



## A DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM

### Purpose

To provide students with more affordable postsecondary education options and as a response to state legislation related to open educational resources (OER), the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and Community and Technical College System (CTCS) launched the Open Learning West Virginia Grant program. Since 2021, this program focused on OER adoption has saved students over one million dollars. While over 150 faculty members have adopted OER in their courses, in certain academic subjects, there is a noticeable scarcity of existing OER materials.

**To address this gap, the Open Learning West Virginia program is expanding its grant offerings, releasing a grant to empower faculty to cross the BRIDGE and create OER resources in specific, resource-lacking disciplines.**

### Grant Opportunity

**B**olstering **R**esources for **I**mproved **D**issemination and **G**rowth in **E**ducation, or **BRIDGE OER**. The core mission of this program is to incentivize the creation of OER materials, with a special focus on academic subjects where OER resources are currently limited. Through surveys of West Virginia faculty, focus groups, and expert input, the following areas of study have been identified as high-need and eligible for this grant:

- **Engineering**
- **Communications + Media**
- **Computer Science**
- **Criminal Justice**

By creating OER materials in these subjects, faculty play a pivotal role in shaping a more inclusive and equitable educational landscape, where every student can thrive in their pursuit of knowledge.

## Grant benefits and agreements

### Benefits to selected grantees include:

- A grant of \$2,500 upon successful creation of new OER materials.
- A certificate of commendation for potential inclusion in tenure & promotion portfolio.
- Opportunities for professional development around OER
- Immediate inclusion in an OER community of practice for peer-to-peer support.
- Slated presentation block at the annual WV OER convening with travel included.

### Recipients agree to:

- **Create OER course materials for an existing course, and submit materials for review by June 2025.**
- **Begin using the OER course materials in the relevant course exclusively requiring OER no later than Spring 2026.**
- **Administer a student feedback survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the OER in the semester. The survey will be provided and monitored by WVHEPC.**
- **Complete a brief post-implementation survey, including data on the number of students affected by the OER transition and estimated cost savings.**
- **Submit the following documents to WVHEPC to validate the completion of the grant obligations:**
  - **Electronic copies and/or sources of the course materials utilized**
  - **Course syllabus with the course materials (textbooks and other learning materials) explicitly listed**
  - **Letter of support from a colleague with subject area expertise who has reviewed the OER materials created**

**Interested faculty members may apply now by completing the [brief application linked here](#) no later than September 20, 2024. Recipients will be selected and notified by September 27, 2024.**

## Selection Criteria

The following will be considered when selecting recipients:

- **Eligibility of subject area.** Course is in a subject area on the high-need list, located on page 1.
- **Broad Impact.** How will the grantee share these materials with others in their field?
- **Scale.** How many students will be affected by the use of OER? How many sections of a course will utilize OER?

## Payment Process

Grant funds will be paid by WVHEPC to the recipient's institution, which is responsible for and expected to complete the distribution of funds to faculty members.

## Equal Opportunity

*Selection of grant recipients will be done without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.*

## Application Questions

### Background

- Personal Information
  - Name, Job Title, Institution, Academic Department, Email
  - What is your race or ethnicity?
  - For how many years have you been a faculty member?

### Eligibility

- In which high-need subject area does your course fall
- What is the name of the course in which you plan to implement OER?
- Please provide the course description, as listed in the most current course catalog.
- Have you received an Open Learning WV OER grant in the past?

### Broad Impact

- How will you share the knowledge you've gained about OER and the materials you created with other faculty across the state?
  - How will you share nationally?
  - How will you share your learnings with those in your field?

### Scale

- For how many semesters have you taught this course?
- This course is: required for graduation/fulfills a general education requirement/an elective/other
- How many sections of this course do you teach each term? *(include summer terms)*
- Approximately how many students enroll in the sections of this course that you teach?
- What textbook and/or support materials do you currently use in this course?
- Currently, what is the approximate cost to a student to purchase all the required books and materials in new condition?
- In which semester do you plan to implement OER in this course?  
Fall 2025 or Spring 2026

### Interest

- Tell us why you are interested in creating OER in this subject. How will this work impact your students? Your field? (400 words or less)