Perkins Reserve Fund
Kansas Talent Development Grant
Request for Proposals (RFP)
State Fiscal Year 2027 (Fed FY26/AY27)

Purpose of Reserve Grants (Perkins V, Sec 113(c)(2))
Reserve Fund grants are awarded to eligible recipients, on a competitive basis, to support special projects focused on development, improvement, and/or expansion of CTE programs to address regional or statewide workforce development needs in high-skill, high-wage, in-demand occupations in critical or emerging industries.

Eligible Recipients
Institutions eligible for a postsecondary Reserve grant award must currently offer Perkins approved CTE programs in:

1) rural areas;
2) areas with high percentages of CTE concentrators or CTE participants;
3) areas with high numbers of CTE concentrators or CTE participants; or
4) areas with disparities or gaps in performance as described in section 113(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II)

Scope of Work
The Kansas Talent Development Grant is focused on the five pillars of America's Talent Strategy and addresses the needs of Kansas employers by supporting programs to prepare a skilled workforce in high-demand, high-wage occupations. Applicants must identify at least one pillar of the Talent Strategy and develop a project centered around the goals described in that pillar. Examples of goals that may be achieved at the institutional level include, but are not limited to:

Pillar I: Industry-Driven Strategies
Expanding work-based learning, such as Registered Apprenticeships, and aligning education curricula with employer needs to ensure skill matches job demand.

Pillar II: Worker Mobility
Connecting more Kansans to the workforce by targeting outreach to job-seeking populations, streamlining credentials (including industry recognized certifications), and prioritizing CTE credit for prior learning (including military CTE credit articulation).

Pillar III: Integrated Systems
Breaking down silos between academic departments, career services, and regional partners to create more efficient "one-stop" career pathways for workers and employers.

Pillar IV: Accountability
Developing stronger data reporting systems to ensure funding is directed toward programs with proven, measurable outcomes for high-wage, high-demand jobs. (Data must be reported to KHEDS in one of the data collections – AY, follow-up, etc.)

Pillar V: Flexibility and Innovation
Updating curricula to include AI literacy and emerging technology, along with offering accelerated, modularized training for rapid reskilling.

Funding Restrictions
Approximately $500,000 is available for this competitive grant opportunity.

- All Perkins grant expenditure restrictions and EDGAR rules apply
- Recruiting/Outreach for CTE programs is allowable, but capped at 5% of the grant total
- No capital expenditures, which includes upgrades to existing facilities (electrical, plumbing, etc.)
- No funding for exploration of potential new programs
- No more than three (3) programs (CIPs) can apply for the grant in one year
- Programs funded must be identified based on supporting data from the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment, Kansas Department of Labor, etc.
- No activities for programs located at high schools and accessible only to high school students

Award Period

The award period is from **July 1, 2026** through **June 30, 2027.** All activities and expenditures must occur within the award period. Funds will be drawn down on a reimbursement basis. Final draw is **June 15, 2027**.

Timeline

March 25, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. Central – RFP webinar (optional).
May 4, 2026 – Applications are due to PerkinsV@ksbor.org.
July 1, 2026 – Grant period begins.
February 10, 2027 @ 2:00 p.m. Central – Mandatory check-in call for awardees with Board staff.
June 15, 2027 – Final draw deadline for ALL Perkins-funded grants.
June 30, 2027 – Award period ends. All expenditures must be completed or encumbered.
July 15, 2027 – Final report due.

Optional RFP Webinar

Prospective applicants are welcome to join the RFP Webinar on **March 25, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. Central.**

Mandatory Check-in Call

Each recipient is required to provide a progress update in a check-in call with Board staff on **February 10, 2027 @ 2:00 p.m. Central.**

Application Process

Interested, qualified institutions must submit an application describing the nature and scope of the proposed project and the amount of funding requested. The application must address all questions in the narrative and include a detailed budget. **A signed electronic copy of the application must be submitted to PerkinsV@ksbor.org no later than May 4, 2026**. Proposals received after the due date will not be considered for an award.

Applications for the Kansas Talent Development Grant consist of:

1) Cover sheet (signed by Institution's President)
2) Project Narrative
3) Budget
4) Contractual Provisions and Local Assurances

NOTE: Risk assessment points and performance on previously awarded Perkins grants will be considered.

Reporting Requirements

A final narrative and a final expenditure report must be submitted no later than **July 15, 2027.**

Failure to Commence Project

If the project activities described in the grant application have not commenced within 60 days after acceptance of the grant award, the recipient must report in writing the steps taken to initiate the project, the reason for the delay and the expected start date and submit an adjusted project timeline. If project activities have not commenced within 30 days of receipt of the report letter, Board staff may terminate the grant and the recipient will be required to return all unused grant funds with a complete accounting of all expenditures.

Right to Terminate the Grant

After a grant is awarded, any adjustments and/or modifications to the activities or budget amounts must be approved by Board staff prior to the change occurring. Failure to request grant changes in advance may result in the returning of funds expended without approval and/or termination of the grant. Board staff reserves the right to terminate any grant award and cease payment to the recipient for failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and/or terms of the grant assurances. Further, Board staff may seek reimbursement of any or all grant funds and may reclaim any equipment, durable goods and other property purchased with these grant funds if the recipient fails to perform in accordance with the terms of the grant assurances and reporting requirements.

Unused Funds

All grant funds awarded and drawn from the KBOR system but not expended or encumbered by **June 30, 2027,** must be returned to KBOR within 15 days of the end of the grant award period.