

# GUIDE TO SIXTY BY 30 STUDENT SUCCESS COMPETITIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES 2025





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# 2025 GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- College Success Grants
- Barrier Removal Grants—Direct to Student
- Barrier Removal Grants—Growing Institutional Capacity

# THIS GUIDE OVERVIEW INCLUDES:

Descriptions of the categories of success grant funding currently available, the goals for each, and information about the size of each grant opportunity

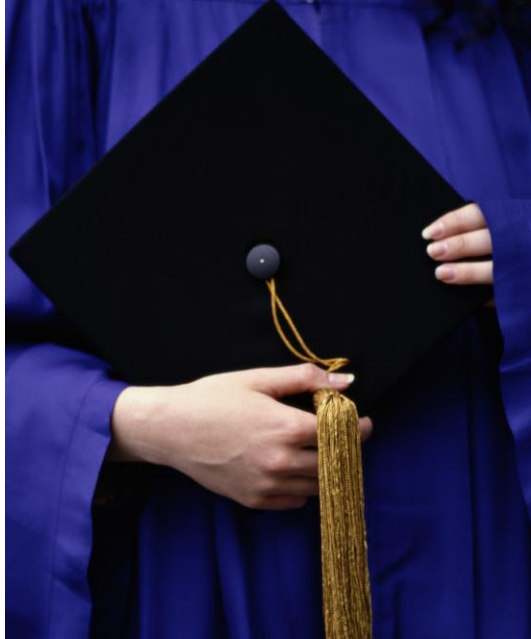
A timeline of when grant applications will be due, and when they will be awarded

An explanation of how the grants will interact—and which are eligible to be received concurrently

Some guidance on eligible expenses and evaluation criteria for each category of funding

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# WHAT'S NEW IN 2025



This comprehensive guide was first released in early 2024 and provided an overview of the five different grant types that together make up the Sixty by 30 Student Success Grants. Additional cycles for some of these grants are now being announced for 2025 to grant out remaining funds. Most of the guidance document remains unchanged because the primary funding goals, processes, and applications remain unchanged--but new deadlines and other details are throughout.

- **One additional grant cycle is being announced for each of three grant categories for 2025:**
  - Barrier Removal—Direct to Student (colleges/universities not already awarded only)
  - Barrier Removal—Growing Institutional Capacity
  - College Success (Amplify, Accelerate, and Go Big)
- No Quick Start opportunities are anticipated for 2025.
- Additional grant opportunities related to the Reconnect Community Action (RCA) grant are anticipated in 2025 but not being announced at this time. RCA grant applications may undergo some changes.
- There are no significant changes to any of the grant applications that are being announced at this time, though there may be minor changes in the application materials to improve clarity.

# STUDENT SUCCESS GRANTS



**Quick Start**

**College Success**

**Barrier Removal – Direct to Students**

**Barrier Removal – Growing Institutional Capacity**

**Reconnect Community Action Grants**

	Self-assessment, planning, elevation of student voice. Helping colleges hone their strategy for student success.	Three levels of grants that help colleges scale student success reforms and increase graduation rates.	Emergency grants and other direct aid to students to eliminate financial barriers to completion.	Developing supportive policies and practices for students struggling to meet basic needs.	Growing community support and partnership for post-secondary learning pathways.
<i>Awarded through 2024 cycles</i>	\$780,000	\$16.5 million	\$6.5 million	\$2.1 million	t.b.a.
<b>To be awarded in 2025 cycles*</b>	<i>n/a</i>	\$2.3 million	\$2 million	\$3.5 million	t.b.d.

\*Amounts are subject to change. Additional rounds are not anticipated at this time, but will be added if necessary to fully expend available funding.



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## ELEVATED READINESS PARTNERS PROVIDE PROJECT AND PROPOSAL DESIGN ASSISTANCE

**Elevated Readiness** grants were awarded to the Michigan Community College Association and the Center for Adult College Success to support Michigan's public colleges in developing strong grant applications. **This support is personalized to your college and free to Michigan's public colleges and their partners.**

- If you are a community or tribal college, reach out to MCCA for support. Visit <https://www.mcca.org/Grant-Application-Resources>.
- If you are a public four-year college, reach out to MCACS for support. Visit: <https://mcacs.talentfirst.net/elevated-readiness/>

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# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

## In-depth conversations and feedback

Connecting with the grants team at MiLEAP can help increase the likelihood that an applicant prepares a fundable application. The office strongly encourages applicants to seek support through the following channels.



**Office Hours** – The Sixty by 30 team provides weekly virtual office hours for applicants. Questions around the overall goals of your grant, eligibility of expenses, development of milestones, etc., are all welcome. New for 2025, the Sixty by 30 team will also be offering separate weekly office hours for grant awardees to answer questions related to implementation and reporting.



**Pre-review** -- The largest categories of grants (College Success Accelerate and Go Big grants, and Growing Institutional Capacity grants) are eligible for written pre-review if a draft is submitted by the pre-review deadline. Feedback will be provided three weeks prior to the final grant deadline.



**One-on-one support** – You can sign up for a 30-minute session with the Success Grants Administrator to walk through the ideas behind your proposal.

## Online resources

Be sure to check out the *Grant Examples and Resource Guide* prepared for applicants by **Complete College America**, the FAQs, and the Evaluation Plan Guidance available at [Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants](https://Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants)



Frequently Asked Questions



[College Success Grant Examples and Resource Guide](#)



Evaluation Plan Guidance

You can connect to all of these resources at [Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants](https://Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants)

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# APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR 2025

Please visit the website and sign up for the grants email list to make sure you don't miss any updates.

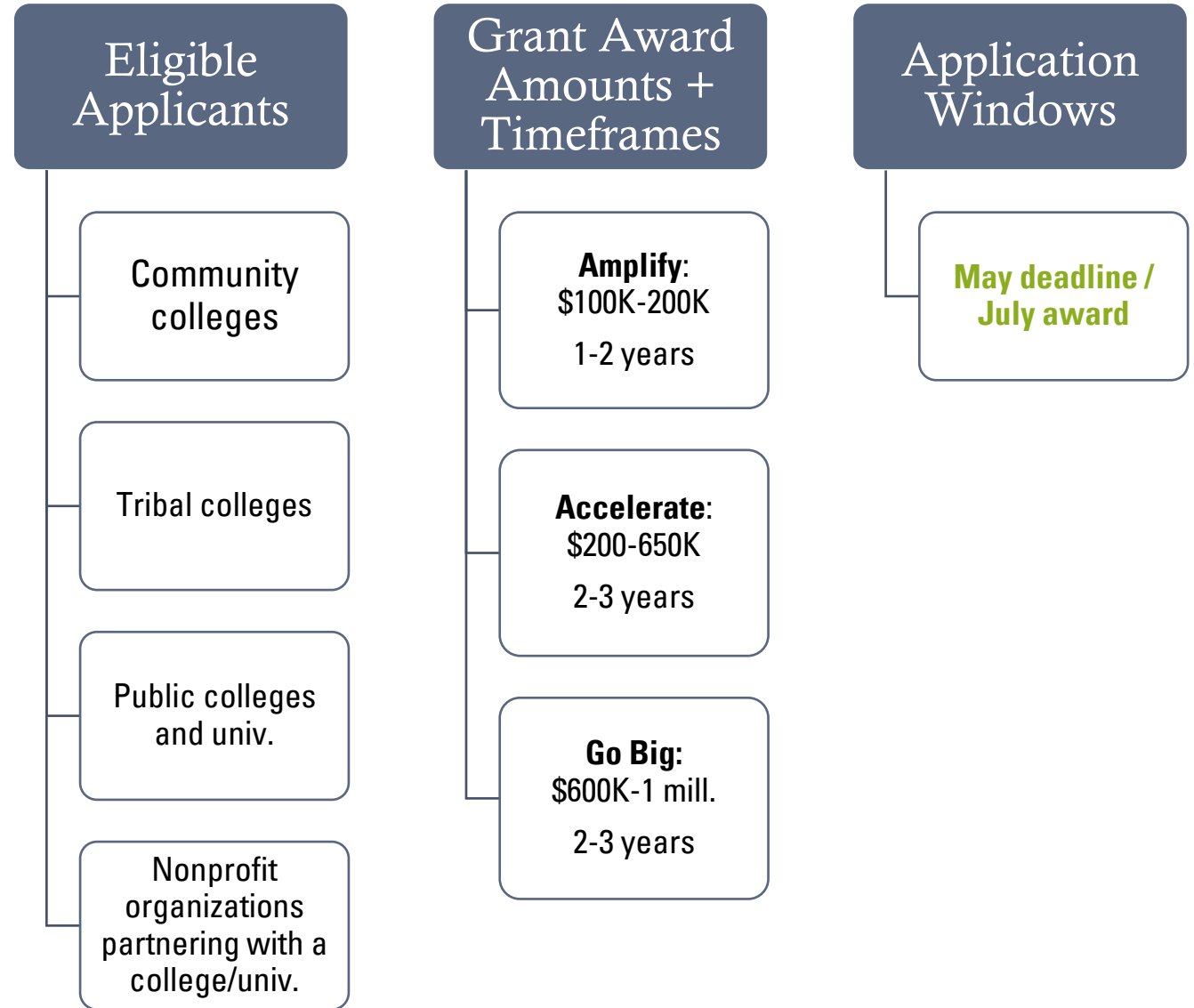
	Prereview Deadline	Application Deadline	Amount Available
Quick Start	Not being issued in 2025		
Barrier Removal – Direct to Students	n/a	April 11	\$2 million
College Success	April 18	May 23	\$2.3 million
Barrier Removal – Growing Institutional Capacity	May 16	June 20	\$3.5 million
Reconnect Community Action	Details and deadlines t.b.d.		





# COLLEGE SUCCESS GRANTS

Implementing, improving on, and scaling implementation of promising reforms of policy and practice associated with decreased time to credential, increased student persistence, improved completion rates for all learners, and the elimination of equity gaps.



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# COLLEGE SUCCESS GRANT SUBCATEGORIES

## Amplify

- To strengthen an already successfully implemented intervention that would benefit from a rapid infusion of funds or to sustainably scale up an intervention or improvement approach that has proven successful
- *Examples:* targeted PD for faculty to implement corequisite supports, appreciative advising certification for advisors

## Accelerate

- To implement, improve, or expand promising practices and evidence-based reforms that build on or align to a broader institutional student success strategy
- *Example:* gateway/critical course success and institution-wide end to prerequisite developmental ed, coupled with scheduling reform in high-volume pathways

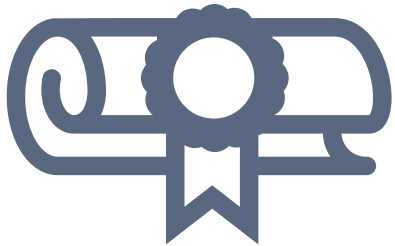
## Go Big

- To scale evidence-based improvements aligned to a coherent institution student success strategy and theory of change
- *Example:* To “Accelerate” example, add broader implementation across all programs, and work with major employers from a key sector to align curriculum with in-demand, high-wage careers

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# ACCELERATE AND GO BIG GRANT ACTIVITIES

Successful proposals will likely include at least one of these areas of focus.

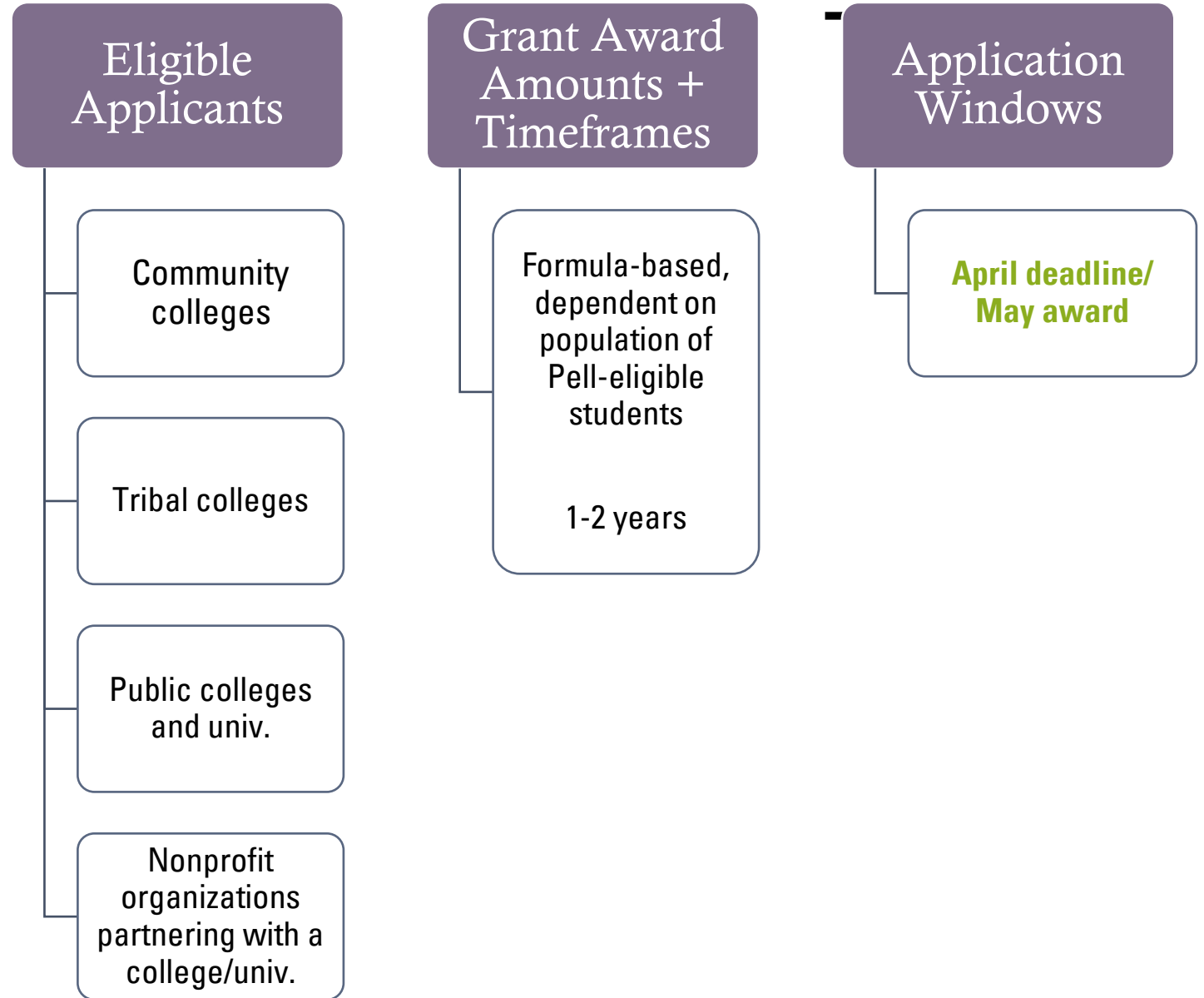


- Critical course success / gateway course redesign
  - Scaled reform of remediation (including placement reform, math pathways, and corequisite support)
  - Advising redesign / appreciative advising
  - Active academic support, advising, and tutoring
  - Strategic scheduling / implementation of 8-week courses / other scheduling reform
  - The spread and scale of high impact practices in teaching & learning (syllabus reform/assignment structure, assessment)
  - Scaled implementation of guided pathways reforms including the Ask, Connect, Inspire, Plan (ACIP) model of onboarding and supporting students
  - Institutional Research (IR) improvements focused on building a student success data and inquiry infrastructure
  - Institutional Technology (IT) improvements focused on building a student success infrastructure
  - Program redesign, including meaningfully stackable credentials aligned to local and regional labor market opportunities and needs
  - Transfer student success, credit mobility, and recognition of learning, including CPL
  - Student mental health
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# BARRIER REMOVAL – DIRECT TO STUDENTS

Funding to provide emergency aid and other direct support to students aimed at removing life barriers such as childcare, transportation, housing, food, and costs for textbooks, internet, or other program supplies.





## EVALUATION CRITERIA: BARRIER REMOVAL – DIRECT TO STUDENTS

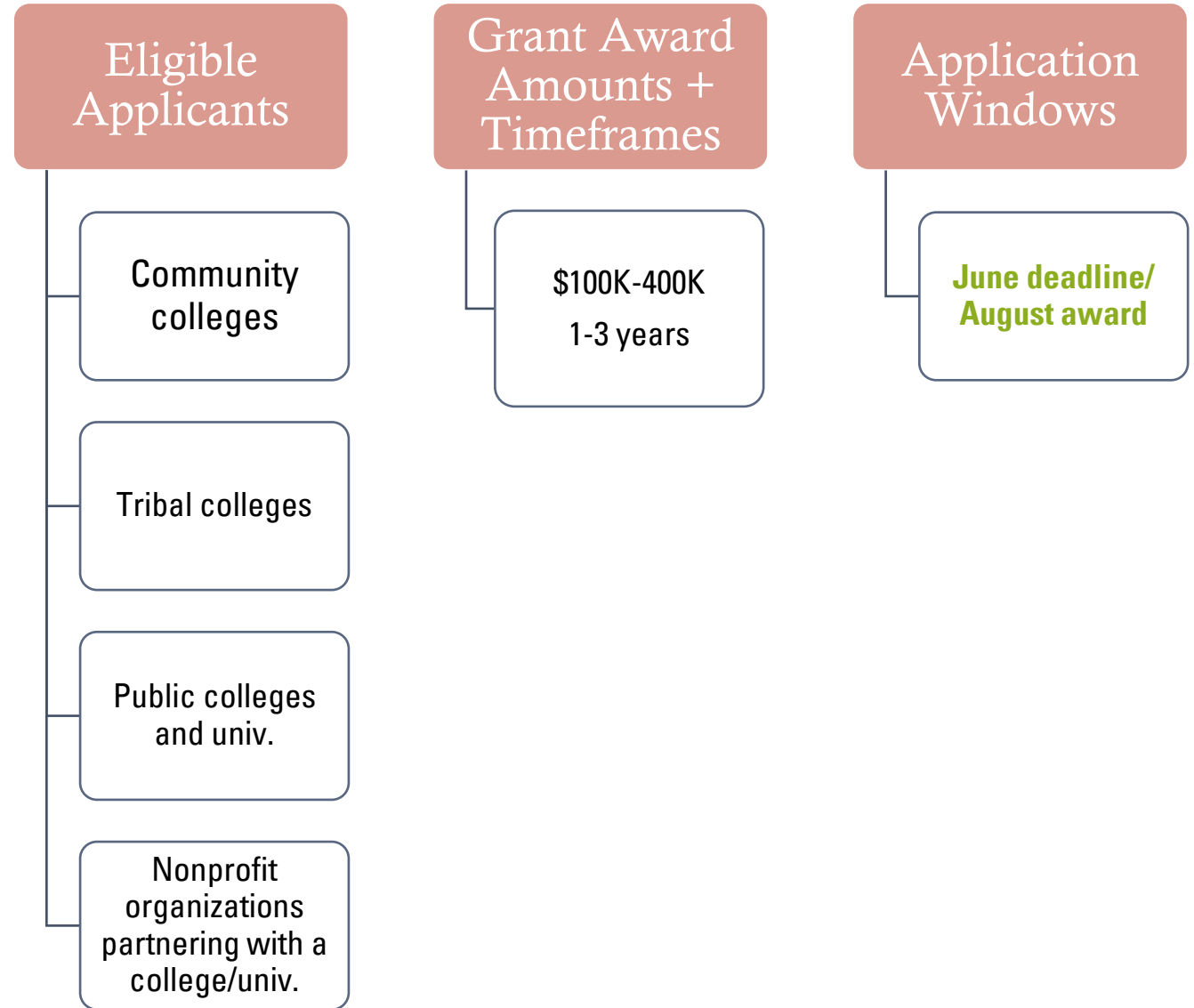
Proposals in this category may fund existing direct to student aid programs (e.g., emergency aid and other direct assistance aimed at removing life barriers) OR new programs and protocols. In either scenario, proposals requesting funds for direct to students supports will be evaluated based on:

1. the presence of a logical design and targeted approach to ensuring funds are directed to the students who need them most and can be distributed efficiently
2. a plan for cross-silo communication/collaboration to ensure target students are met wherever they are
3. a commitment and plan for tracking impact and reporting information to MiLEAP as requested



# BARRIER REMOVAL – GROWING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Funding to strengthen institutional systems to eliminate barriers for students struggling to meet their basic needs.





## EVALUATION CRITERIA: BARRIER REMOVAL – GROWING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

**Proposals requesting funds to strengthen systemic institutional capacity to remove life barriers and poverty-related barriers to students will be evaluated based on:**

1. The presence of sound design principles and a clear plan for building institutional capacity grounded in evidence and data.
2. Commitment to and a clear plan for strengthening community partnerships as part of establishing a system of support for students
3. A plan for cross-silo communication/collaboration to ensure that everyone who interacts with students is equipped to connect students to needed resources.
4. A plan for sustaining and further deepening the capacity of the institution beyond the end of the grant.

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# ELIGIBLE EXPENSES


More detailed information on eligible expenses will be provided with each application. This list is provided for planning purposes; it is not meant to be exhaustive.



## College Success and Barrier Removal—Growing Inst. Capacity

- Professional development, technical assistance, vendors/contractors
- Materials and equipment
- Stipends for faculty and staff taking on additional roles
- Convening and event planning
- Grants/honoraria for students participating in planning efforts
- Institutional resources for mental health, on-campus food pantries, etc.
- Third-party services that help expand institutional capacity
- Community-based partner organizations
- Equipment and facilities upgrades with strong connection to student success
- Investments in Open Educational Resources

## Barrier Removal—Direct to Students

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- Financial assistance for students with the greatest need, with or without documented emergency, and other cost-reduction measures
  - Printing and materials; IT supports to help reach students
  - Staff time to effectively administer grants



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# CRITERIA FOR ALL GRANTS



**Specific evaluation criteria in each grant category will be released with the applications. But across all opportunities, proposals will be evaluated based on:**

1. Commitment to centering the interests and experiences of learners
2. Commitment to the courageous examination of the impacts of institutional policies and practices on the experiences and outcomes of students
3. Commitment to approaching students from an asset-based perspective and to being tenacious in the work of removing institutional barriers to student success.
4. Commitment to rigorously evaluating impact and sharing learning
5. Demonstration of awareness of evidence-based best practices, research, and other networks/resources available



The next three slides offer guidance about eligibility for multiple grants. We know that you will still have questions about which grants can be received concurrently and how to maximize your application strategy. We will be available to answer questions as you plan, through office hours, pre-review opportunities, FAQs, and one-on-one consults.

Please note the slide on ways to stay in touch, and sign up for the grants-related newsletter: [bit.ly/60x30-grants-updates](https://bit.ly/60x30-grants-updates).

The rules governing applying for multiple grants are still in effect in 2025.

**We want every one of our IHEs to be able to put these dollars to good use for Michigan's students.**

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# APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS





# APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS

<p><u>Category 1</u>: Quick Start, can be received concurrent with Category 2, but must precede Category 3 grants.</p>	<p><u>Category 2</u>: Can be received concurrent with any or all other grants.</p>	<p><u>Category 3</u>: Cannot be received concurrent with Quick Start; can only receive two grants in this category.*</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick Start</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Success—Amplify</li> <li>• Barrier Removal—Direct to Students</li> <li>• Reconnect Community Connection</li> <li>• 2023 Student Success Grants can be ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Success—Accelerate</li> <li>• College Success—Go Big</li> <li>• Barrier Removal—Growing Institutional Capacity</li> </ul>

**\*Additional limitation:** No institution will be awarded more than two grants across: Amplify, Accelerate, Go Big, and Barrier Removal—Growing Institutional Capacity. Within Category 3, institutions cannot receive both Accelerate and Go Big grants.



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# APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS: EXAMPLE ALLOWABLE SCENARIOS

## Scenario 1

- Quick Start
- Barrier Removal—  
Direct to Students
- College Success—  
Amplify
- College Success—  
Go Big

## Scenario 2

- Quick Start
- Barrier Removal—  
Direct to Students
- College Success—  
Go Big
- Barrier Removal—  
Growing Inst.  
Capacity

## Scenario 3

- College Success—  
Amplify
- Reconnect  
Community Action
- Barrier Removal—  
Direct to Students
- College Success—  
Accelerate



# APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS: EXAMPLE DISALLOWED SCENARIOS

## Scenario 1

- Quick Start
- Barrier Removal—Direct to Students
- College Success—Amplify
- College Success—Go Big
- Barrier Removal—Growing Inst. Capacity



Exceeds limit on two grants across Amplify + Cat. 3.

## Scenario 2

- Quick Start
- Barrier Removal—Direct to Students
- College Success—Go Big
- Barrier Removal.—Growing Inst. Capacity



Quick Start grant must be completed before Cat. 3 grants can be awarded.

## Scenario 3

- Barrier Removal—Direct to Students
- College Success—Accelerate
- College Success—Go Big



Institutions cannot receive both Accelerate and Go Big grants.

# EACH APPLICATION INCLUDES:

Full set of evaluation criteria and details on the review and selection process

More detail on eligible expenses

Guidance about what is expected when an application is coming from a consortium or two or more institutions working together

How to get feedback on a proposal or idea prior to submitting a full application

Ideas for finding additional capacity or support as you prepare an application



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# HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

**Information in this guide is subject to change. The final applications serve as the primary information source for each opportunity.**

- **Website:** all grant information will be available at [Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants](https://Michigan.gov/sixtyby30grants).
  - **Webinars:** previous webinars are available on the website, and future webinars will be announced via the newsletter
  - **Office hours:** Participation is strongly encouraged!
    - Office hours related to new grants (questions about eligibility or advice about proposals) are Tuesdays at noon
    - Office hours related to implementation, documentation, and reporting on existing grants are Thursdays at noon
  - **Subscribe:** to ensure you have the most up-to-date information on our competitive grants, please sign up for this list: [bit.ly/60x30-grants-updates](https://bit.ly/60x30-grants-updates).
  - **Contact:** all questions related to our grants can be sent to [Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov](mailto:Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov).
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WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEVERAGING THIS FUNDING TO SUPPORT OUR INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR STUDENT SUCCESS EFFORTS.

[Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov](mailto:Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov) | [Michigan.gov/Sixtyby30Grants](https://Michigan.gov/Sixtyby30Grants)