures, Graphs, Images, and Pictures.** It should be of a size that is easily readable or viewable and may be displayed in landscape orientation. Any figures, graphs, images, or pictures will count toward the page limits for the Project Narrative.
- (3) Font.** Easy to read font (12-point minimum). Smaller types may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
- (4) Margins.** One-inch margins on all four sides.
- (5) Page Limit.** The Project Narrative is limited to twelve (12) pages single-spaced, noting the limit of two (2) pages for the Cover Page and Executive Summary. Resumes are not included in the page count of the Project Narrative and must be a maximum of two (2) pages each.
- (6) Page Limit Exclusions:**
  - SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance;
  - SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs;
  - CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying;
  - SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable);
  - Resumes (limited to two (2) pages per person);
  - Budget Narrative and Justification;
  - Letters of Commitment limited to two (2) pages per letter);
  - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement;
  - Current and Pending Support Form(s).
- (7) Page Layout.** The Proposal must be in portrait orientation.
- (8) Page size.** 21.6 centimeters by 27.9 centimeters (8 ½ inches by 11 inches).
- (9) Page numbering.** Number pages sequentially.
- (10) Application language.** All documents must be in English, including but not limited to the initial application, any additional documents submitted in response to a NIST request, all reports, and any correspondence with NIST.
- (11) Typed document.** All applications, including forms, must be typed; handwritten forms will not be accepted.

**d. Application Replacement Pages.** Applicants may not submit replacement pages and/or missing documents once an application has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by NIST by the submission deadline.

**e. Pre-Applications.** Pre-applications will not be accepted under this NOFO.

**3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM).**

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. part 25, applicants and recipients are required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency, unless otherwise excepted from these requirements pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 25.110. NIST will not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time that NIST is ready to make a Federal award pursuant to this NOFO, NIST may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

**4. Submission Dates and Times Dates.** Full Applications must be received at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, July 13, 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Applicants should be aware, and factor in their application submission planning, that the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) system closes periodically for routine maintenance. Applicants should visit [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for information on any scheduled closures. Applications cannot be submitted when [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) is closed.

NIST expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and award processing by September 2026. NIST expects the earliest start date for awards under this NOFO to be October 2026.

When developing the submission timeline, please keep in mind that: (1) all applicants are required to have current registrations in the electronic System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov; (2) the free annual registration process in the SAM.gov generally takes between three and five business days but can take more than three weeks; and applicants will receive e-mail notifications over a period of up to two business days as the application moves through intermediate systems before the applicant learns via a validation or rejection notification whether NIST has received the application. (See [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for full information on application and notification through Grants.gov.) Please note that a Federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is not current at the time of the award.

5. **Intergovernmental Review.** Applications submitted by State and local governments are subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," pursuant to which each State designates an entity to coordinate, and review proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development. All other applicants should consult the [Intergovernmental Review State Single Point of Contact \(SPOC\)](#) to determine whether the application is subject to State review pursuant to E.O. 12372.
6. **Funding Restrictions.** Applicants should review Section I. of this NOFO for eligible program activities and for eligible costs under this program. In addition to the discussion in Section I.. of this NOFO, construction activities are not an allowable cost under this program. Also, a recipient or a subrecipient may not charge profits, fees, or other increments above cost to an award issued pursuant to this NOFO.

Applications for product development and/or commercialization are not considered responsive to this NOFO. Activities involving researching an idea for a project, and the evaluation of the viability, necessity, or usefulness of a project are not within the scope of the NIST SCO CD CAP and will not be funded; ideas for projects should be fully developed prior to submitting an application for consideration. Individuals proposed to participate in projects, as detailed in the project budget, must already have the necessary knowledge and expertise to successfully complete the project at the time the proposal for funding is submitted; coursework, training, certifications, etc. will not be funded under this program. Activities involving K-12 education and workforce/industry education will not be funded under this program. Applicants may not request funding for food/beverage or catering. The total budget for the equipment and supplies categories may not exceed \$3,000 combined. (See Section I. of this NOFO).

## 7. Other Submission Requirements

- a. **Applications must be submitted at [Grants.gov](#). Paper applications will not be accepted.** Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure that all attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating an application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2026-NIST-SCOCD-01 announcement, contact the Grants.gov Help Desk at 800-518-4726
- b. **Amendments.** Any amendments to this NOFO will be announced through Grants.gov. Applicants may sign up on Grants.gov to receive amendments by e-mail.

## **V. Application Review Information**

**1. Evaluation Criteria.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications and their assigned weights are as follows:

**a. Project Approach and Project Execution Plan.** Reviewers will evaluate the following criterion for a total of 0-50 points (subcriteria will be weighed equally):

i. The technical merit of the project and the extent to which the project and approach supports, advances, or integrates content on standards and standardization processes into undergraduate and/or graduate courses, modules, seminars, and learning resources, including sustainable approaches, methods, and models that can be replicated and/or built upon by the applicant and by other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities. This also includes assessing the usefulness and effectiveness of the project with regard to educating undergraduate and/or graduate students about standards and standardization. (See Section I. of this NOFO) (0-25 points)

ii. The extent to which the scope of work is complete and appropriate, providing a coherent project execution plan to effectively manage: the project tasks and work of all project staff; final deliverables and measurable performance objectives; key interim outputs reflecting the performance objectives; milestones and timelines; short-term and anticipated long-term impacts; the intended audience; and an evaluation plan for the new curricula developed under this award. This includes assessing the extent to which the proposed methodology of program management is likely to ensure effective operations and oversight and meet program goals and objectives. (See Section IV.2.a.(5)b. of this NOFO) (0-25 points)

**b. Communication and Dissemination Plan.** Reviewers will evaluate the following subcategories for a total of 0-15 points (subcriteria will be weighed equally):

i. The extent to which the proposed Communication and Dissemination Plan demonstrate how the proposed sustainable approaches, methods, and models can be replicated and/or built upon by the participating accredited IHE and by other educational programs at U.S. colleges and universities. (0-5 points)

ii. The extent to which the proposed Communication and Dissemination Plan enables broadly sharing project information and outcomes with relevant organizations, communities, or fields of practice through presentations, papers, news releases, newsletters, professional journals, exhibits, conferences, workshops, seminars, exhibits and trade shows, websites, and other appropriate media and forums that serve the academic community; this includes a plan for composing and disseminating a summary of major accomplishments and conclusions in the form of a Final Summary Paper as described in Section I. and Section VI.3.a.(3). of this NOFO. (0-5 points)

iii. The quality and completeness of the approach to implementing the Communication Plan (see Section I. of this NOFO). (0-5 points)

**c. Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel.** Reviewers will evaluate the following subcategories for a total of 0-15 points (subcriteria will be weighed equally):

i. Relevant qualifications and experience of key personnel from the applicant IHE and their knowledge of the current state, impact, and nature of standards and standardization activities. (0-5 points)

ii. Demonstrated ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders (e.g., subject matter experts, curricula development professionals, university public affairs personnel, industry, etc.) to successfully complete the project. Staff with different experience and expertise may be responsible for different aspects of the project. (0-5 points)

iii. Demonstrated experience in curricula development. (0-5 points).

**d. Resource Availability.** Reviewers will evaluate the following for a total of 0-20 points (subcriteria will be weighed equally):

i. The extent to which the applicant has demonstrated overall support necessary to successfully achieve the project objectives, including the extent to which the proposal, including the Letter(s) of Commitment (see Section IV.2.a.(7). of this NOFO), demonstrates the applicant's intent to incorporate the proposed project results into curriculum; appropriate and qualified key personnel; and staff access to necessary infrastructure and expertise to provide in person and/or distance learning, as applicable. (0-10 points).

ii. The appropriateness and cost effectiveness of the proposed budget, including whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate for the scale of effort to be undertaken by the applicant, and if the applicant is using available resources effectively to complete the project, as described in Section I. and Section IV.2.a.(5)e and (6) of this NOFO. (0-10 points).

## **2. Selection Factors**

**a.** The Selection Factors for this competition are:

- (1) the availability of funding;
- (2) whether the applicant is proposing to contribute a material amount of voluntary non-federal cost share to support the overall project;
- (3) whether the project duplicates other projects funded by NIST, other Federal agencies, or other organizations;
- (4) diversity of the proposed project topics relative to the overall portfolio of activities funded under this NOFO; and

- (5) diversity in geography and organizational types among past awardees and current applicants being recommended for award (e.g., regional, types of accredited IHEs such as community colleges, universities, etc.).

**3. Review and Selection Process.** Proposals, reports, documents, and other information related to applications submitted to NIST and/or relating to financial assistance awards issued by NIST will be reviewed and considered by Federal employees, or non-Federal personnel who have entered into conflicts of interest and confidentiality agreements covering such information, when applicable.

**a. Initial Administrative Review of Applications.**

Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed to determine eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to this NOFO and to the scope of the stated program objectives. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, and/or nonresponsive may be eliminated from further review. However, NIST, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for an application that is missing non-substantive information, the absence of which may easily be rectified during the review process.

**b. Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications.** Applications that are determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive will proceed for full reviews in accordance with the review and selection process below:

**(1) Merit Review.** At least three (3) independent, objective reviewers, who may be Federal employees or non-Federal personnel, with appropriate professional and technical expertise relating to the topics covered in this NOFO and who sign the required NIST Conflict-of-Interest and Confidentiality Declaration, will evaluate and score each eligible, complete, and responsive application based on the evaluation criteria. While every application will have at least three (3) reviewers, applications may have more than three (3) reviewers if specialized expertise is needed to evaluate an application. During the review process, the reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not a consensus. Based on the numerical average of the reviewers' scores, a rank order will be prepared and provided to the Selecting Official for further consideration.

The Program Office, in consultation with the Grants Officer, may contact applicants to clarify contents of an application. Clarifying information obtained from applicants will be considered by the reviewers who may adjust their scores based on such information.

**(2) Selection.** The Selecting Official, the Director of NIST's Standards Coordination Office or their designee, will make final award recommendations to the NIST Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall generally select and recommend the most meritorious application[s] for an award based upon the rank order of the applications and one or more of the Selection Factors. The

Selecting Official retains the discretion to select and recommend an application out of rank order based on one or more of the Selection Factors in Section V.2. of this NOFO.

NIST reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with any applicant selected to receive an award, which may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs. Additionally, NIST may request that successful applicants modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information required by NIST prior to award. NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. NIST may select some, all, or none of the applications, or part(s) of any application. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final.

- c. Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.** After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the NIST Financial Assistance Agreements Management Office (FAAMO) performs pre-award risk assessments in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.206, which may include a review of the financial stability of an applicant, the quality of the applicant’s management systems, the history of performance, and/or the applicant’s ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

In addition, prior to making an award where the total Federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), NIST FAAMO will review and consider the publicly available information about that applicant in the [Responsibility/Qualification records](#) about that applicant in [SAM.gov](#) (formerly the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)). An applicant may, at its discretion, review, and comment on information about itself previously entered into [SAM.gov](#) by a Federal awarding agency. As part of its review of risk posed by applicants, NIST FAAMO will consider any comments made by the applicant in [SAM.gov](#) in making its determination about the applicant’s integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards. Upon completion of the pre-award risk assessment, the Grants Officer will make a responsibility determination concerning whether the applicant is qualified to receive the subject award and, if so, whether appropriate specific award conditions that correspond to the degree of risk posed by the applicant should be applied to an award.

#### **4. Anticipated Announcement and Award Date**

Review of applications, selection of successful applicants, and award processing is expected to be completed by September 2026. The earliest start date for awards under this NOFO is expected to be October 2026.

## 5. Additional Information

- a. **Safety.** NIST is committed to maintaining a work environment that safeguards the public and the environment, as well as Government personnel and property. Employees, contractors, and other associates of award recipients who conduct project work at a NIST-owned or operated site will be required to comply with all applicable NIST safety policies and procedures, and with all applicable terms of their guest research agreement.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).** NIST may provide the following generic PPE: reusable hard hats, lab coats, non-prescription safety glasses, face shields, laser safety glasses, clean room PPE where required, and disposable gloves and earplugs. The employer shall provide all required person-specific, non-disposable, PPE specific to the work performed and the associated hazards. This type of PPE may include but is not limited to custom-fitted safety shoes and prescription safety glasses.

**Medical Services Related to Safety/Hazards.** NIST shall perform health hazard evaluations associated with the recipient's employees contractors, and associates' work at a NIST-owned or operated site that involves the potential exposure to a health hazard, to make the determination of the need for medical surveillance. Award recipients are responsible for providing the medical services and tests required for any applicable medical surveillance program.

- b. **Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants.** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by e-mail and will have the opportunity to receive a debriefing after the opportunity is officially closed. Applicants must request the debrief by the date indicated in the email notification, as instructed. The program office will then work with the unsuccessful applicant in arranging a date and time of the debrief.
- c. **Retention of Unsuccessful Applications.** Unsuccessful applications will be retained in accordance with the [General Record Schedule 1.2/021](#).

## VI. Federal Award Administration Information

1. **Federal Award Notices.** Successful applicants will receive an award package from the NIST Grants Officer.
2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
  - a. **Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements.** Through [2 C.F.R. § 1327.101](#), the DOC adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#), which apply to awards in this program.

- b. **DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions.** The [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#) will be applied to each award in this program.
3. **Executive Order 14173.** Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity
- 1) This award term implements Executive Order 14173, 90 FR 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025). By accepting a U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) financial assistance Award or Award Amendment (as the case may be) and expending federal funding thereunder, the recipient:
- a. Agrees that compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of Title 31 United States Code;
  - b. Certifies to the Department that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws; and
  - c. Further certifies to the Department that it does not participate in any illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs, activities, guidance, regulations, enforcement actions, consent orders, and requirements, that violate any applicable federal anti-discrimination laws.
- 2) Affirmative Duty to Monitor for and to Report Potential Inconsistencies: The recipient must actively monitor its administration of an award to ensure that its activities do not violate the requirements of this award, including this SAC. At any time during the period of performance of this award, if the recipient believes that any of the activities in its approved scope of work may be inconsistent with the policies as outlined above, the recipient has an affirmative duty to immediately stop work on those potentially inconsistent activities and immediately contact the Grants Officer named in the Notice of Award (NoA) to determine whether the potentially inconsistent activities may proceed under this award. The performance of activities that violate or are otherwise inconsistent with requirements as outlined above will result in appropriate enforcement action pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, including the disallowance of costs and possible termination of a portion or all of this award.
- d. **Pre-Award Notification Requirements.** The DOC will apply the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements dated December 30, 2014 ([79 FR 78390](#)). Refer to Section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations, for more information.
- e. **Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability.** Funding for the program listed in this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. NIST or the DOC will not be responsible for application preparation costs, including but not limited to if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of agency priorities. Publication of this NOFO does not oblige NIST or the DOC to award any specific

project or to obligate any available funds. In accord with 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4), NIST may unilaterally terminate an award issued under this NOFO, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the award, including to the extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

**f. Collaborations with NIST Employees.**

All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed by an entity other than the applicant, and the cost of such work should ordinarily be included in the budget. If an applicant proposes collaboration with NIST, the statement of work should include a statement of this intention, a description of the collaboration, and prominently identify the NIST employee(s) involved. Any collaboration by a NIST employee must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the approval of the proposed collaboration. Any unapproved collaboration will be stricken from the application prior to the merit review. Any collaboration with an identified NIST employee that is approved by appropriate NIST management will not make an application more or less favorable in the competitive process. NIST's costs should not be included in the application.

- g. Use of Federal Government-Owned Intellectual Property.** If the applicant anticipates using any Federal Government-owned intellectual property, in the custody of NIST or another Federal agency, to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should clearly identify such intellectual property in the proposal. This information will be used to ensure that no Federal employee involved in the development of intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use the Federal Government-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described in 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-212, 37 C.F.R. Part 401, 2 C.F.R. §200.315, and in Section C.03 of the [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Chief Counsel for NIST, (301) 975-2803, [nistcounsel@nist.gov](mailto:nistcounsel@nist.gov).

Any use of Federal Government-owned intellectual property by a recipient of an award under this announcement is at the sole discretion of the Federal Government and will need to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis by the recipient and the Federal agency having custody of the intellectual property if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek a license from the applicable Federal agency.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this NOFO, the United States Government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of the Federal Government's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by the Federal Government, through NIST as custodian of such inventions, and include the

possibility of the Federal Government putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

### 3. Reporting

- a. Reporting Requirements.** The following reporting requirements described in Sections A.01, Reporting Requirements, of the [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#), apply to awards in this program:
- (1) Financial Reports.** Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year. Reports will be due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. A final financial report is due within 120 days after the end of the project period.
  - (2) Performance (Technical) Reports.** Each award recipient will be required to submit a technical progress report on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year. Reports will be due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Technical progress reports shall contain information as prescribed in [2 C.F.R. § 200.329](#) and [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#), Section A.01. A final technical progress report is due within 120 days after the end of the project period.
  - (3) Final Summary Paper.** In addition, each award recipient is required to submit a Final Summary Paper of major accomplishments and conclusions of approximately 10 pages in length that describes the project and its importance, explains the original project goals, describes the project outcomes, describes how the curricula was evaluated, and reports the findings and lessons learned, including a summary of the project's suitability and potential for adoption at other U.S. IHEs. It must be in a publicly releasable format and must not contain any personal or proprietary information. The Final Summary Paper is due to the Federal Program Officer 60 days before the end of the project period. See Section I. and Section V.1.b.ii of this NOFO.
  - (4) Patent and Property Reports.** From time to time, and in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements and other terms and conditions governing the award, the recipient may need to submit property and patent reports.
  - (5) Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.** In accordance with section 872 of Public Law 110-417 (as amended; see 41 U.S.C. 2313), if the total value of a recipient's currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of an award made under this NOFO, then the recipient shall be subject to the requirements specified in [Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#), for maintaining the currency of information

reported to SAM that is made available in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) about certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings involving the recipient.

- b. Audit Requirements.** The [DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#), Section D.01, and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F, adopted by the DOC through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, require any non-Federal entity (i.e., including non-profit institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations) that expends Federal awards of \$1,000,000 or more in the recipient’s fiscal year to conduct a single or program specific audit in accordance with the requirements set out in the Subpart. Additionally, unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the award, entities that are not subject to Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (e.g., for-profit commercial entities) that expend \$1,000,000 or more in DOC funds during their fiscal year must submit to the Grants Officer either: (i) a financial related audit of each DOC award or subaward in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards; or (ii) a project specific audit for each award or subaward in accordance with the requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.507. Applicants are reminded that NIST, the DOC Office of Inspector General, or another authorized Federal agency may conduct an audit of an award at any time.
  
- c. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.** In accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of \$30,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Also see the [Federal Register](#) notice published September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663.

**VII. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

Questions should be directed to the following:

Subject Area	Point of Contact
Programmatic and Technical Questions	Mary Jo DiBernardo E-mail: <a href="mailto:scocdcap@nist.gov">scocdcap@nist.gov</a> with “2026-NIST-SCOCD-01” in the subject line
Technical Assistance with Grants.gov Submissions	<a href="https://grants.gov">grants.gov</a> Phone: 800-518-4726 E-mail: <a href="mailto:support@grants.gov">support@grants.gov</a>
Grant Rules and Regulations	Michael Teske E-mail: <a href="mailto:michael.teske@nist.gov">michael.teske@nist.gov</a>

## **VIII. Other Information**

- 1. Personal and Business Information.** The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the DOC in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed, and evaluated by DOC employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with DOC and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a DOC financial assistance award.

In addition, DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Federal Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. If an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the DOC will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

- 2. Public Website**  
NIST Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program has a public website, <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/nist-standards-services-curricula-development-cooperative-agreement-program>, that provides information pertaining to this Funding Opportunity<sup>2</sup>. Any amendments to this NOFO will be announced through Grants.gov.
- 3. Applicants must submit all questions pertaining to this funding opportunity in writing to [scocdcap@nist.gov](mailto:scocdcap@nist.gov) with 2026-NIST-SCOCD-01 in the subject line.**

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to Section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Programmatic and Technical Questions if more information is needed.