



NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Please note: this document, which contains all of the questions that comprise the Accelerator Grants Year 1 Proposal Form, has been created to support institutions looking to get a sense of the full contents of this portion of the application, without having to click through the entire Microsoft Form. As the watermark on this document indicates, this version of the proposal form is for informational use only. Only a completed Microsoft Form will satisfy that portion of the application requirements.

INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY

New England Prison Education Collaborative (NEPEC) Accelerator Grants Year 1 Proposal Form

The New England Prison Education Collaborative (NEPEC), with support from Ascendium Education Group, is pleased to release this Request for Proposals (RFP) for the inaugural round of NEPEC Accelerator Grants. In Year 1, NEPEC is prepared to award five Accelerator Grants to five eligible postsecondary institutions located across the New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Each awardee will be working to increase Pell-eligible postsecondary programming within the state where they are located. This could include institutions with active Pell-eligible Prison Education Programs (PEPs) but also those at various stages in the development of such programs. Taken together, the five projects funded by these five inaugural Accelerator Grants will meaningfully advance NEPEC's mission to help actualize a future where every incarcerated person in New England has access to high-quality, workforce-aligned, equitable postsecondary opportunities with a diverse range of educational pathways. At the core of each funded project will be an unshakable commitment to holistic student support for learners at every step along the intake-to-reentry continuum

Applications are due by 5 P.M. EDT on Friday, June 6, 2025.

** Required*

I. Applying Institution Information

This section collects basic information regarding the applying institution.

Q1. Institution Name *

Q2. In which New England state is the applying institution located? *

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

Q3. Which of the following best describes the applying institution? *

- Independent four-year institution
- Public four-year institution
- Public two-year institution

Q4. Which of the following best describes the program at the center of this proposed project? *

- Non-degree, credit-bearing coursework
- Certificate

- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Other

Q5. For the program referenced above, please select the option below that best describes where the applying postsecondary institution is in the U.S. Department of Education Prison Education Program (PEP) approval process: *

- The applying institution has not yet begun the PEP approval process.
- The applying institution is in the middle of the PEP approval process.
- The applying institution has received their PEP approval letter.

Q1 – branched > “Project Lead Information” section

Q1 – branched > Please select the stage that best describes where the applying institution is in the middle of the PEP approval process *

- PEP application has been submitted to the oversight entity (DOC) for initial assessment.
- PEP application has been rejected by DOC and the applying institution is moving forward with a revised submission.
- DOC-approved application has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.
- U.S. Department of Education-approved application has been submitted for DOC signature.
- DOC-signed and U.S. Department of Education-approved application has been submitted to accreditor.

Q1– branched > (Optional) The space below can be used to further elaborate on where the applying institution is in the middle of the PEP approval process.

Q1 – branched > Please note the date when the applying postsecondary institution received final PEP approval. *

II. **Project Lead Information**

The project lead should be an employee of the applying institution.

Q1. Project Lead First and Last Name *

Q2. Project Lead Title *

Q3. Project Lead Department/Division *

Q4. Project Lead Email Address *

Q5. Project Lead Direct Phone Number *

III. **Correctional Facility Partner(s) Information**

This section collects basic information on formal correctional partnerships that the applying institution will be engaging in the proposed project.

Q1. Does the applying institution currently have an established formal partnership with an in-state correctional facility that it will be engaging in this proposed project? *

- Yes, one or more correctional facilities¹
- No, the institution is working to establish a partnership with a correctional facility.²

Q1 – branched > “**Correctional Facility 1**” section

IV. **Correctional Facility 1**³

Q1. Correctional Facility 1 Name *

Q2. Facility Partnership 1 - Correctional Lead First and Last Name *

Q3. Facility Partnership 1 - Correctional Lead Title *

Q4. Facility Partnership 1 - Correctional Lead Division *

Q5. Facility Partnership 1 - Correctional Lead Email Address *

Q6. Facility Partnership 1 - Correctional Lead Direct Phone Number *

Q7. Is there an additional correctional facility for which the applying institution would like to provide information? *

- Yes
- No

V. “**Correctional Facility 1**” Q7 – branched > “**Correctional Facility 2**” section⁴

Q1. Correctional Facility 1 Name *

Q2. Facility Partnership 2 - Correctional Lead First and Last Name *

Q3. Facility Partnership 2 - Correctional Lead Title *

Q4. Facility Partnership 2 - Correctional Lead Division *

Q5. Facility Partnership 2 - Correctional Lead Email Address *

Q6. Facility Partnership 2 - Correctional Lead Direct Phone Number *

Q7. Is there an additional correctional facility for which the applying institution would like to provide information? *

¹ Please note that if the applicant indicates they have a formal partnership with one or more correctional facilities, they will be prompted to provide the information for at least one correctional facility (see section IV). After providing information for the first facility, applicants will be prompted to indicate whether they want to provide information for another facility. If they do, they will be taken to section V. If they do not, they will be taken to section VII. The same branching applies to section V.

² Please note that if the applicant selects this option, they will be prompted to answer two more required questions: (1) Please provide the name of the correctional facility that the applying institution is seeking to formalize a partnership with for the purpose of the proposed project. (2) What is the current status of the applying institution’s effort to formalize this partnership?

³ Please see footnote one for information on this question’s branching.

⁴ Please see footnote one for information on this question’s branching.

- Yes
- No

VI. “**Correctional Facility 2**” Q7 – branched > “**Correctional Facility 3**” section⁵

Q1. Correctional Facility 1 Name *

Q2. Facility Partnership 3 - Correctional Lead First and Last Name *

Q3. Facility Partnership 3 - Correctional Lead Title *

Q4. Facility Partnership 3 - Correctional Lead Division *

Q5. Facility Partnership 3 - Correctional Lead Email Address *

Q6. Facility Partnership 3 - Correctional Lead Direct Phone Number *

VII. **Project Description**

Q1. Which of the following eligible activities does the proposed project align with? *

- A New England postsecondary institution seeking support for an **emerging PEP** that will meet an established need within the ecosystem for postsecondary programming in prison in its state.
- A New England postsecondary institution seeking support to expand an existing **PEP** with a track record of initial success to a new facility to meet an established need within the ecosystem for postsecondary programming in prison in its state.
- A New England postsecondary institution that is seeking support for an **emerging PEP** or the expansion of an existing **PEP** that relies on—or will rely on—partnership with one or more additional postsecondary institutions. This collaborative model for programming will be carried out to meet an established need within the ecosystem for postsecondary programming in prison in the applying institution’s state.
- A New England postsecondary institution seeking to transform a privately funded **higher education in prison (HEP) program** into a **PEP** by completing the multi-phase federal approval process.
- A New England postsecondary institution with an **emerging PEP** or an existing **PEP** that is seeking support for implementing a comprehensive reentry strategy—or meaningfully expanding an existing one.

Q2. Please provide a detailed narrative explanation of the parameters of the proposed project (about 250 to 500 words in length).

⁵ Applicants will only be prompted to answer this question if they indicated on Q7 that they would like to provide the information for an additional correctional facility.

*Please make particular mention of how the proposed project will emphasize programming quality and prioritize access and affordability for students. **

Q3. Please outline the specific phases of implementation for the proposed project. *

Q4. Please describe any factors that might delay implementation for the proposed project and what steps the applying institution is prepared to take to minimize related setbacks. *

Q5. What training will be provided to faculty and staff who will serve students through the proposed project? *

Q6. Does the program at the center of the proposed project plan to use any of the following trauma-informed practices to support student success for incarcerated learners?

Please select all that apply.

- Trauma-informed training for faculty and staff
- Culturally responsive curriculum
- Peer mentorship for learners
- Mental health and holistic wellness support
- Integration of restorative practices in programming
- Partnership with community-based service providers
- All of the above
- Other

Q7. Please describe the anticipated impact(s) of the proposed project if it is funded and implemented (e.g., would the proposed project fill a key statewide ecosystem gap?) *

Q8. What resources can the applying institution muster to support continued operation of the proposed project beyond the 12-month funding period? *

VIII. **Project Budget**

In this section of the proposal, the applying institution will want to draw on its completed project budget spreadsheet.

Q1. Please provide a budget narrative contextualizing the proposed allocations on the project budget spreadsheet (e.g., explain the need for a new hire and what this individual's role would entail). *

Q2. How will Accelerator Grant funding provide the applying institution with what it needs to move forward the eligible activity at the center of the proposed project? *

Q3. Will the applying institution be drawing on additional resources--beyond Accelerator Grant funding--to support implementation of the proposed project?

*These resources could be those that make up the difference between the "Total Cost" and the "Funding Request" columns on the applying institution's project budget spreadsheet, for example. Beyond this, additional resources might include the time of faculty or staff who are not listed on the project budget spreadsheet but who will be making meaningful contributions to implementation. **

IX. **Additional Application Requirements**

Beyond completing this proposal form, the following 3 items should be emailed to nepec@nebhe.org:

Project Budget Spreadsheet: The applying institution must download the template linked in the RFP and create a project budget spreadsheet that details its proposed allocation of Accelerator Grant funds across the approved spending categories, for which definitions are included in Tab 2 of the template.

Letter of Institutional Support: The applying institution must include a letter from its president or an authorized institutional official, to ensure that what is proposed is in alignment with strategic priorities for the institution.

Letter of Correctional Support: The applying institution must include a letter from its state's Department of Corrections (DOC) expressing support for the proposed project.

Q1. Project Budget Spreadsheet - Please note the date that this was sent to nepec@nebhe.org *

Q2. Letter of Institutional Support - Please note the date that this was sent to nepec@nebhe.org

Q3. Letter of Correctional Support - Please note the date that this was sent to nepec@nebhe.org

X. **Supplemental Documents**

Applying institutions are welcome to submit additional documents that they feel will meaningfully enhance their application. These supplemental documents should be emailed to nepec@nebhe.org in advance of the 5 P.M. EDT deadline on Friday, June 6, 2025, to ensure their consideration in evaluation of the application.

For proposed projects that are seeking to be awarded an additional point for integrating into the proposal meaningful collaboration with a reentry-focused community-based organization or nonprofit, the applying institution will need

to submit an additional letter of support from leadership at that collaborative entity.