# Open Learning WV

## Open Education Resources Grant Information

## PURPOSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the country's economic challenges, making it even more difficult for many students to afford the costs of higher education, especially high-priced textbooks. The West Virginia legislature has passed legislation encouraging the adoption of Open Education Resource (OER) courses in higher education.

OER materials are considered to be teaching, learning and resource materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that presents "low cost or no cost" access, use, adoption and redistribution by others with no or limited restriction.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITY

**West Virginia's Higher Education Policy Commission** and **Community and Technical College System** are proud to present a grant opportunity to support faculty who are seeking to create or adopt open education resources for use in a college course. Grants will be limited to one per faculty member. Each faculty member that applies will receive a certificate of commendation for their promotion and tenure portfolio, acknowledging their commitment to student success and higher education affordability.

**The purpose of this grant is to provide financial and non-financial incentives to accelerate the use of OER in higher education.**

## WHAT IS OER?

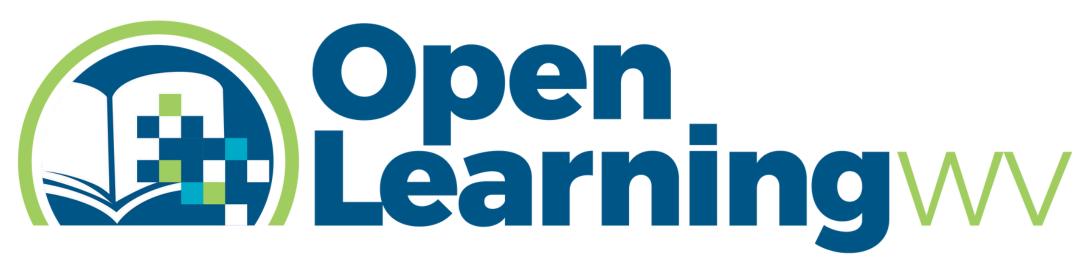According to Lumen Learning, open education resources include:

- Full courses
- Course materials
- Modules
- Textbooks
- Streaming videos
- Tests
- Software
- any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge

## GRANT BENEFITS

Benefits to selected grantees include:

1. A grant of $1,000
2. A certificate of commendation for potential inclusion in tenure & promotion portfolio
3. Public, named recognition of participating faculty members in WVHEPC reports to the legislature, the institutions, and the public about this project
4. Opportunities for professional development around OER
5. Immediate inclusion in an OER community of practice for peer-to-peer support

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## RECIPIENTS AGREE TO:

1. Modify required course materials for an existing course to exclusively use OER, either by selecting the most effective material for adoption or creating it themselves.
2. Begin the relevant course exclusively requiring OER no later than Fall 2025.
3. Administer a student feedback survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the OER. The survey will be provided and monitored by WVHEPC.
4. Complete a brief post-implementation survey, including data on the number of students affected by the OER transition and estimated cost savings
5. Submit the following documents to WVHEPC to validate completion of the grant obligations:
   - Course syllabus with the course materials (textbooks and other learning materials) explicitly listed
   - Electronic copies and/or sources of the course materials utilized
   - Proof of an entry in the course schedule that identifies the course as a no/low cost course

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The following will be considered when selecting recipients:

**Scale**. How many students will be affected by the use of OER? How many sections of a course will utilize OER? How soon will OER be implemented?

**Cost Savings.** What is the current cost of materials for this course before implementation of OER?

**Broader Impact.** Has the applicant participate in OER professional development? Will the applicant actively participate in the OER community of practice? Is the applicant willing to share knowledge about OER and selected materials with other faculty across the state after the project concludes?

## APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Interested faculty members may apply now by completing the brief application no later than September 20, 2024. Recipients will be selected and notified by September 27, 2024.
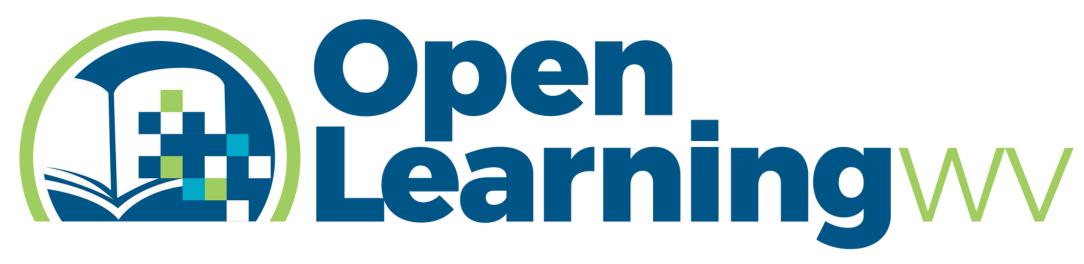
## PAYMENT PROCESS

Grant funds will be released to recipients at the end of the semester in which the recipient fully implemented the OER. 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.

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**THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE OER GRANT APPLICATION. PLEASE HAVE YOUR ANSWERS PREPARED BEFORE OPENING THE APPLICATION.**

## Background

- Name, Job Title, Institution, Academic Department, Email Address
- What is your race or ethnicity?
- Did you complete your high school, undergraduate, and/or graduate education at an institution in West Virginia?
- For how many years have you been a faculty member?

## Scale & Cost Savings

- 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.
- For how many semesters have you taught this course?
- This course is: required for graduation/fulfills a general education requirement/an elective/other (please specify).
- 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, in this course, 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? Spring 2025, Summer 2025, and Fall 2025
- Have you received an Open Learning WV Grant in the past?

## Broader Impact

- Are you willing to share the knowledge you've gained about OER and the materials you selected with other faculty across the state?
- Are you willing to participate in an OER Community of Practice?
- Have you attended a professional development experience related to OER in the past two years?

## Interest

- Tell us why you are interested in implementing OER in your course. (300 words or less)
- What types of OER professional development would be helpful to you?

**APPLY AT: HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/OERFA24**