

2021-2022 Work-Based Learning Health Services Academies Request for Applications

I. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Under [Section 251 of PA 9 of 2022](#), \$250,000 is provided for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to allocate as competitive grants to school districts and intermediate school districts that offer pupils in grades 9 through 12 expanded opportunities for work-based learning health services academies hosted in partnership with Name A Future (NAF). Programs funded under this subsection are intended to increase the number of pupils who are college and career-ready after high school graduation in the critical-needs occupations in health care services.

Work-based learning (WBL) is an instructional strategy designed to help students connect what they learn in the classroom with what is expected in the workplace by integrating learning with real-world applications in partnership with industry professionals. A high-quality work-based learning program should provide a continuum of diverse work-relevant experiences that (a) allow students to build on their knowledge and skills and (b) become more complex as students move through their learning pathways. At the time of graduation, a high-quality work-based learning program should be able to show a measurable impact on student readiness.

[NAF Academies of Health Sciences](#) act as a solution to addressing these workforce needs by providing high school students with industry-focused courses and hands-on, work-based learning experiences with professionals. NAF's Health Sciences curricula include courses on Anatomy & Physiology, Global Health, Health Career Explorations, Professional Ethics, and Biotechnology, which provide the foundational knowledge and transferable skills and competencies necessary for success in high-demand health services careers.

Each NAF Academy of Health Sciences builds a program of study from NAF's Health Sciences curricula tailored to support learning in select career paths. NAF also allows academies to use select state-approved courses, such as dual-enrollment and early college courses, directly connected with their academy theme. For the purpose of this grant opportunity, a new NAF Academy of Health Sciences Academies must focus on critical-need occupations in health care services. According to [Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook](#), [MI Going Pro Career Finder](#), and the [MI Career Pathfinder](#), the following careers in health care services are in high demand: [Diagnostic Medical Sonographer](#), [Respiratory Therapist](#), [Physical Therapist Assistant](#), [Healthcare Social Worker](#), [Medical and Health Services Manager](#), [Nurse Practitioner](#), [Dental Hygienist](#), and [Registered Nurse](#). In addition to the careers identified above, a set of credentials have been identified as important to the health care industry by the Michigan Department of Education - Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE) and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Workforce Development (LEO-WD) through the [Career Pathways Grant](#). These include Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

(CCMA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Certified Nursing Aide (CNA), EKG Technician Certification (CET), Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT), Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT), and Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant Credential Tip Sheet (CPCT/A).

A NAF Academy of Health Sciences is required to have an advisory board comprised of industry professionals that can provide students with work-based learning opportunities such as job shadows, worksite tours, clinical projects, and internships. The experiences, paired with industry-focused courses, create a rich learning environment that enhances students' preparation for in-demand health services careers.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are school districts and intermediate school districts. A district can apply for a single academy at a single high school or create multiple health sciences academies throughout the district at individual high schools. Similarly, an ISD can apply for one or multiple academies on behalf of districts within their service area.

Targeted Activities

Funds must be used for one of two NAF options for entry into NAF's academy network:

Year of Planning Program (\$12,000)

The Year of Planning (YOP) program is the developmental process for implementing a NAF academy. NAF academy portfolio managers provide guided technical assistance to align academy resources and programs to ensure that NAF's educational design elements are in place before an academy opens in its launch year. The self-paced program includes a flexible pacing guide to help establish a sustainable foundation that promotes academic success and builds the capacity to fulfill its promises to academy students and the community. The **key** steps for academy development are to:

- Design the academy structure by developing and executing an academy design plan.
- Create an advisory board development plan to recruit ten or more members.
- Determine the program of study with career-pathway integration strategies across the curriculum.
- Develop a work-based learning program for each grade in the academy.
- Create a NAFTrack Certification implementation plan.

Fast Track Program (\$3,500)

The Fast Track program allows an existing career academy that implements most of NAF's standards of practice to enter NAF's network as an open academy with full membership. The program includes an academy assessment, a review of evidence collection, and a validation meeting. The assessment results show the alignment of current practices with NAF's educational design and serve as a guide for areas needing development before an academy opens in its launch year.

III. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To be announced

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Grantees will be selected based on the need and evidence of willing partners to support the development of the academy and the students who enroll.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until May 30 or until grant funds are depleted. Applications will be reviewed once a month by a team with members from MDE and NAF.

Once a grantee is approved for funding, documentation of a contract with NAF must be submitted to MDE through the grant application before the funds are released. Furthermore, the grantee will be expected to submit a receipt of payment from NAF to the MDE within 60 days of receiving the funds or risk recapture of funds.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

There will be a series of informational webinars hosted by MDE and NAF for applicants interested in applying for this grant. Dates and times will be posted on the [grant webpage](#).

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

- For more information about NAF Programs, contact Dr. Marcy Aycock, Managing Director, Network Development and Impact, at maycock@naf.org.
- For more information regarding the grant application process, contact the Michigan Department of Education: Ruth Anne Hodges hodgesr3@michigan.gov, 517-241-2219 or Dylan Rozansky, rozanskyd@michigan.gov, 517-241-9041.